

thing is conjectural; but we have a right to refer to the experience of the United States, to which, indeed, the hon. gentleman referred as the nearest analogous experience to ours, and as furnishing with all due allowances the only available guide. I will take the settlement of the Western States and Territories, which have formed the scene of the most rapid development which the world has hitherto known. I deeply regret that we are engaged in this discussion without the advantage of the United States Census very shortly to be taken, because I agree that circumstances in reference to the Railway development of later years have sensibly affected the tide of settlement, therefore these figures are to be taken with a measure of allowance; still we must consider, whatever may be now the relative advantages of our own North-West, that these states and territories were at the time the choicest in the world open, and that they gave very great facilities for settlement. I take the group of Western and North-Western States and Territories, comprising Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, Dakota, Montana, Wyoming and Colorado. The area of the group is 634,000,000 acres. They had a population, in 1850, of 2,740,000. The yearly increase between that year and 1860 was at the rate of 282,000 a year, and the population, in 1860, reached 5,600,000, so that at first sight hardly any calculation of increase would seem extravagant; but let us ascertain of what this population was composed. In the year 1860 there were of persons born in the group 2,530,000, or 44 per cent. of the whole population; of persons born in other parts of the United States, 2,015,000 or 37 per cent. of the whole, making an aggregate native population of 4,545,000, or 81 per cent. of the whole. Of foreign born emigrants 1,050,000, or only 19 per cent. of the total population; so that the extremely rapid increase which took place in those years is due mainly to the natural increase in the territory itself, and to migration from the Eastern to the Western States, and not to foreign immigration into the country. The annual increase to 1870 was still greater than in the prior decade. It averaged 300,000 a year. In 1870 the population was 8,640,000, thus com-

posed; born in the group, 4,390,000, or over 50 per cent.; born in other parts of the states, 2,500,000, or over 29 per cent., making 79½ per cent. in all of natives; foreign born, 1,750,000, or 20½ per cent. of the whole population. These figures show that there were three great sources of increase, to which I wish to allude for a moment, in order that we may see how far we can expect similar results. First, there was a very rapid natural increase in the western country, **as always happens when there is abundance of fertile land, producing plenty of food—consequently once there is a substantial nucleus of population, the natural increase is a most important factor.** Second, that there was a very great migration from the Eastern to the Western States—a home migration, not an immigration from abroad. Lastly, that there was a large foreign immigration; now these figures, though demonstrative of the considerations to which I have alluded, are yet subject to observation, because, during a part of the last decade, native born Americans, from both East and West, were swelling the armies of the Union by hundreds of thousands; therefore, there was not in that rapidly growing country that relative increase of the population by natural causes and home migration, that would otherwise have occurred. The war had taken the men away from the soil; and at the same time there was a foreign immigration equal to, if not exceeding, what had previously occurred in the United States, so that while there was a very great foreign immigration during a portion of that decade, the domestic sources of supply were seriously diminished by the deadly struggle in which the life blood of the nation was being poured out like water. No doubt, however, the foreign immigration is in fact a larger factor than it appears to be in the settlement of the Western States. It was through the foreign immigration to the east that the east was able to send so many of its own sons to the west; therefore, the foreign immigration did play a very important indirect part, as well as its direct part in the settlement of that country. Now, in 1850, the population of the remainder of the States, exclusive of the group of states and territories to which I have referred, was no