

own arguments that their exodus is absolutely fallacious. I will prove it from the mouth of the hon. member for South Huron. I will take his own standard, and, going back to the record, will prove that there is not a single sentence uttered by the hon. member for South Huron (Sir Richard Cartwright) on this subject, that cannot be disproved, and that the official records do not disprove, and I will measure the whole by the statistics which he applies to one decade and not to another. To proceed with my remarks—Mr. Fleming goes on to say :

“What the Americans think of Dakota may be judged of from the fact which, I presume, most of you who are in the habit of reading American newspapers, are already aware of, viz., that the farmers in Eastern States are leaving in hundreds for Dakota; and still more suggestive is the other fact, that the Canadian farmers are not only leaving their own farms in the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, but are actually leaving their own North-Western Territories, in large numbers, and settling in Dakota. I have here quite a pocketful of clippings from Canadian papers to substantiate that statement, but will not try your patience by reading them all. I will, however, read two or three extracts from the leading Canadian newspaper.

Now, I want, without occupying too much time, to show hon. gentlemen that, from the time the Canadian Pacific Railway became a fixed fact, nay, more, from the time, in 1879, that the vote of 1,000,000 acres of land was taken to build that road, hon. gentlemen opposite and their organs commenced decrying the country, and the dates I will give and the statements I quote, will establish the correctness and soundness of what I assert :

The *Toronto Globe* of March, in 1880, says :

“That on the preceding Tuesday an emigrant train left Ottawa (the capital of the Dominion) and by the time it reached Coburg there were 447 persons on board bound for Dakota, and only three for the Canadian North-West.

Again the same paper, 1st October, 1880, says :

“Surely the intelligent immigrant may be supposed to know what he wants and where he can best suit himself, and if he prefers Dakota to the Canadian North-West he must have some reason for doing so. All the thousands of Canadians who have this year settled in Dakota instead of the fertile belt north of the boundary are not born fools. In making a choice they must have been determined by either the character of the country or the conditions under which land can be procured.”

I have already shown the land regulations from 1874 to 1878 and from 1878 to 1884, and have compared those regulations with the system adopted and approved of in the United States, and I think I have also established by comparison that the land regulations of Canada are immensely superior—and if they are not, I have no doubt the hon. member for Bothwell will prove that I am incorrect—and, if there is a mistake on the part of this Government, I shall be glad to know that he will point out the mistake in the regulations now existing, and he will find that instead of this Government being the ignorant, incompetent, imbecile Government which has been depicted by the member for West Huron, it is an Administration abreast of the times and anxious to promote national welfare, hence prepared on every occasion to amend any regulations which may be defective. The *Globe* proceeds :

“What does it matter whether the absolute cost of land is greater or less to the immigrant in Canada than in Dakota? The only means of testing whether the regulations are suitable is the rapidity with which population comes in, and judged by this test, those now in force have this year failed most egregiously.”

Hon. gentlemen will see the design in this statement. This Mr. Fleming, travelling through the different cities of Ireland and Scotland, tells the people that even our Canadian papers admit that our land regulations are infinitely inferior to and far more onerous than the land regulations of the United States. The *Toronto Globe* proceeds to say that the only way of testing the relative character of the regulations is the rapidity with which population comes in, and then it states that 447 persons left for Dakota, and only three for the Canadian North-West, thus proving, by its own state-

ment, the animus and the design it had in making it. Again, I quote from the *Globe* of 1st April, 1881 :

“The exodus to the west and North-West from this section is large, and is likely to increase. Unfortunately, the major part go to Dakota and other western States, instead of our own North-West. Only the other day a party of ninety left the Grand Trunk station, eighty for Dakota, ten only for Manitoba, and this is about the proportion of other parties who have gone or are going. The other day an intelligent and close observer, just returned from Manitoba, who had, during the last summer, travelled largely in Manitoba, and especially in the Pembina Mountain and Turtle Mountain districts, reports large numbers leaving those districts for Dakota.”

And in the very next year we have articles from the Dakota newspapers, stating that farmers were sending their wheat to our own North-West, and selling it there, after paying the duty, and making 15 cents a bushel more than was paid in United States settlements; but we never find one word about that in the papers opposed to this Government. I sincerely hope that the leader of the Opposition does not endorse this policy; I do not believe he wishes to come into power in a ruined country; for, should his party outside of this House or in this House succeed in destroying the country, if he came in he would go out again, as his predecessor went out, disgraced and ruined in public life. I am sure he does not wish that, and, if so, then it is his bounden duty to denounce it. Of course, hon. gentlemen opposite do not desire to hear these facts, because they have, time after time, asked us to prove that the country is decry'd, and I am here to-night to prove it, and I challenge them to show that one word I quote is not in the papers from which I have read. Now, having shown the result, on the other side of the water, of their efforts to decry and ruin this country, I ask hon. gentlemen to go back to the year 1882. At that time they were endeavoring to bring emigrants into this country, and I find the opinions expressed by the ex-Minister of Finance quoted over and over again in American papers and pamphlets, and commented upon in Europe. Sir Richard Cartwright stated, in 1852 (I quote from the *Official Debates*) :

“Immediately on the introduction of that policy, as every one acquainted with western Canada knows, there was a large and lamentable exodus of many of the best farmers of the western region, not, I am sorry to say, to our own North-West, but to Dakota, Minnesota and other portions of the United States.”

In the same debate he said :

“Why, Sir, I tell them to-day that Canada is a country in which no man is free to buy or sell, to eat or to drink, to travel or to stand still, without paying toll to some extortioner or other.”

I ask hon. gentlemen opposite, where is the tax-gatherer now? Where are the taxes they levied in 1874 and 1875, as compared with the taxes this Government levies? What is the condition of the poor man in this country now, as compared with his condition during the *régime* of hon. gentlemen opposite? Although they came into office with an immense surplus, in a few years they were driven from power, with a deficit of between six and seven million dollars, leaving to their successors works uncompleted, an empty treasury, a starving population and a hopeless and undone country. I ask hon. gentlemen to contrast the Canada of 1878 with the Canada of 1885, and say who were the demagogues and who were the statesmen. The hon. member (Sir Richard Cartwright) proceeded to say :

“If you want to find a true parallel to our Government in Canada, you will not find it in a country having free institutions, outside of Canada. You must search for it in some such state of things as existed in France in the days known as the Second Empire, which began with the massacre of December and wound up with the capitulation of Sedan.”

This is the way the hon. gentleman spoke of his country; this the picture he drew of it, to be sent across the Atlantic. This was his proclamation: “I will paint a Yankee picture, in Yankee colors, with a Yankee brush and send it across the ocean in a Yankee frame.” And thus he closed :