

were small, and assumed that the reason for this was that the manufactures of the country had grown to such an extent as to supply the wants of the people. If the decline in imports was a proof of prosperity, then, instead of holding the late Government responsible for the distress of this country, he should admit that, if they influenced the amount of imports in any way, they rendered great service, by reducing it so materially. What in truth was the state of affairs in the United States? Nearly two-thirds of the factories there had been idle for a long time past. An hon. gentleman had stated that some were now working at double time. That might be; but, nevertheless, for some years past, a number of factories had been working at half time, and had paid very small wages, and very many had been closed altogether. They had all heard of the riots among the foundry operatives in Troy, a year or two ago, and of riots in Pittsburg, and a great many other cities, where crowds filled the streets, demanding employment, and using threats, and sometimes violence, so that it was necessary to call out the troops to quell the tumults. They had heard of the extraordinary suffering among miners in the coal regions, of the immense number of 31,000 people out of employment in the manufacturing State of Massachusetts last year. The value of real estate, in the principal cities in the United States, declined year after year, not merely in proportion to the change in the relative value of paper and gold, but absolutely, so that it had fallen far below the gold value, as it was before the Civil War. Another assertion frequently made by gentlemen opposite was that, owing to the misgovernment of the last five years, the people of Canada flocked in thousands to the United States; but the truth was that, while the Conservatives were in power, no less than 500,000 native-born Canadians emigrated to the United States; but about the time the late Government got into power that emigration almost absolutely ceased; so that, where thousands went in previous years, hardly ten went now. And not only was that a fact, but large numbers of the expatriated Canadians had returned to settle again in this country. The hon. the Minister of

Public Works told them of the unexampled prosperity of the United States, and contrasted the condition of that country, as described by himself, with the condition of Free-trade England. But they all knew that, some two years ago, large numbers of the mechanics and operatives of New York and other large cities in the United States, who had emigrated from Europe, returned to poor Free-trade England, because they could not find employment in the Protectionist United States. This that hon. gentleman seemed to have forgotten; but they all knew that he did not always recollect those facts which told against his side of a case, while he was very fond of exaggerating those which were favourable. It was a well-known fact that those people returned in tens of thousands to Great Britain. They knew that emigration to the United States, more especially from Ireland, England and Germany, had almost entirely ceased for some years past, because emigrants did not hope to find employment at fair wages in that highly protected country which the Minister of Public Works alleged so loudly was so very prosperous. He found in the *Boston Pilot*, a paper devoted to the interests of the working classes, a protest against a proposal to pass a law, making vagrancy a criminal offence in some of the United States, while there were so many thousands of honest workmen tramping in search of employment there. He found also that there had been in Rouen, one of the towns in France, a protected country, a meeting of some 20,000 workmen who were unable to get work. That was a condition of things that was very much to be deplored. There was, no doubt, a great deal of distress prevailing throughout the cities and towns of the Dominion. No one could walk through the streets of Ottawa and see the number of stores closed up on the principal streets, and deny that a great deal of depression existed in the country. The late Government had been charged by their successors with not having done anything to retrieve the depression. The hon. member for Halton (Mr. Macdougall) had repeated the charge frequently in his speech this evening, and had called upon members of the Opposition, not merely to find fault