

**THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN**

FRIDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 11, 1908.

**AGRICULTURAL IMMIGRANTS.**

A lately issued census bulletin deals with the immigrant population of the three Northwest Provinces as it was in June, 1906. This includes all who had gone into that country except those from other Provinces of Canada. These were immigrants who had come in since January 1, 1891 and were still living in June 1906. They numbered 364,707. Of these 205,774 were settled on productive farms and made up 50,324 families.

Not all of these had been farmers before coming to Canada, but 48,726 of the heads of families had been such, and those in 1906 occupied 7,891,262 acres of land, had 1,501,215 in crops, and their live stock consisted of 125,686 horses, 435,409 cattle, and 105,966 swine. The remaining 16,604 families who were not farmers before their arrival, occupied 3,787,095 acres, in 1906 and had 806,764 acres in crop, with 68,645 horses, 214,395 cattle and 46,265 swine.

This is a very good showing indeed. Those who had been farmers in their native land had in 1906 an average of 234 acres of land occupied per family, 45 acres in crops, 3.73 horses, 13 cattle and three swine. Those who had not been farmers in native land had in the same year an average of 221 acres occupied, 48 acres in crops, four horses, 13 cattle and 2.78 swine. It is further stated that practically two thirds of the immigrants to the three Provinces who had arrived within 15 years before 1906 were on the land.

Of those living on farms 10,908 families had come from the British Isles, 10,650 from Austro-Hungary, 1,131 from France and Belgium, 1,986 from Germany and Holland, 3,880 from Scandinavia, 5,018 from Russia and 16,344 from the United States. The average number per family is a little over four persons. The immigrants from the United States had the largest quantity of land occupied and under cultivation and the largest average number of live stock of any one nationality. The figures are interesting from various points of view.

The Ottawa Free Press is the principal Liberal newspaper of the capital and home organ of the Laurier Government. It is therefore of some interest to learn that the Free Press has given its views in regard to the proposed Tunnel under the Northumberland Straits. This expression of its views and opinions we are told "is said without prejudice to the Tunnel project." Here are some of the unprejudiced statements:

"A Tunnel from the Mainland to the Island, which if it will cost one dollar, will cost one hundred million."

"The Northumberland Strait between Prince Edward Island and the Mainland is, at its narrowest part thirteen and a half miles; there would have to be an allowance of several miles on the Island and also on the Mainland, so that the Tunnel would not be less than sixteen miles."

The Free Press goes on to figure that at the rate per yard of the cost of the Hudson River Tunnel the work here would cost \$160,000,000, and that this would be \$1,550 per head of all the men, women and children on the Island.

All this, "without prejudice," and under guise of an attack upon Mr. Foster for having favored the Tunnel.

We beg to say in reply that in regard to this matter the editorial writer of the Free Press seems to be either densely ignorant or monumentally mendacious.

The Strait of Northumberland at its narrowest is barely half as great as the Free Press makes it. Sir Douglas Fox makes the entire length of the Tunnel and approaches 84 miles. Mr. St. Laurent who prepared the official report submitted to Parliament last year makes the length of the Tunnel alone 7 1/2 miles.

As to cost, Sir Douglas Fox's estimate for a sixteen foot Tunnel was \$9,859,000. Practically the only difference between Sir Douglas' estimate and that of Mr. St. Laurent is that

the latter substitutes a cast iron lining for one of brick and cement.

After adding the cast iron lining at a cost of over seven millions, Mr. St. Laurent estimated the Tunnel to cost fifteen millions. This weight of iron was added apparently not as an engineering necessity but to sink the Tunnel project.

In the same report Mr. St. Laurent quotes the cost of many tunnels at \$300 to \$235 per lineal foot, at which rate the Island Tunnel would cost from seven to nine and a half millions.

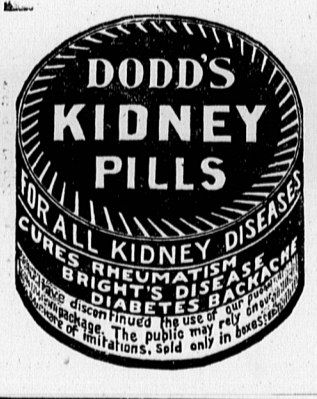
The actual cost of excavating the rock and earth from shore to shore including timbering, pumping and draining, is set down by Mr. St. Laurent at \$2,673,000.

Now all these facts were easily accessible to the Free Press writer. He ought not to be ignorant of them but whether ignorant or malicious he has chosen to double the breadth of the straits and multiply the reasonable estimate of the cost of the work by sixteen.

In so falsifying facts and figures the home organ of the government has rendered an exceeding ill service to the government and its supporters in Prince Edward Island. If this was one "without prejudice" it will at use prejudices here that it may be difficult to allay.



The Guardian's three year trophy for the best all round athlete in Prince Edward Island is this year in the keeping of Parker Hooper for one year.



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Hunger is fruitful of discontent and the Socialists in Glasgow are turning it to account in arousing hostility against the authorities. It is painful to read of fierce fighting between the police and the hungry ones, and of the insults to Prince Arthur at the banquet given in his honor. But necessity knows no law. The coming winter threatens to be a hard one for the unemployed in Britain, and for thousands in the larger American and Canadian cities as well.

Questions that are bigger than party politics:

1. The Tunnel; all-rail connection with the Mainland; real union with the Dominion by fulfilment of the Union Treaty.
2. A fair freight rate; equal rates for equal distance with those on the Mainland.
3. The Islander who is truly loyal to his native Province will neither advise nor consent to anything less than even handed justice between the Island and the Dominion.

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- Can't slip pompador hair rolls 50c kind for 39c.
- 27 in. hair pompador rolls for 25c.
- 15 ladies' white and cream sweaters \$2.00 up to \$3.00 for \$1.00 each.

(The above are samples and slightly soiled.)  
Hair nets 22 in. Coiffur a tidy—wear fringe net 22c.  
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