

the object was but a petty victory at some election, I feel that it would be indefensible. When at Stratford last autumn I took up the statement made by the ex-Finance Minister with reference to this emigration, and stated that I had it from good authority from the Minister of Agriculture, that by the Grand Trunk, the principal railway, the whole number of through passengers from all quarters was only 53,000, the organ of the hon. gentlemen at Sarnia stated that I had misled the people in a manner unworthy of a man occupying my position, and called upon me to establish what I had said or to stand as a public man who had made a statement that was not true. Now, it appears that the statement made by the Opposition was not at all warranted. But there has been an emigration, and why was it? It was from this cause: the United States had become prosperous a year or two before we had introduced this policy, and before we had begun to feel its effects here; wages had increased, strikes were organized, and contractors came into the Dominion and held out inducements to our people to leave Canada, and it was natural that they should not resist them—the depression of the previous five years had produced such an effect, that, although this policy was inaugurated, it did not, as its opponents said it should do if a success, restore by magic, as it were, all the industries of the country to a condition equal to that which it took the people of the United States twenty years to reach, and which had the effect of leading our people away where we had not the power and the means of inducing them to stay at home that we have now. But happily we have evidence that they are returning to the country. I know many manufacturers who cannot obtain men enough, and while there has been an exodus, the people who left us are returning, and with them are coming many others in search of employment in this country. Just here I may refer to a new objection raised by the hon. member for South Brant (Mr. Paterson) the other day when he referred to the diminished exports. Why, sir, to my mind the diminished exports last year, as compared with 1878, are an evidence of the improved prosperity of manufactures.

Some hon. members — Hear, hear.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY — Yes, sir, they were driven out of their own market in 1878 by their competitors from the United States, and they had either to find a market abroad or close up their establishment,