

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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MONDAY, JULY 15, 1912. CENSUS FACTS.

The census bulletin giving the areas and population of Canada, by provinces, districts and sub-districts, has just come to hand.

Comparative figures are given showing increase and decrease since the census of 1901. They make up a chapter of what has become known as 'the tragedy of the census.'

In 1901 the population of King's County was 24,725; in 1911 it was 22,686, a decrease of 2,039.

In 1901 the population of Queen's County, rural, was 31,054; urban 12,080. In 1911 it was, rural, 27,110; urban, 11,203; a decrease in the rural population of 3,944 and in the urban, a decrease of 877 or a total decrease of 4,821.

In 1901 the rural population of Prince County was 32,525, urban, 2,875. In 1911 it was, rural, 30,101 and urban 2,678, a decrease in the rural population of 2,424 and in the urban a decrease of 197 or a total decrease of 2,621.

It will be seen that the country sections of Queens and Prince Counties were depopulated by 6,368 and the urban sections by 1,074 which with the decrease of 2,089 in Kings makes a falling away of 9,531 in ten years.

The serious feature of this is that the larger proportion is leaving the rural sections, and more serious

still, that the statistics of the other provinces do not show any increase in their rural sections. The legitimate inference then is that not only in this province but throughout Canada the producers in the country, are joining the ranks of the non-producers in the cities.

From the Prince Edward Island view-point, the situation is certainly a serious one. The young and vigorous are leaving us; our sons and daughters who should be the fathers and mothers of the next generation of Prince Edward Islanders are going to the west and to the cities; farms on which they should be living are being added to other farms that are already too large or are being abandoned.

Farming will always be a profitable business in this province, whether the farms be large or small. The tendency of the time is towards larger farms and if present conditions continue the tendency can only increase. Farm help is scarcely available now. As the exodus continues it will become more scarce and those remaining on the farms will be obliged to increase their holdings in order to live.

OUR GREAT NEED.

In no part of the public service of Canada is this province more vitally interested than in the Immigration Branch of the Department of the Interior. Through the work of this Department the stream of immigration is directed from its source until it flows into the open spaces in which it is finally absorbed and assimilated into Canadian citizenship.

At present this stream touches Prince Edward Island but lightly although the future hope of the province depends almost entirely upon what the stream shall bring to us. And yet between the department and the province there is no connecting link; there is no agent of the department here, nor is there a hand, so far as we know, to deflect a portion of the stream to our shores.

A glance at the report of the Department of the Interior will show that there are many agents of the

department in Europe. There are four in England, two in Ireland, two in Scotland, one in Belgium and one in France. There is also an agency in the United States. These agents have done good work for Canada. Each has reported faithfully the result of his work during the year, has told of the growing interest in Canada's 'great western fields,' has told of the thousands who purpose coming in the near future and of the impetus this will give to the settlement of Canada's 'great west'; but not a word about Prince Edward Island or indeed of any one of the Maritime Provinces.

The attention of the Department of the Interior is directed almost wholly to Western Canada. What of the Maritime Provinces? What of Prince Edward Island?

It is claimed, and on good grounds, that this province is capable of maintaining a population of half a million. We believe the figure is well within the mark; we believe that the province is not only capable of maintaining half a million but that if the actual conditions here were known in the British Islands alone, as they ought to be, we would have the greater part of the half million within the next two decades.

We have been trying to induce moneyed farmers to come to Prince Edward Island. We do not want them. We do not want farmers to take up large areas of land; we do not even want them to take up hundred acre farms. We have these now. Practically all our farms are already occupied, many of them made up of several farms which a few years ago were occupied by as many families.

What we need to increase our population, to increase our output, to increase the prosperity of the province, is a number of men and families to occupy small holdings of ten or less acres to twenty or thirty, men who are accustomed to intensive cultivation, who will work their land to its utmost limit and who can get more off ten acres of land than is now

got off fifty or even a hundred acres. There are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of farmers scattered over the British Islands who pay in rent in a few years what would buy them a comfortable farm in this province. We want an agent in the British Islands who can preach this gospel.

