

Mr. BLAKE. No.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. If the hon. gentleman will allow me, I want to show that in proportion to the number of people who remain in the country and have not gone to the North-West, where so many of them are now settled and are so prosperous, they have their wives and children with them, and it is not surprising that a large number of the latter, instead of being in the schools of Ontario, are now in the schools of Manitoba and elsewhere; and, therefore, the statement of the hon. gentleman does not prove his argument at all. It proves, on the contrary, that the schools are frequented as they were. Take the Province of Quebec, and you will find that the same increase continues there that we have had for the last twenty years. I have not looked at the statistics this year, but I know it was so last year, and I have no doubt it is the same now. Though I admit that a large number of people have been emigrating to find work in the factories of the United States, a great number of them have come back, and others have gone to Manitoba and the North-West; and now they can reach those prairies more easily, you will find them going there in much larger numbers to settle upon that immense domain, which belongs not to one nationality but to all the nationalities in this country. I hope that those of my French Canadian countrymen who wish to leave their Province and emigrate, will go to Manitoba and the North-West; then they will remain on Canadian soil, they will remain under British institutions, under which they were born, those institutions we all cherish and under which we shall prosper. The hon. gentleman has gone into figures concerning emigration. Now, the hon. gentleman knows perfectly well that figures may be grouped in such a way as to make them say yes or no, black or white, though I do not say he has done so. But if he refers to the statistics that are found in the Report of the Minister of Agriculture, and which are now before the House, he will find some very striking facts. First, the emigration by the St. Lawrence for the last seven years has been as follows: In 1877, 7,700—I give only round numbers; in 1878, 10,200; in 1879, 17,000; 1880, 21,000; 1881, 30,000; 1882, 44,000; 1883, 45,000. Now, take those that have come by the Suspension Bridge: 1877, 13,000; 1878, 15,000; 1879, 20,000; 1880, 47,000; 1881, 61,000; 1882, 90,000; 1883, 162,000. And if you take those that have come by the Maritime Provinces, including Portland, Halifax, Boston and St. John, direct, you will find: 1877, 2,700; 1878, 2,400; 1879, 3,900; 1880, 3,300; 1881, 3,800; 1882, 13,400; 1883, 13,700. By British Columbia you have: 1881, 5,000; 1882, 13,900; 1883, 9,000. These figures show that the immigration into this country, the passenger immigration as well as settler's immigration, has been increasing from year to year, and especially during the last two or three years. Now, if you take the totals you will have: 1877, 23,000; 1878, 28,000; 1879, 51,000; 1880, 75,000; 1881, 101,000; 1882, 162,000; 1883, 171,000. Then, if you take those entered at Custom Houses with settlers' goods, you find for the same years respectively: 11,000; 11,000; 9,000; 10,000; 15,000; 30,000; 34,000. And if you put all these together, you will see what has been the immigration into this country for the last seven years: In 1877, 35,000; 1878, 40,000. After that, the policy of this Government began to take effect in 1879, and has continued during the last four years. In 1879 the immigration was 61,000; 1880, 85,000; 1881, 117,000; 1882, 193,000; 1883, 206,000. This shows, at all events, contrary to the statement of the hon. gentleman who preceded me, that the immigration to this country, far from diminishing, has increased from year to year, and more especially during the last four or five years. Of course, it will be said that a large number of these were merely passengers, and that a large number of them were destined for the United States, but they do not form the largest portion. No doubt a good

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN.

many of them did not remain in this country; they came by the steamers as passengers, and went through to the United States. But, on the other hand, you find that the immigration of settlers into Canada, of those who have settled in this country, has been as follows: In 1874, 39,000; 1875, 27,000; 1876, 25,000; 1877, 27,000; 1878, 29,000; 1879, 40,000; 1880, 38,000; 1881, 47,000; 1882, 112,000; 1883, 133,000. Therefore, far from diminishing, the emigrants coming from all quarters, by the Maritime Provinces as well as by the St. Lawrence and the Suspension Bridge, have largely increased from year to year, especially during the last three years. The hon. gentleman has been speaking of the cost. That is one of the greatest hobbies of hon. gentlemen opposite. They pretend that we have been uselessly expending and squandering the money of the people on immigration; but what do we find? We find that in 1877 the cost of bringing settlers into Canada, including those that are reported by the Customs as settlers coming here to live, was \$6.73 per head; in 1878, \$6.23; in 1879 the cost had fallen to \$4.35. In 1880 it was \$4.71; 1881, \$4.30; 1882, \$3.08; 1883, \$3.15; so that the cost of immigrants was reduced to the smallest sum possible, under the circumstances, in 1883. If you compare the cost of each immigrant in 1883 with the cost in 1877, you find that in 1877 each immigrant cost \$6.78, whilst in 1883 the cost was only \$3.15. If you take the five years—1874-75-76-77 and 1878, the number of immigrants was 92,700, while during the last five years, 1879 to 1883, inclusive, no less than 271,389 immigrants settled in the country; that is, three times as many during the latter five years as during the former. If you take the period from 1875 to 1878, you find that 109,000 people came into the country at a cost to the public Treasury of \$1,052,298, or \$9.50 per head; whilst from 1880 to 1883, the last four years, no less than 332,000 persons came here, at a cost of \$1,555,000 or \$3.30 per head. These figures are taken from the Blue Books laid before Parliament; and yet, the hon. member for South Brant (Mr. Paterson) has endeavoured to show the House and the country that this is an extravagant Government, that we throw the public money into the streets for the purpose of securing a few immigrants, while the contrary is the fact, and the results show that the cost of immigrants has been reduced, so that instead of the cost being \$9.50 per head, as it was during the four years, from 1875 to 1878, it was only \$3.30 per head, during the last four years. The hon. member has also endeavoured to show, that during the last decade there has been a large emigration to the United States. The hon. gentleman well knows, that if we have lost population on the one hand, we have gained a great deal, on the other, and that the people who have left the old Provinces have not left the Dominion for good, because a large portion have gone to Manitoba and the North-West, while another portion of the population, counted as emigrants, return after the season and bring back their earnings and live in Canada. These people go to the United States to obtain that special work which they are unable to find in their own country. A similar state of things prevails in the United States. Why are the eastern States not so populous as they were, and why does the population not remain there? It is because the people are attracted to go west. They go and settle on new lands: they wish to improve their position. And what is true in the United States is true here also. From my own knowledge of the French Canadians of Quebec, I say that history shows that for all time French Canadians have been desirous of travelling and going west. You find them all over Canada, from Victoria to Halifax; you find them in the United States and in Mexico; and the other day I found a wealthy French Canadian of Montreal who had been settled at Bray, near Dublin, for the last eight years, and when he returned the other day he could speak the French