

was 649,506, a decrease of 7,206. The numbers increased in British Columbia and the North-west Territories, but the old provinces show a decrease in the number of farmers, during this ten year period under the National Policy, of 36,042. The decrease of farmers in Ontario was 2.5 per cent, in Quebec 4.6 per cent, in Nova Scotia 15.9 per cent, in New Brunswick 15.8 per cent and in Prince Edward Island 1.3 per cent. The rate of natural increase which can properly be credited to a country like Canada is about 2 per cent per annum, or 20 per cent in ten years. So, by adding one-fifth to the population of 1881, and by adding also the immigrants, we get the population that should have been found here in 1891. The natural increase on the whole population of 1881 is 865,000, and the number of immigrants officially certified as entering the country during the decennial period ending 1891, was 886,000, making a total increase of population of 1,751,000. But the actual increase found by the enumerators was only 509,429, thus showing a loss of 1,241,000. If the anticipations of the promoters of the National Policy had been realized our own people would have remained with us and all these immigrants as well. So that, estimating the loss of population as compared with the gain we would have had if predictions had been fulfilled—it might fairly be claimed that the natural increase of those who went away should also be taken into account, but even omitting this—that loss amounted to about one and a quarter millions of souls. The total foreign-born population in 1881 was 609,348, or 14.3 per cent of the total population. In 1891 the total was 645,507, a little less than 14 per cent, the increase in numbers being 36,159. The number of immigrants already stated as arriving in the country in the ten years from 1881 to 1891, was 886,000. So, the loss of immigrants was 850,000. These general results are borne out by the details. The census found fewer Irish and Scotch in Canada than ten years ago. The Scotch decreased by 8,000, and the Irish by 36,000. During the same period no less than 655,000 immigrants left Ireland and went to the United States. The immigration into Manitoba and the North-west from 1881 to 1890, both inclusive, numbered, according to the blue-books, 258,814. The population in 1881 was 118,706, which with the 258,814 of official immigrants, should have enabled the enumerators to find at least 377,520 residents in the Territories and Manitoba; all they did find was 254,164, a loss of over 122,000 settlers. As the Department of Agriculture reckoned each settler as having a value to the country of \$1,000, there is a loss to the country of 122 millions, if we are to accept those figures. The following are some of the places in Ontario where there was not only a failure to retain the natural increase, but an actual decline in numbers: Cobourg, Goderich,

Dundas, Bowmanville, Amherstburg, St. Catharines, Port Hope, Ingersoll, Napanee, Strathroy, Paris, Prescott, Whitby, Kincardine, Mitchell, Port Perry, Thorold, Dunville, Harriston and Fergus. Most of these had a steady growth from 1871 to 1881; and if the predictions of the National Policy had been even partially fulfilled, all these towns, among the most thriving in Ontario, would have prospered exceedingly and furnished a home market to the farmers that they were led to expect. Dundas was a prosperous manufacturing town, and increased by several hundreds up to 1881; but that growth was stopped and it declined in population until, in 1891, there was some two hundred less than in 1881. Now, I believe these census returns are of the utmost importance, and they are a proper subject of discussion, because it was claimed that the National Policy was to be the instrument whereby the population was to be increased, whereby our young people would be prevented from going away, whereby immigrants would be brought to the country; yet from these figures, which I have shown are official, I fail to see how any thoughtful man could doubt, from the moment those returns were published, that the National Policy had failed to accomplish its purpose. Prior to the publication of those returns, many intelligent people who had not given the subject serious consideration were no doubt convinced in their own minds, partly through party zeal and partly, I suppose, from reading the public press, that the National Policy was filling up the country; but when these census returns were brought down, then every thoughtful man in the country must have understood that the National Policy had been a very great failure, and indeed a bitter disappointment to every man who had honestly supported it. My hon. friend who leads the Opposition was High Commissioner in London at the time; and in his official report, in 1892, he felt obliged to make this sad statement:

I need hardly say that the returns of the census in Canada were received here (in London) with a certain amount of disappointment, as it was quite expected that the population would exceed five millions. What effect this may have on immigration, I am not prepared at this moment to say.

I am afraid, Sir, that it had a very serious effect on immigration, because we know that the immigration returns for recent years have been far from satisfactory. I had a conversation recently on this subject, Mr. Speaker, with a very prominent member of the Conservative party, who is the head of one of the great manufacturing enterprises in Canada. I do not imagine for a moment that he was less loyal than he had been to his party; at all events, I knew him as a Conservative then, and I believe he is a Conservative still. But that gentleman, in discussing the subject,