

purpose of obtaining information as to the mortgage indebtedness from the various registry offices, and of obtaining perfect confirmation or refutation of what I say. They can also obtain information as to the depression of lands from the proper source. As to the excess of taxation, it is unnecessary to speak further, but there can be no doubt that so far as we have gone, nothing has been more apparent than the total failure of our efforts, by our so-called National Policy, to keep the natives of Ontario at home, or to induce any considerable number of the immigrants whom we import at great cost to this country, to remain with us. To what does all this point? I say that it all points to the permanent impoverishment, and to the permanent degradation of the chief class in the Province of Ontario. It points to the failure of the experiment in all material particulars of which the hon. gentleman spoke so boastfully this afternoon. It also points to a grave and important displacement of wealth. I do not believe that these gentlemen have by their policy added one penny piece to the collective wealth of this country; but I do believe and I know, that they have to an enormous extent contributed to the displacement of wealth throughout this country, and that from first to last their policy has been to create 500 millionaires and to impoverish 500,000 farmers. That may be wise on their part, for we know, too, that it pays the Government to create millionaires on whom they can draw for another ten thousand, or it may be a hundred thousand or two, when their coffers are empty. And very few, indeed, of the manufacturers that the First Minister comes in contact with get loose without subscribing more or less freely to his election fund, as he well knows. The truth is, that the hon. gentleman has done his best to create what I take to be the bases: form of all oligarchies—to create a plutocracy to which the people are to be enslaved. The hon. gentleman may have been successful in promoting the growth of two or three cities in which a disproportionate amount of the wealth and of population of the Dominion is sunk, but so far as the people at large are concerned, the facts I have submitted leave no doubt in the minds of intelligent and honest men, that they have been tricked and plundered and betrayed. It remains to be seen whether, having been tricked, and plundered, and betrayed, they have been so far enslaved that they are not able to strike for their liberties when the time comes. Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance was good enough to tell us that he could see no reason for doubting that Canada was in as prosperous a condition as any country could be; while, had he looked abroad, he would have learned that I spoke the literal truth when I said that in the greatest and richest Province of Canada at any rate, if not in the others, one-half of our farmers were sinking rapidly below the condition of tenants at will, and when he knows that one-fourth if not one-third of the whole adult male population of Canada have had to seek homes in the United States, and in larger proportions by far since the hon. gentlemen returned to power than at any time before. When he knows that not only in Ontario have we been unable to clear more than 11,000,000 out of 115,000,000 acres of land, but that in Manitoba, after spending treasure like water, as he truly said, for twenty years,

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the rural population barely amounts to something like one family to three square miles or 2,000 acres of land as the result of the Government's policy of colonisation and civilisation in that country where we have spent so much. I say it is a good time to examine these observations of mine. Within one year we are about to have a census taken and I suppose we shall have the general elections within two years. Now, it is easy to verify the facts which I present as to the population; provided the census is properly taken, and provided there are no *de jure* frauds to vitiate the returns. I have no doubt what the results will be found to be as to the mortgage indebtedness and the depreciation of land. If there be any honest desire to get at the facts, an insignificant expenditure compared with the sums daily and hourly lavished by this Government for perfectly useless purposes, would obtain facts of the greatest possible value in estimating the real condition of the people of Canada. As to the other points, they admit of no dispute. I have quoted already the resolutions passed by the Central Farmers' Institute of Ontario; I have quoted the remarkable evidence given by the hon. First Minister himself as to the prosperous condition of the Ontario farmers during the incumbency in office of my hon. friend Mr. Mackenzie. I might go on to multiply these quotations, and show from extracts from papers supporting the hon. gentleman, that I have in no way exaggerated the statements I have made; but I will have some mercy on the House, considering the lateness of the hour at which it separated this morning. But, inasmuch as the matter was alluded to before by an hon. member of this House, I will just call attention to a statement which was brought to my notice a little while ago, made by a paper which I understand is very friendly to hon. gentlemen opposite, and which rejoices in the title of the *Richmond Guardian*. Speaking of a certain statement made by an hon. member in this House, it proceeds as follows:—

"Outside of the born-with-a-silver-spoon-in-the-mouth fraternity every son of Adam, at least in this part of the world, knows that business is very depressed that farming profits are at the lowest ebb, and that the banks are carrying half their customers. We cannot see what good object is served by keeping up this delusion about the prosperous condition of the country. No country can be said to be prosperous when the classes whose labor creates the wealth are living from hand to mouth; and it is of no use denying the fact that this is the condition just now of the producing class. * * * * * The depression is from the very bottom, and is felt upwards in every avenue of industrial and speculative life; as it must be when the tillers of the soil are unable to 'make the two ends meet.'"

These are not my statements; these are the statements of one of the neighbors of my hon. friend from Stanstead (Mr. Colby), and I dare say that he could produce some valuable corroborative evidence. Meantime, in order that the country may have an opportunity of judging between us, I desire, before these resolutions are finally read, to submit my views and the views of my hon. friends in this House as to the real position in which the people of Canada stand to-day; and with that purpose I move in amendment:

That all the words after the word "That" be struck out, and the following inserted instead thereof:—

"The total ordinary expenditure of Canada chargeable to the Consolidated Fund in the fiscal year 1878 was.....\$23,519,301