

leader of this House. At the time of the selection, he (the speaker) had regretted it; for he did not consider that an hon. gentleman, who came from another Chamber, should occupy this position. As to the respectability of the hon. gentleman, the fact of his being leader was sufficient guarantee.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—I said nothing about the respectability of the hon. gentleman.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER D^r ST. JUST—The hon. gentleman had abused the hon. President of the Council as not having been a member of the Dorion party; but he (the speaker) remembered when that hon. gentleman was a supporter of the Baldwin-Lafontaine Administration. In a moment of weakness, the hon. gentleman had abandoned this path; but he soon perceived the wickedness of his new friends, was convinced that if he remained with them he would lose his reputation, and the Hon. President of the Council had left the Conservative party at a period when the country was suffering from the grave affliction of a great public scandal. The hon. gentleman (Hon. Mr. Macpherson) had thought proper to allude to the administration of his department, stating that he had given instructions to the Agent-General to discourage emigration to this country, but this was not the case.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—Did not the Agent-General distribute copies of a circular over Europe with the view of discouraging emigration to this country.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER D^r ST. JUST replied that he had never authorized this proceeding. The Agent General had thought that owing to the general depression in trade, it was not advisable to promote emigration, which to a certain extent he (Mr. Jenkins) had discouraged, taking upon himself to issue the circular in question. The moment he had heard of it the Agent-General had been informed by him, that he (the speaker) disapproved of this step, and he had immediately countermanded the circular by means of a Departmental order. His hon. friend had no right to impute to him the act of the Agent-General.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON did not wish in any way to misrepresent his hon. friend. He had taken it for granted that the Agent-General would not have issued such a circular without instructions from the Department; and he was glad that he had given his hon. friend an op-

portunity for making this explanation, which had never previously been given.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER D^r ST. JUST continued, stating, that on learning of this action, he had immediately written to Mr. Jenkins, expressing his disapproval. There were persons who believed that, during the present depression, the better course would be not to encourage immigration, on the ground that the discouraging accounts that would be sent by immigrants to Europe would work against the interests of this country. This Government, as well as the late Administration, had distributed all possible information with reference to the lands which were open to settlement, and had encouraged as much as possible immigration from Russia, Iceland and the United States. The hon. gentleman must not imagine that emigrants could be forced to come to Canada against their will. The hon. gentleman had accused the present Administration of being the cause of the existing commercial depression. He had heard of such charges being made outside of Parliament, but no one had hitherto dared to make such an assertion on the floor of this House.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—I did not charge the Government with causing the depression; but I said that the Administration might have done a good deal to alleviate the present distress by encouraging industry and enterprise, and by speaking hopefully of the future of this country.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER D^r ST. JUST believed that they had extended the same encouragement to the industries of this country as their predecessors. He had been under the impression that the hon. gentleman did not, a short time ago, repose complete confidence in the late Government, and had not been sorry to see a change in the administration of public affairs. He believed that when the country reflected calmly on the events of this session, and on the manner in which the business of the country was managed, they would continue their support to the Government of the day.

Hon. Mr. DEVER said the present Government had increased the expenses of administration in New Brunswick very extensively under one or two heads. The Government came into office as Reformers, to reform the errors of their predecessors. They found in New Brunswick that the Excise Department, which had never been known in that Province until it entered