

you need statistics, but there are some things you do not need statistics to prove. There are some things that you know from your general knowledge and observation of what is going on around you, and I venture to say that every hon. member from Nova Scotia will testify that during the last few years the demand for labour in Nova Scotia has been greater than in any corresponding period in the history of that province, and when there is a demand for labour, people do not go abroad, except that adventurous class that will move anyhow. There is something in the conditions that facilitates the movement of the people down there. They have easy communication by water with the United States and naturally they go to the United States more largely than they would go elsewhere. From my observation I am satisfied that a less number of people go from the maritime provinces now than in any period during the last ten years. A very considerable portion of those who go to the United States do not go to engage in industrial pursuits at all. A very considerable percentage of them are fishermen who leave the coast of Nova Scotia and go to Massachusetts and whenever, unfortunately, you see a description of the loss of a Gloucester fishing vessel, you will be surprised at the number of Nova Scotians whose names are mentioned as forming the crew of that Gloucester vessel. These people do not go to engage in the factories, but they go to follow the same line of pursuit they are following at home, and even as respects that class of emigration it is less than it was before. I know from general observation and information that the demand for labour in all branches of industry in the maritime provinces, and I speak more particularly of Nova Scotia, during the past few years has been remarkably good, not merely in the Sydney industries, but in various parts of the country. Altogether apart from the Sydney interests, the demand for labour has been larger than usual, and if there is a demand for labour, people are not going to go abroad, but they are going to stay at home. I think my hon. friend is mistaken. I do not mean to say that there are not some people going to the United States, but, I dissent emphatically from his statement that there are as many going there now as went in previous times.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I do not recollect making such a statement as that. I say there is still a very considerable movement of population. I was referring to what had been stated by the hon. member for Pictou, and if the hon. Minister of Finance thinks he can minimize this movement of population by any words he utters to the committee he is mistaken. It is not of precisely the character that he refers to. As far as the fishermen are concerned, I do not regard them as emigrants at all. They may go to Gloucester during the summer

and come back and spend the winter in Nova Scotia.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Not always.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). A great many of them do. The hon. member for Lunenburg (Mr. Kaulbach) can tell us that along the southern coast of Nova Scotia, as well as along the northern coast of the Bay of Fundy one can see houses and long rows of cottages which are the property of men who go to Gloucester and fish out of Gloucester during the summer season.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. And they all appear in the Massachusetts census.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I do not know what warrant the hon. gentleman has for that statement. I do not know if those men who go there are included at all in the Massachusetts census.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. If they are there they must be included.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). They have no domicile in the state of Massachusetts. They hire as seamen or masters on American vessels and sail out of the port of Gloucester or other ports of Massachusetts for a few months in the year. They have their domicile in Nova Scotia where their wives and families remain, and where they are themselves when they are not engaged on these vessels. These are not the emigrants of whom I have been speaking. Neither do I agree with the Minister of Finance when he says that it is absolutely useless for the government to attempt to turn these people towards the North-west. He dismisses that with a wave of his hand and he says: Oh, these men know all about the North-west. I say they do not know everything about the North-west. I say that no man knows all about that North-west until he has gone there, and seen it, and spent some months in it. I say that the people of the maritime provinces do not understand the opportunities there may be for them in the North-west. It is useless for the Minister of Finance to deprecate any effort by the government to turn this emigration movement into our own country. The government might at least attempt it, and if they fail then it would be time enough for the Minister of Finance to wave his hand and to say: It is no use. Until the government makes honest and earnest efforts in that direction I cannot agree in the opinion of which the Minister of Finance has expressed.

Mr. FRASER. I come from a county in which there is a very large number of fishermen and I wish to say that I cannot agree with the leader of the opposition. In former years a large number of Nova Scotia fishermen went to Massachusetts and remained there, and there is now only a small proportion who engage in fishing in that