

best evidence to show that our land policy was much more liberal than that of the United States. Consequently, the people could not be going there to seek homes as agriculturists. The only cause he could assign for the emigration was the diversity of employment they found in the United States, and the commercial policy adopted in Canada was likely to accomplish the same result here. Again, our trade had increased year by year, and there was every evidence of prosperity, and every month the trade was larger than during the corresponding period two years ago. The failures had not been so large; the payment of accounts had been more regular, and there were few men out of employment. Those were the best arguments to prove the inaccuracy of the statements of the Opposition, made night after night, that the country is declining. The agencies established through the action of the Opposition afforded the only reason he could assign for the large exodus declared to be going on from the several constituencies as represented by members of the Opposition in this House.

Mr. HESSON said the question might have been much better discussed if the papers called for in the first instance had been brought down. A great deal of irrelevant matter had been introduced into the debate, and he would not have spoken except he had been pointedly referred to by an hon. member opposite. An inspection of the statistics published by Dun, Wyman & Co., showed: In 1877, failures 1,892 with liabilities \$25,523,903; 1878, 1,697 failures, with liabilities \$23,908,677; 1879, 1,902 failures, with liabilities \$29,347,937. The large number of failures in 1879 was, no doubt, due to the proposed repeal of the Insolvent Law. In 1880, the failures numbered 907, with liabilities amounting to \$3,012,783, or about 100 per cent. less in number and about 200 per cent. less in liabilities. That should be a very reasonable answer to any reasonable man as to the results of the National Policy. He was sorry to hear the exodus cry raised in the Lower Provinces. In his own county the population had largely increased, as well as the wealth of the people. In 1871, the last year of the census, it had a population of something over 25,000. The town he lived in, which had in 1811 a population of 4,386, had now more than 9,000; Listowell had increased in population from 976 in 1871 to over 1,800 to-day; Palmerston, which in 1871 was only a cluster of houses, not large enough to be called a village, had to-day a population of something like 2,000. The census when taken would show an increase of over 25 per cent. throughout the whole country. The same progress was noticeable in the adjoining counties. In the whole of his county there was not a vacant farm, and lands there were worth \$50 an acre. The National Policy had accomplished what was anticipated of it by its supporters. If it had not kept everybody in the country, it had not driven a man out. Most decidedly people would not leave this country to go to a country more highly taxed. The strongest point made against the National Policy was that it would impose a high taxation on this country similar to that in the United States. It was an absurd proposition to say that these people were moving from the country from the effects of the National Policy. He was not prepared to say but that probably some had left the country from the feeling that they had not accomplished all they had anticipated, but he was also prepared to say that there were now many thousands of people in this country earning a livelihood that would not have been able to do so but for the introduction of the National Policy.

Mr. BAIN said he had quietly listened to this discussion feeling all through that perhaps his own position on this particular question, differed from that of other hon. members on this side. When hon. gentlemen now on the Treasury benches occupied a place in Opposition to the late Government, they were never tired of stating that the emigration policy of that Gov-

Mr. MACDONELL (Lanark).

ernment was an extravagant one, and they even went so far as to say that they had more population in our country than we could offer remunerative employment to, and that we should therefore cease our efforts to induce immigration from Europe. This cry was repeated by their organs, and he remembered that some of the journals of his party felt inclined to indulge in that view. Remembering this, he had always felt inclined to stand by the Minister of Agriculture in his efforts to induce emigrants to settle in this country. Although he might have felt disposed to taunt these hon. gentlemen with going back on the promises and statements they made in Opposition, when they got into office, he had felt at the same time that the future salvation of this country depended entirely on our drawing to our shores as large a producing population as possible; but he could not forget that, while they were on the Opposition benches, these hon. gentlemen had told the Government that they were flies on the wheel, that they could not keep our people in their own country, and that Canada was going to destruction. They had told the people that if their party had an opportunity of inaugurating the National Policy all would be changed. But they found, to-night, that there was not one hon. gentleman on the other side who would venture the statement that the exodus from Canada was less now than during the *regime* of the Mackenzie Government. Hon. gentlemen were attempting to discredit the very same official returns which they had been in the habit of quoting against their opponents in days gone by. He (Mr. Bain) thought it was rather too thin for these hon. gentlemen to cover the defeat of their policy by alleging that facts which they found useful when the late Government was in power, were now utterly unreliable. How did the record stand when the hon. gentlemen opposite held office previous to the Mackenzie Administration? Did the exodus to the United States cease? By no means. He found, on looking at comparative statistics for the five years of the Mackenzie Administration and the five years previous, that the number of people who emigrated from this country to the United States during the Conservative Administration was double the number that left under the Mackenzie Administration. He looked forward with a great deal of interest to the development promised by the Minister of Agriculture, for the reason that if they showed the returns made last year to be exaggerated, it would be a source of great satisfaction to us all. Hon. gentlemen opposite admitted that there was a large exodus going on from the older Provinces; but they contended that it did not go to the United States, but rather to our own North-West. He admitted that the revival of business in the United States had much to do in attracting emigrants from this country. Only the other day he heard a gentleman quoting the increased wages paid in the manufactories of his own riding as a proof that the National Policy had benefitted mechanics, whereas if he had stated the whole fact he would have said that the employers of labor in that town had been obliged to increase the pay of the mechanics in order to keep them from going to the United States. It was not because the National Policy had increased the local business, but because better wages were paid on the other side of the line. Hon. gentlemen opposite could not dispute figures showing the amount of acres and the amount of money that had been paid for homestead pre-emptions in our own North-West. He had consulted a return brought down in relation to that matter, and he found that in 1879, 1,096,800 acres were pre-empted, and that the fees alone on the sales of that year for homestead pre-emptions amounted to \$34,706. In the return brought down to the end of the month of October of last season, which was practically the end of the emigration year, did they find anything to substantiate those glowing predictions made by the hon. Minister when he told us that by his scheme of appropriating 100,000,000 acres of land for the building of the Canadian Pacific Rail-