

year that I have been looking over. The home market has been conserved under the National Policy to the farmers of Canada to the amount of at least ten millions of dollars. That is not all. Take the exports for the year ending June, 1893, and it will be found that we sent out of the country that year of agricultural products more than we did in 1878 over twenty-one millions of dollars' worth, and we must remember that there has been a great depreciation in prices and that that twenty-one millions of dollars' worth of products represents a volume altogether greater than the value would indicate on account of the depreciation in prices, especially of wheat, which formed a considerable portion of our exports. The National Policy has conserved to our farmers, our own markets to the extent of ten millions of dollars, and we have invaded the markets of the world with twenty-one millions of dollars' worth more of agricultural products than was sent out in 1878, notwithstanding the depreciation in prices. More than that, we have fed our own home population of three-quarters of a million more people in the cities than in 1878. Hon. gentlemen opposite are fond of saying that the population of Canada has not increased—that there has been an exodus. That is no doubt true. These movements of population are attributed by our friends opposite to the operation of the National Policy. I do not think that is reasonable or fair, because these movements of population have always been going on as regards the races to which we belong. There would have been no people in Canada now had it not been for the feeling of unrest that the races to which we belong have manifested. I have the Financial Reform Almanac before me, a reliable book issued by the free traders of England, which contains some statistics with regard to emigration from that country. I find in this volume it is set forth that in the 15 years from 1879, when the National Policy was adopted in Canada, up to 1892, 3,185,000 people emigrated from the British Islands—that is after deducting the number of those who came in during that period. That was the net emigration from the British Islands—in free trade England—and of that number 2,780,000 went to the United States. There has been an enormous exodus from the only free trade country in the world to a country which has the highest protective tariff.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—What has been the increase of population that remained behind in England?

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON (P.E.I.)—There may have been an increase of population—I am not dealing with that—I am dealing with the people who have gone out of the country. I put that fact before the House—it is important when we find that 3,185,000 people over and above those who came into Great Britain and Ireland during those years went out of the country, and that most of them went to the most protected country in the world.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Just as large a proportion of the people of Canada have gone out, and the increase of our population is not any greater in proportion than that of England.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON (P.E.I.)—That is a subject that is so often discussed, that it is scarcely necessary to go into it now, but the hon. gentleman knows very well—no one knows better—that the census of 1881 and the census of 1891 in Canada were not taken on the same basis with regard to the time limit of absentees. I remember after the census of 1881 was taken, our friends in the opposition, Sir Richard Cartwright and others condemned the census of that year as being wholly unreliable, because they said that the system adopted led to the counting in of a vast number of people who had left the country for years and who might never return. The government felt that there was some force in this objection, and in the census of 1891 instructions were issued that no absentee should be included in the population of the country unless some satisfactory assurance was given that he would return in a reasonable time. If the census of 1891 had been taken on the same basis as the census of 1881, it would have shown—in fact there is every evidence of that,—that Canada improved rapidly during that period, and that there was a substantial increase of population. Hon. gentlemen are fond of referring to the deficit of the present year and of last year, and my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition in this House was kind enough to suggest a way in which the deficit could be removed. He suggested that duties should be taken off some of the staple articles of import, although my hon. friend