

With reference to these petitions, I might notice that from that time forward the continued amount of pauperism, idleness and depression of trade existed in Great Britain, and Levi in his remarks on the commercial distress of that period, says:—

“In June, 1837, a large meeting was held in Birmingham, to consider what measures should be adopted, calculated to relieve the appalling state of commercial distress. At Nottingham a similar meeting was held, thousands of operatives being there employed on the roads by public subscription. At Manchester there were 50,000 hands out of employment, and most of those employed were working only half time. In Scotland there were many failures, and in Ireland the state of trade was still worse.”

I refer to these extracts as having a bearing on remarks which were made in a former stage of the discussion, and in reply to the reasons alleged by Protectionists why, in the Mother Country, protection was abandoned and free trade inaugurated.

I was speaking the other day of the very great exodus from the Maritime Provinces during the last four years, though in many respect they were years of prosperity—an exodus which has been unprecedented. We are all perfectly aware that a great many people are restless, and shift their abodes from one country to another without exercise of careful judgment, but during my experience I have never noticed so much unrest, and so many people, not only single men and women who are attracted perhaps by larger wages in the United States, and some of whom may return, but many others. Freeholders with their families, many of whom have managed to sell their properties at a sacrifice, have gone to settle in the United States. This is a sad condition of things, and I speak only of what has come within my own observation. Wherever I could persuade persons against making such a change, I have, of course, done so, but the removal of these people from the land of their birth to a foreign country to live under a foreign flag is something which the Government of the country should always endeavor, as far as possible, to prevent. A great many evils may afflict the country, evils that may be considered very grave at the time, which are after all only a passing cloud from which the country can soon recover; but when the old residents leave their homesteads to settle in a foreign land, the loss

is irreparable. We are losing a portion of our population which has been the pride of our country, and when such a population is once destroyed it can never be supplied. In support of my view as to the unprecedented number of people who have left Canada during the last three or four years, I shall quote some figures. The condition of Canada is different from that of an old country such as England. We possess a large area of undeveloped soil, and we are not running the risk of being over-crowded, as the hon. member from Lunenburg remarked in his speech, or of over-crowding the houses with families. There is no danger of that in Canada. But the other result is what we particularly dislike—the dispersion of our people. In order to corroborate my views with regard to the decrease of the population by removals, I may refer to the school statistics of New Brunswick which it appears to me are a pretty safe guide. The school system of New Brunswick of late years has been one under which every opportunity has been afforded to build good school houses and furnish accommodation so that children can be sent to school without having to travel a very long distance. Within a few years past there have been grants made to the poorer districts out of the provincial treasury, and that to a very large extent has helped to provide school accommodation for the poorer settlements; and, therefore, we would naturally have a right to conclude that the registration of pupils in those schools would increase very rapidly, provided there was only the natural increase of population, even without any influx of foreigners; but any gentlemen who will examine the school records of that province will find that in 1879 there were registered on the rolls 71,764 pupils, and in 1884, the registrar's report shows only 68,928, or a decrease of 2,836 upon the school registers of New Brunswick. This confirms the conclusion at which I had arrived from my own observation, and though it has been denied by the newspapers in some cases, I am sorry to say the denial has been incorrect. There has been a continual stream of emigration to Wisconsin, Washington Territory, Michigan, and even to the orange groves of Florida. We find in many parts of the United States, New