

hon. gentlemen had promised over and over again that it would check the exodus of our people to the American territories; and that so far from checking it, that outflow has enormously increased since their return to power. He trusted and hoped that now that the great business depression had passed away all over the country; that now that Canada, and even the city of St. John was enjoying better times, our emigration would not be so great as it had been. He trusted and hoped that a great many of those who had left would find it to their interest to return and to bring with them many valuable citizens to this country who, finding themselves contented with their lot in Canada, would be the means in their turn of inducing many others to follow their example.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY said he had some information which he was sure would be gratifying to the hon. gentleman who just sat down, with reference to the number of Canadians who had returned by the International line to the city of St. John during the last autumn. He had seen it stated in one of the papers that 150 people had returned by one boat, and he had asked the emigration agent there to interview the agent of that line of steamers, and to ask that gentleman to furnish him (Sir Leonard Tilley) with information as to the number who had returned by that line. He had been informed by Captain Chisholm that 2,270 persons had returned to Canada during the season by their line. It was true that quite a number had left early in the season, but the above number had returned by the International line alone. Without wishing to anticipate any financial statement, he might be allowed to quote from returns recently placed in his hands covering the first six months of the present fiscal year, as compared with the same period of the last fiscal year, giving the exports and imports of the Provinces. As regarded New Brunswick, if there had been a large emigration, there had been also a considerable increase in the consuming power of the population. For the first six months of 1879, the exports and imports amounted to \$4,563,660; whereas for the first six months of the present year they amounted to \$6,816,000. The exports were this year, \$2,684,000, against \$1,693,000 last year. Similar comparative statistics for the whole Dominion showed that if there had been such a tremendous exodus as was pretended, the returns did not indicate it. In the article of tea, during the first six months of last year, duty was paid on 6,062,000 lbs., while for the corresponding period this year duty had been paid on 8,098,000 lbs.; coffee, last year, 711,441 lbs., this year, 886,317 lbs.; dried fruits, last year, 282,824 lbs., this year, 495,142 lbs. Of molasses, consumed principally in the Lower Provinces, 40,000 gallons more were consumed in the six months of the present year than during the corresponding period of last year. It was true, doubtless, that on some of these items, some part of the consumption of the first six months of the present year had been taken out of the similar period of last year, but it still was quite clear that if we had a smaller population by reason of the exodus the consuming power of the population had been wonderfully increased.

Mr. WELDON said he would have liked if the hon. the Finance Minister had ascertained from Captain Chisholm the number of persons who had departed by the International line of steamers. No man who lived in St. John, and who had opportunities of knowing what was going on throughout the Province, could fail to see that great numbers of people had been emigrating from that Province. A man would have to shut his eyes to ignore it. For instance, last September he left St. John to go to the United States, and the Intercolonial train failed to connect with the western train, consequently when the next Intercolonial train came up there was a large number of people collected on both trains. Along with the conductor he endeavored to

ascertain the number of emigrants on both trains, and found there were not less than 125 going to reside in the United States, some from New Brunswick and some from Prince Edward Island. The hon. the Finance Minister had given returns of imports for the last two years. He (Mr. Weldon) would compare 1877 with 1880, and he found that whereas in 1877 the imports amounted to \$7,000,000, they were reduced in 1880 to something like \$3,000,000.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY asked if the former period was not that when everything was being rebuilt in St. John on account of the fire.

Mr. WELDON said he would begin with 1875, when the imports were \$9,853,000; 1876, \$6,013,000; 1877, \$6,917,950; 1878, \$8,474,000; 1879, \$5,338,000; 1880, \$3,996,000. That showed how the importations had fallen off during the last two years. Doubtless there had been an influx of workmen into St. John after the great fire, but that increase had been more than lost since by emigration. Anyone going down to the wharf of the International line of steamers, leaving three times a week, could not fail to see large numbers of persons easily to be recognized as emigrants, who had gathered up their household goods and were seeking homes in another country. In regard to the city of St. John he found that in 1878 the number of ratepayers who paid poll-tax on both the eastern and western sides were 6,331; where in 1880 the number had diminished to 4,973, a falling off in two years of about 1,350, representing a population of 5,000 people. Any person who travelled across the Bay of Fundy could not fail to see that a large number of people were leaving Nova Scotia by the American boats for the United States. On one occasion an American boat was detained two hours, waiting the arrival of 150 emigrants whom she carried off to the United States. For the first time in the history of New Brunswick, the annual increase in ship building which had been her experience for years, had ceased in 1880; and not only so, but the amount of money invested in that industry had actually diminished. And this had happened during a year when Providence had blessed the labor of the husbandman with an abundant harvest, and when, for the first time since 1873, good prices had been obtained for their lumber in Great Britain. In spite of the bountiful harvest and the revival in the lumber trade, this exodus was going on, and he could only attribute it to the policy which taxed our bread, our clothing, and every necessary of life, and compelled the laboring man to go where he could get higher wages.

An hon. MEMBER. In a country where the taxes are higher.

Mr. WELDON. But not to a country where bread was taxed. This exodus of our people was due to the policy of this Government, which took money out of the pockets of the people, not merely to increase the revenue, but to place it in the hands of monopolists.

Mr. MacDONNELL (Inverness) said that when this question arose the other day, he had heard with surprise from the Minister of Agriculture the statement that the emigration from the Dominion had not been greater during the past year than it had been in previous years. His own impression, so far as the Province of Nova Scotia was concerned, was entirely the reverse, and in order to ascertain what the emigration was, he had written to the agent of an American line of steamers running between Prince Edward Island and Boston, touching at the port of Hawksbury, in the county of Inverness. The agent of that line had replied to him that the number of passengers leaving that port was, in 1876, 436; in 1877, 447; in 1878, 373; in 1879, 484, and in 1880, 1,525. The number which had left in 1880 nearly quadrupled the number in any previous year during the past four years, although that year had been marked