

that in 1896, when every returning officer and deputy returning officer were appointed by Sir Charles Tupper and his friends, those ballots were rejected in the interest of the Liberal candidates? (Cries of no.) If it was not by accident, and if it was not in the interest of Liberal candidates, in whose interest were those 3,658 ballots rejected? (A voice—Sir Charles Tupper.) One thing more. In that same year, and at that same election, 65 constituencies in the Province of Quebec cast their ballots and with what results? In 1887 there were in all Quebec 1728 rejected ballots. In 1891, 2024 rejected ballots. In 1896, 2308 rejected ballots. So that you will observe the average of rejected ballots in those 65 constituencies was about 35 per riding, and in the 24 Ontario constituencies I have named, it was 152 or over. Sir, it is simply absurd to argue in the face of those facts that these 3658 ballots were rejected by accident. No wonder that the Conservative leaders, no wonder that the Conservative politicians, no wonder that the Conservative press, denounced tampering with the ballot as the most heinous crime that can be committed in a free country. No men knew better, and I do not think I am uncharitable or unjust in saying, they have been there before. (Cheers and laughter.) I think there is in the facts I have given you clear and ample proof that when the Conservative leaders denounce ballot-stuffing as a very grave and great crime against the people they know exceedingly well what they had been speaking of, and that somebody in their interest—I am not able to locate that party—but somebody or somebodies in their interest had been guilty on a colossal scale of an attempt to deliberately destroy the popular verdict. And now to turn to a more pleasant subject. I stated some time ago that there was very good grounds for believing that at any rate the exodus of our people from Canada to the United States had ceased and that in part the tide was turning the other way. I have in my hand a memorandum from the Department of the Interior, from which I find that in 1897 the total number of immigrants from the United States who settled in Canada was reported to the department at 712. I find in 1898 that over 9,000 took up their quarters in Canada from the United States. I find that in 1899 11,000 took up their residence in Canada from the United States, and for the first six months of the current year I find the number was 8,000, being at the rate of something like 16,000 a year. I think that this is the best proof, the most substantial proof, that any man need give of the effects of the present policy, and also of the very able administration of the Department of the Interior and Immigration on the part of my friend, Mr. Clifford Sifton. (Loud cheers.)

The Liberal Party.

But it is not by what it has done during the last four years that the Liberal party will be judged in the future. If it is to maintain its proper position in the land, the Liberal party must be a progressive party, prepared with other measures and with fresh effort on their part to develop not merely the material but the social welfare of the people of Canada. We have not been forgetful of our duties in that respect. We are prepared