

growth of its population was just 325,000 over the original population of 4,156,645, a little less than eight per cent, about half the growth which occurred in the southern states in the decade marked by the civil war I have alluded to. I say that that fact alone ought to open the eyes of the people of this country and the eyes of this House to the enormous cost and waste, not to speak of the wickedness and folly, of the system under which we have been governed for this last ten years. And now, let me briefly sum up the results we have attained in these same fourteen years, materially and morally. Materially, as this House knows, our taxes, in the space of about fourteen years, have been very nearly trebled, if you have regard to the amount which is taken out of the pockets of the people and not merely to the amount which is paid into the federal treasury. And more than that, so unjust and so oppressive is the distribution of this taxation that it is a literal fact that to-day in Canada, the man who is most severely and oppressively taxed is the farmer and the labourer and the artisan with a large family—the very man of all other whom wise and prudent statesmen should endeavour to spare. I find as another result, that whereas, a matter of 25 years ago, we started with a debt per head for federal purposes of exactly one-third of the then debt of the United States, our debt is now quadruple the debt of that country. I find that in vast sections of Canada the property of the people has depreciated enormously in value, and I find what is worse, that all through this period there has been a huge exodus of the very best and bravest and choicest of our whole population. I find also that in the territory which we obtained in the North-West, we have fooled an empire away with absolutely nothing to show. We have parted with all control of about 200,000 square miles, and we have absolutely not realized enough to pay the cost of management, and as for immigration, we have not added in the last twenty years one family for every square league. As for the moral results, there is no occasion to dwell on them more. No one who has paid any attention to what occurred last session, no one who has paid any attention to what was said of us by the journals of all English-speaking nations throughout the world, but must confess that the reputation of Canada has sunk to a frightfully low ebb. We have a fiscal system, which, as I have already stated, is nothing but an instrument of organized robbery, and our people to a very great extent have been reduced to the condition of being virtually the serfs and slaves of the several rings I have alluded to. Within a few hours, or a few days, our Dominion Day will arrive, and in every quarter of Canada a thousand orators will explain to a thousand audiences that we are the best and bravest, the most virtuous and enlightened and intelligent people in the world. So far as the natural advantages of the country is concerned, I am not going to object to that, but for once I could wish that these gentlemen would drop this tawdry and useless bombast, which is neither good for them to utter nor for others to hear, and would warn their hearers that if these things are allowed to go unredressed, if the people and the Parliament of Canada can permit such things as have been brought to the attention of this House to pass without proper investigation, they ought to haul down

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

the old flag which they have disgraced and dishonoured and which they have dared to make a cloak for their own misdeeds, and hoist the black ensign which is the one fit and proper emblem for a people, of whom the majority are willing accomplices in their own dishonour.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I find I must detain the House from going into Committee of Supply and ask you for a few moments not to leave the Chair, not at all because the speech we have just listened to contained anything new or true, but because I have certain obligations to express to the hon. gentleman who delivered it which may be uttered more fervently now than if time were allowed to elapse. When the hon. gentleman was good enough this afternoon to intimate that he desired very much that I should be present when he delivered himself as he has done this evening, and that he had forborne for a long time from staying the other business of the House in order that, in the full House and in my presence, he might utter that long preserved, not to say kiln-dried specimen which he has given this evening, I asked one of my friends what it could possibly be that engaged the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) so earnestly and made him so anxious at the closing hours of the session, and when we at least, if not he and his friends, feel ourselves somewhat overtaxed with the exertions necessary to bring the deliberations of Parliament to a close, to deliver himself of a great speech. My friend told me that probably in ransacking his speeches of the past, the hon. member had found that there was some adjective which he had missed, and he wanted to get it into *Hansard*. As far as I am concerned I am gratified that the hon. gentleman has been favoured with the opportunity, although I feel that he has not even found the new adjective, and although we have but heard the old battered stock of superlatives and the old stale invective which has caused this House and the electorate of this country so often to listen to the hon. gentleman with disgust and to regard his name with disdain, though we have had to listen to this on the eve of a patriotic occasion like the first of July, to which the hon. gentleman made allusion at the close of his remarks. I am deeply indebted personally to the hon. member for having waited to deliver these observations until I was present, because it appears I was to be the subject of many of them, but apart from that it was a great delight to me to sit here for an hour and a-half and hear the hon. gentleman with eye and finger pointed to his supporters, lecturing them on political corruption, and to see how they took it without a murmur or a cheer, and to see how the stricken consciences which the countenances of his followers showed mirrored the misery he showed in his. I am deeply indebted for another thing, and that is for the picture which the hon. member presented to us, if not in new tones and colours, at least in faithful and living portraiture, of the faithless Minister, the corrupt politician, the scheming scandal-monger, who goes abroad through this country, and the man who, when himself in office, jobbed the treasury for the purpose of political prostitution, lent the money of the public to banks without interest in order that men interested in those banks might go through the by-ways of the country and bribe the electors to keep him in office. I am obliged to the hon.