And we want this gospel preached at home. We have as good a soil as anywhere in the world. Much of it is impoverished through neglect. There are vacant farms in King's County, abandoned because of their poverty, sandy loam, on which an Arrostook County farmer would make a fortune in a few years growing potatoes. There are thousands of acres on our best farms that have never been treated to a pound of fertilizer because the few convenient fields require all the fertilizer available, and the sons of the owners of these farms have gone west to take up more land.

These are some of the things that Prince Edward Island must correct in order to have a population of half a million. And this is what the immigration agents, both at home and abroad, must do if we are to increase our population.

Both our provincial and federal governments are doing much to further the interests of agriculture. They are generously teaching, through capable experts, the principles of advanced, scientific farming and many of our farmers are profiting by the teaching, but the crying need of our province is more farmers, and every possible effort should be directed towards supplying it.

THE ELECTIONS.

Owing to the unfortunate interruption in the telegraphic service, the returns from the Saskatchewan elections are meagre and unsatisfactory. That Premier Scott is returned with a substantial majority is certain. The size of the majority is variously placed at from twelve to sixteen.

Premier Scott is returned in Swift Current, while the Opposition leader, Mr. Haultain, had a close call in South Qu'Appelle, having a majority of only two. The Scott Ministry has been continuously in power since September 5th, 1905, and in the last House of 52 members had a majority of 40. In the last contest, which was an exceedingly hot one, federal issues, the tariff question, notably, played a very important part, and the result will no doubt be generally regarded as evidence that, at least in Saskatchewan, the question of reciprocity is yet alive.

NOTES.

A decision has recently been handed down in the British House of Lords, which should be of interest to Canadians since the case had its genesis in this country. Some years ago an English gentleman named Mr. Banister married his deceased wife's sister in this country, the ceremony being perfectly legal under our laws and of late years under the laws of England.

After the return of Mr. and Mrs. Banister to the Motherland the rector of their parish, Canon Thompson, refused to administer the sacrament to them, because he considered such alliances contrary to the laws of the church, and placed them in the category of 'notorious evil livers' to whom alone Anglican clergy can refuse communion. Mr. Banister promptly appealed to the Court of Arches, which has power to deal with such questions and Canon Thompson was admonished to abstain in future from withholding communion from parties without lawful cause.

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Thompson carried the question to the Court of Appeal without success and thence to the House of Lords, who have upheld the latter court.

A VISITOR COMPLAINS.

Sir:—I arrived in P. E. Island a week ago and, yesterday, took a trip to Summerside and you can imagine my surprise, on barely leaving the train, at being taken in charge by a policeman who marched me to the Town Clerk's office. There I was ordered to pay \$10.00 licence for simply canvassing for a Canadian magazine. I was afterwards informed that if I remained in the town twenty-four hours, I would be taxed three dollars more for poll tax.

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MONDAY AFTERNOON CLOSING. Dry Goods Stores Close During July and August at One O'clock Sharp. CHARLOTTETOWN DRY GOODS STORES will close each Monday in July and August at one o'clock. This will afford the staffs of all these houses—adding up to a very large number of people, to spend a few hours in the open air. Will the customers help by shopping in the Mornings? Customers by the Western train will have from 9.55 to 1 o'clock Mondays for shopping. Customers from the Murray Harbour Branch have from 9.35 to 1 for Monday shopping. Customers from Eastern trains have from 8.15 until 1 o'clock for Monday shopping. SHOP EARLY ON MONDAYS

BIG REMOVAL SALE of BOOTS and SHOES ends next month BARGAINS in all lines to clear out. Ladies' Tan Shoes \$2.50 to \$3.10 now \$1.95. Ladies Tan and Black Shoes and Slippers \$1.65 to \$2.10 now \$1.39. Men's Ox Blood Shoes \$4.00 now \$2.67. Come in and see the footwear at the way down prices—no trouble to show goods—Boys' expensive boots \$3.50 to \$4.00 for \$2.50. A lot of Boys' Boots for \$1.35, sizes 3, 4, 5. Men's Ox Blood Shoes \$4.50 now \$3.00. G O F F B R O S