

rate as that of the United States in the same ten years, as we all know that the natural increase is larger in Canada than it is in the United States. But in order to make the comparison on a safe basis, I will assume a natural increase equal to that of the United States, which was 1·4 a year. Canada's population in 1881 was 4,325,000. The natural increase, at the rate I have stated, would give in ten years an additional population of 605,500. These added to the immigrants, who, according to the official return, have entered Canada, would represent an increase of population of 1,491,677. Thus we should have had in Canada a population of 5,816,677, but, instead of that, the census returns of 1891 showed only 4,805,000, or 1,011,000 unaccounted for. Where did the immigrants go? Did these people ever come in? It must be remembered that this was a period under the national policy, a period during which the Conservatives tell us, this country was very prosperous and when there was a great demand for labour in all the industries of this country.

That took place during a period which, I must say, was a prosperous period in the history of Canada, which prosperity, of course, the Conservatives attributed to the operation and to the influence of the national policy. If there was a time in our country when these people should remain with us; it was certainly the years from 1880 to 1890, because, as these gentlemen said, they were furnishing labour to so many thousand individuals. I believe myself that not half of this number came it at all, and, moreover, that a very large number left. One of the strongest Conservative papers in the Northwest Territories made this remark in its editorial columns:

The trails from Manitoba to the States were worn bare and barren by the footprints of the departing settlers.

Now, all this is changed under the new order of things. A new era has dawned under the wise administration of the Liberal government. Settlers who come now come to remain with us, come to add to our strength, come to help us develop the country, come to help pay taxes, come to assume the responsibilities of Canadian citizens, come to remain permanently amongst us and be Canadians—that is the difference. Why, Sir, the *Mail and Empire* a few months ago, in its editorial columns, made use of these words:

There is now a change, not only has the exodus stopped, but the Dominion, more particularly Manitoba and the North-west, is being filled with a most desirable class of settlers, particularly from Great Britain and the United States, whose people are very closely in harmony with the conditions that prevail in all phases of Canadian life.

Sir, the evidence must have been very clear, yes, as clear as a sunbeam, to lead the *Mail and Empire* to give such a valuable testimony

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron).

in favour of the immigration policy of the Liberal government. The success of the immigration policy rests upon these conditions: First, the Minister of Interior amended the land regulations to such an extent as to make them much more favourable to immigrants. He appointed intelligent and vigorous immigration agents, he went to work and formulated and carried out a policy on lines based on good judgment and wisdom, and in this way he has accomplished the great ends which I have pointed out. Now, what have we done last year? These are interesting figures, and any person who takes any interest in immigration—

Mr. CLARKE: Where are those figures to be obtained?

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). They are to be obtained from original documents, and I have much pleasure in placing them before the hon. gentleman, in order that he may study them. Now let the hon. gentleman listen. The arrivals of immigrants in 1899 from the United States were 11,945.

Mr. CLARKE: Would the hon. gentleman allow me to ask him where he obtained those figures?

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). I obtained them, as I generally obtain my figures, by hard work; and if others worked as hard as I do to obtain correct figures, there would not be so many blunders made in giving figures picked up from newspapers and other sources.

Mr. DAVIN. What is the hon. gentleman's authority?

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). Never mind my authority, it is a good one. I have been long enough in the House to be known as an authority upon figures. I have never used figures yet that have been contradicted, I never used figures that I do not know to be correct. It does not matter to the hon. gentlemen whether they are official or not, so long as they are correct, and if they think they are not correct, it is their duty to correct them. With that explanation, I will proceed to give you the figures, so take out your pencils and put them down. We obtained from the United States, in 1899, 11,945 immigrants; from England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, we obtained 10,660; Doukhobors, 7,350; Galicians, 6,700; Germans, 780; Scandinavians, 1,526; France and Belgium, 413; miscellaneous nationalities, 5,169, or a total for the year 1899 of 44,543, as compared with 31,900 in 1898, or an increase last year of 12,643, or 40 per cent. Now Sir, is not that a great change? Did we use to get immigrants from the United States? The immigrants now coming from that country come to people our country, expressing their intention to remain with us and to be Canadians. Many people who formerly went to the American States, now, under the vigorous immigration policy that