

one single statement, has not favoured them with one single letter, has not given a record of one single dollar expended by it in promoting immigration, although that consideration was urged upon this House as one of the strong reasons why this bargain should be entered into. More than that. I call the attention of the Government and of the House to the fact that the Government themselves have not caused one letter to be written to the Company, soliciting information in regard to this matter; and Sir, if their negligence in this respect was inexcusable in the past, it is more inexcusable now, because though this return was ordered on the 31st of January, it did not come down until the 8th of March, and the Government do not seem to have availed themselves of the opportunity afforded by that interval of time to write to the Company asking for a particle of information on this subject. Sir, I hold that this is a serious matter. I am not dealing in surmises or indulging in probabilities; but I read the official report of the Department made to this House, and I claim that it exhibits a state of affairs demanding explanation from the Government, although satisfactory explanation cannot be expected in the face of the documents I have read. But the Government failing in making that explanation, I think the House will agree with me that in this respect at least the Ministry have sadly neglected their duty. Now let us see what this immigration is costing the country, so that the House may see how negligent the Company have been in bearing share of the work. In 1880 we expended for immigration \$183,204; in 1881 we expended \$250,812, or an increase of \$67,608; in 1882, \$253,061, or an increase of \$63,857; in 1883, \$437,734, or an increase of \$254,430; for the current year, we were asked to vote \$520,221, or an increase of \$337,017; and in the Estimates for 1884-85, we are asked to vote \$526,375, or an increase of \$343,171. So that, Sir, instead of the several millions of dollars that were to be saved to this country by the adoption of that contract, as the hon. member for Richmond and Wolfe told us, I find that from 1879-80 to 1883-84 we have expended \$1,072,183 more in the aggregate than we expended before we made the contract with the Company. The total amount expended in promoting immigration during those years is \$1,615,032, to which, if we add the \$526,375 which we are asked to vote for 1884-85, you will have a sum of over \$2,000,000, that has been expended since the contract was entered into. Now, Sir, if we had anything to show for the expenditure of that money, if we had found that the Syndicate were contributing a like amount, then there might be a little relief to the dark picture. But we find that they have done nothing of the kind. And again, if we had succeeded in keeping in the country the people we professed to have brought here as residents, to help us to pay the debt we were heaping up and to help us to bear the burden of our expenditure, there would have been some satisfaction. But it is my duty to place before you some figures—figures that I wish did not exist, because it would please me much better if I could adduce figures to show that we were not only maintaining our ground, but going on rapidly increasing in population; but I can only give you the figures as I find them; and I submit them to the House in order that the House may weigh well the question whether the moneys expended by the Government in promoting immigration in the past have not been misapplied, and whether they have brought to the country the benefits we had a right to expect from that expenditure. Now, Sir, I propose to deal with some figures that are taken from our Census returns. In dealing with them, I am free to confess that I have great doubts as to the accuracy of the figures; and if I would speak the honest sentiments of my mind, I must say that I believe the Department of Agriculture, in the matter of the Census, has also most grievously failed. The delay in the issue of Vol. No. 2 is, I think, proof of that; the many discrepancies and anomalies that

are to be found in Vols. 1 and 3 are also evidence of it, but we have to deal with the figures as we find them. I have a comparative statement here, taken from those figures with reference to our population, which I desire to bring before this House, and to point out what they show; and I have to regret, as every hon. member in this House will regret, that the figures are not such as we would desire them to be, but are figures that are rather discouraging. I find that, in 1871, the Dominion of Canada, then comprising the four Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, had a population of 3,485,761. Ten years later, in 1881, those four Provinces had a population of 4,041,060; or we had an increase in the four Provinces of 558,299 during the ten years—about 16 per cent. Now let us take each of those Provinces, and I may say here that the natural increase—and I think hon. gentlemen opposite will agree with me in this, taking a very low estimate indeed, an estimate lower, I think, than is ever taken in this matter—the natural increase in a country such as ours, of births over deaths, should average annually 2 per cent., which would be 20 per cent. in ten years. But the total shows that instead of this natural increase, at the low figure of 2 per cent., we have failed to come up to it by some 4 per cent. In Nova Scotia there was, in 1881, a population of 440,072, and in 1871, 387,000; an increase 52,772, or 1.35 per cent. per annum, being .65 per cent. below what ought to be the natural increase, without a soul being brought into the country from abroad, taking the low estimate of 2 per cent. In New Brunswick, in 1881, there was a population of 321,333, and in 1871, 285,591; an increase of 35,639, or 1.25 per cent. per annum, instead of 2 per cent. per annum which, as I said before, should be the lowest figure which we should take for natural increase. Quebec, in 1881, had a population of 1,359,027, and in 1871, 1,191,516; an increase of 167,511, or 1.40 per cent. of an increase per annum instead of 2 per cent., the lowest natural increase. In 1881, Ontario had a population of 1,923,228, and in 1871, 1,620,851; an increase of 302,377, or 1.85 per cent. per annum, instead of the natural increase of 2 per cent. Taking this natural increase of 2 per cent. per annum which, as I said before, is below the mark, and we will find that Nova Scotia should have had 77,560 of an increase instead of her actual increase of 52,722; or Nova Scotia had 24,788 loss of a population in 1881 than she would have had if she had had but the natural increase at 2 per cent. per annum, without a soul being brought in from foreign countries at all. We find that New Brunswick, instead of her actual increase of 35,639, should have had an increase of 57,119; or she should have had 21,480 more, if she had had the regular natural increase of 2 per cent. per annum, than she actually had in 1881. We find that Quebec should have had an increase of 238,303, instead of her actual increase of 167,511; or she should have had 70,792 more souls in 1881 than she actually had, provided she had but kept her own people there at the natural increase based on 2 per cent. per annum. Ontario should have had 324,170, instead of 302,377; or she should have had 21,793 more 1881 than she actually had, if not a single soul had been brought in from a foreign country at all, but had retained within her own bounds, her own natural increase. Summing up the four Provinces—and in 1871 there were but these four—instead of there being an addition of 558,299, there should have been an addition of 697,152; or there should have been 138,853 more than there actually was, if we had but our natural increase alone, and if not a soul had been brought to us from a foreign country. The figures may well make us pause. We have expended \$2,000,000 since 1879-80, including the Estimates of 1874-75, and what do we find? We find that in the four older Provinces—I have compared only those four, as there was only those in Confederation in 1871—we find that all the immigrants that have been brought into this country have either left this country or, if