

**Charges Answered--Profitable Expenditure War-
ranted--The Returning Tide--Benefits of Immi-
gration--Progress and Contentment Every-
where--A Splendid Reception.**

There have been several charges made against ministers, imputing to them a departure from the policy deliberately put forward while the Reform party were out of office between 1875 and 1896. I think that if these imputations are carefully investigated and candidly considered, they will be found to be without any satisfactory foundation. The policy of the party will not be called into existence at a public meeting. It is not to be learned from an expression spoken in the heat of debate and put forward as an ab-

years, than during the whole eighteen years immediately preceding. Our revenue has risen in four years from \$40,000,000 to upwards of \$49,000,000, under the lower rate of taxation. Large enterprises have been protected, and what would in a period of stagnation have been an improvident course to take during a period of activity has become a policy of prudence and well-forethought. There has been no change of policy on our part, but there have been very great changes in the circumstances of the country, and those changes have made it the duty of

Between 1872 and 1878 a large number of Mennonites and Icelanders came to Canada and settled in Manitoba and the Territories. The Mennonites, at the present government came into office there has been indeed but little to show that any considerable numbers from the continent of Europe found their way into the unoccupied possessions of the territory. Many efforts were made to secure them, but, as we have said, all that could be done was to do this way, and our reply was that there was nothing done to justify the expenditure that had been made from the public treasury with a view of securing the occupation of the western lands of Canada.

would be more disastrous to this country than a successful attempt to check the immigration which is now proceeding. I have been in several of the provinces, and have seen the Northwest Territories, and although we have added to our population but thousands during the past and present years, I find that these settlements form but mere specks upon the immense area of territory which is now open to the Dominion of Providence for the benefit of men who may come hither to settle it, and to make it home for millions of Canadians. I am not alarmed at the influx of the Canadians, because the power of transforming the foreign population into forming institutions into Canadians, is in the hands of the Dominion, and I make them not less certainly Canadians than we ourselves are. I am the most part, the people who come amongst us are not the people carrying with them the institutions and the literature, the language, the customs, the colour of their birth. They are people who were disoriented in their own country, and who have come hither to enjoy greater freedom, more material comforts, and to become possessed of greater privileges, which they have earned, and which they have deserved. They rapidly give up their mother tongue, to learn that of the

This country, which was pronounced to be at one time an area of rugged and untamed wilderness, has an area of vegetation as great as that of the United States, capable of sustaining a population as large as that of Russia. Europe. Instead of being a mere fringe area along the American border it is a new country extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific and having a depth of several thousand miles, capable of sustaining a population as great as that of the United States. It is true that we occupy a higher latitude than our neighbors in the lower climate, it may be, in some places.

must ultimately give place to the settlers, and the Government has been required to acquit for agriculture. You cannot have a transformation in the occupation and use of large sections of the country until the settlers are there. One can doubt that the settlers, each of whom takes up a few hundred acres, and each of whom devotes himself to the cultivation of the soil, can contribute annually more to the wealth of the country than the proprietors of a few herds of cattle and a few herds of horses, who graze on these settlers are producing cattle and grain for exportation. They are the consumers of goods, both domestic and foreign, and are entitled to share in the revenues of the country, and to lessen the burden of taxation which rests on each individual. They go to strengthen the industry for various purposes, and to give it security, under all circumstances against the possibility of foreign competition. They contribute to strengthen British power.

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