

fit of it. We throw out the suggestion at this time, because any such attempt at Christian charity on an organized scale, in view of the hard winter weather, and the presence of many strangers, as well as citizens to whom such aid might be welcome, would seem to be in order."

Why, haven't I been at meeting after meeting in which I was told "no soup kitchens now!" Haven't I often heard Ministers of the Crown pointing to the circumstance that there were no soup kitchens now? I am not at all certain that the hon. Postmaster General himself, in some of those orations with which he has enlightened the Western Peninsula, has not alluded to the paucity of soup kitchens and to the fact that that industry no longer existed. And now, in the very city which he represents, his own organ proposes, as a necessary thing, as a sort of pendant to the National Policy, the establishment of a soup kitchen. And I observe that one of the aldermen has stated that there are at this moment in that city between 1,300 and 1,400 immigrants out of employment. I am very glad to hear that, although the sum stated of immigration does not come up to the moderate expectations, as they were called, indulged in last Session, it reaches so large an amount. We were told that we would have at least 150,000, and that, we were told, was an extremely moderate estimate; we are told to-day that the sum is 133,000. This is a very satisfactory approximation to the estimated amount. I am not quite so certain how these figures will stand scrutiny. My difficulty is increased by the discrepancy of the statement to which I alluded awhile ago, because the hon. member for Glengarry told us, that there were 34,000 of these who had come in from the United States. The hon. member for Levis stated there were 40,000. Where the 6,000 are, I do not exactly know. But, Sir, I pointed out last Session—and I will not enter into the figures to-day at all, as I will have occasion to deal further with the subject later on—that there must be something radically wrong with these returns or with the result deducible, from what information we can obtain. Whether you draw it from the census, or whether from the municipal returns, there is, to a large extent, a displacement of the native by the immigrant population, and the immigrant population, instead of being stationary, is, to a large extent, transitory. I say it is impossible to draw any other conclusion from the statistics which are before us, than that with reference to the figures which have been given. I repeat, also, what I have said upon a former occasion, that the yearly returns from the Province of Ontario, which are the only yearly returns to which I believe we have access, indicate that the ratio of increase of the population, during the four years which preceded the last four years, was much greater than in the last four years. And it is an extraordinary circumstance, that that holds good, not merely with reference to the rural population of Ontario, but with reference to the urban population also; and that during these four years, in which it has been said the prosperity of that Province was so greatly increased by the operation of the Tariff policy of the Government, the ratio of increase of the urban population is markedly lower than it was in the preceding four years that were stated to be years of retrogression. Now, this subject is treated in the Speech in a rather perfunctory manner. We are told, there has been a large immigration, and we are told further that improvements in reference to the facilities for inland transportation, or the cheapness of inland transportation, will help us in the next year. But, Sir, I expected much more upon this subject in the Speech, and I am sure that the hon. member for Levis, who spoke so strongly on the importance of repatriation, must himself have felt—though he did not deem it loyal to express it—a sentiment of disappointment in the fact that so little has been said upon this subject in the Speech. Mr. Speaker, of late years it is not only in the Speech from the Throne that we learn of the

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intentions of Ministers as to the legislation of the Session. The hon. Minister of Public Works, at a banquet that was given to him in Montreal in October last, pointed out what was to be done in this particular regard. I propose to supplement the information conveyed to Parliament in the Speech from the Throne by a few passages from this ministerial pronouncement. The hon. member declared that there were three great questions upon which the Government claimed the confidence of the community, three great measures of policy—the Confederation itself, of which he claimed sole credit for the Conservative party; the Canadian Pacific Railway, which he did not then tell us required our further assistance, and the National Policy. Let me read. The hon. gentleman says:

"And, gentlemen, this demonstration is also an approbation of the great measures which have been adopted by the administration of which I am a member. First, there was the Confederation Act, and since we returned to power, we have adopted the National Policy, and the great Pacific Railway measure, and finally, we have adopted another measure scarcely less important in respect to the encouragement of immigration into this country."

Adverting then to the history, according to his version, of the other three measures, he recurs to the immigration measure, and he says:

"But, gentlemen, our mission would be but half accomplished if we forgot that we have on the other side of latitude 45 a great number of our fellow-countrymen who would like nothing better than to return home and sit down to the family table and eat with us, and to earn their living under the institutions now existing in Canada. (Loud cheers.) I need not say, gentlemen, that it is with the greatest satisfaction and pleasure that I am able to announce to you this evening that the Government of Canada intend to take measures, and energetic measures, to recal into the limits of our own territory all our fellow-countrymen in the United States who desire to return and live with us. You will understand, gentlemen, that in a banquet like this I must be excused if I do not give all the details of the ministerial measure that we propose to bring down next Session. But in any case it is well that you should know that our compatriots in the United States, whether they be of French origin or of any other origin, they are not forgotten, and all that can be done to bring them back to this country we shall do most heartily."

This was heralded in October last by the Minister of Public Works as the fourth great claim to the confidence of the country, and he placed it upon a par with those three other claims to which I have referred: Confederation, the National Policy, and the Canadian Pacific Railway. He announced the formation of a scheme, the decision of the Government, the determination to bring down some scheme this Session to produce this end. Is this little peddling paragraph about cheap inland transportation the hon. gentleman's great scheme? Is it, or is it something else? And if it be something else—if it be something at all commensurate with the grandeur, not to say the grandiloquence of the language with which the hon. gentleman announced the scheme to his friends at Montreal, why do we hear of cheap inland transportation and hear nothing at all of the hon. gentleman's great scheme of repatriation? Why is the less inserted, and the greater omitted? Why, to an assemblage of Conservatives, in Montreal, is a measure equal in importance to the National Policy, the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Confederation of the Provinces to be announced, and Parliament itself not to be told a word in regard to it in the Speech from the Throne? Mr. Speaker, I said that there was distress in the city in which I live, and that it was partly due to special circumstances, not due altogether to those circumstances to which I had alluded. It is due to immigration. I am not about to discuss at this moment who is responsible for those circumstances, but I say that it is lamentable that the number of people that are there should be there under the circumstances under which they are there; and I repeat what I have stated on former occasions, that while this country ought to devise and encourage a system of immigration, while we ought to see that those whom we want are summoned and welcomed