

to exist. I admit, if it be any consolation to hon. gentlemen opposite and particularly to the hon. gentleman who recently displayed yonder placard, that the taint has spread. I admit that, as a natural result of those causes to which I have alluded, corruption is everywhere in Canada. It is not merely the case of whole departments being so saturated with corruption, it is the case of the whole Government being so afflicted. It is not merely the case of whole districts and provinces, but I very much fear of the whole Dominion. At any rate this much has been done, and this much has been gained, that these rascalities have been made plain; at any rate, the foundations of the power of government have been laid bare; at any rate these hypocrisies and hypocrites have been exposed, and we know who and what manner of men they are. And now, what next? I say the future of Canada to a very great extent hangs on the answer. I know that the Government is more than ever corrupt. Canada to-day stands at the parting of the ways. There is no doubt—I do not conceal it from myself, it would be impossible to conceal it from myself and no thoughtful man can fail to see it, that it is entirely out of the question that such exposures as these recently made could fail of producing a very great effect, but whether for good or evil is more than I can say. Sir, one of two results is inevitable. Whenever such proof as I have given and as has been laid before this House has been brought to the notice of any community, either you will have, and that shortly, a purification of politics and morals, or you will have a very great acceleration of degradation and corruption all through. If the nation chooses to do its duty, the country will emerge very considerably benefited and regenerated. If the nation neglects its duty, there is no doubt whatever, on the other hand, that the cancer will speedily destroy the vitals of the whole community. For my part, I take no stock; I never took stock in that cheap optimism which some people indulge in on these occasions. I do not believe in the slightest degree that things are going to right themselves of themselves. It is a very comforting morality, no doubt, for those who believe it; but I tell the House, history does not say so, reason does not say so, analogy and experience do not say so, and that it is very much more likely that things will go from bad to worse than that they will right themselves without the earnest intervention of the people. I know that the case of Canada is peculiar in many ways. These things could not happen at any worse time in our history than now, and I know quite well that it is more difficult for us to shake off this corruption than for older nations, who have a long historic past to appeal to. One of the worst results of all these things to which I have alluded, all these evidences of corruption which have been accumulating, not for one or two or three years but for many years back, is this: that they tend, and tend very largely, to destroy the patriotic instincts of our people. There can be no doubt, whatever there may have been in times past, that nowadays it is utterly impossible to cherish a healthy, patriotic instinct unless one is able at the same time to respect the country in which one lives, and no honest man can respect a people who, with such proofs as are now before the people of Canada, permit these things to go unpunished. The case is wholly different and always was wholly different in the

case of nations who were oppressed and down-trodden into slavery. Here in Canada if we do wrong, a very large section of the people must feel themselves accomplices in their own degradation. And now, I have to call the attention of the House and the Government to the questions which are being asked to-day from one end of the country to the other. These hon. gentlemen may not know it, they may not be in the way of hearing questions which men are putting to one another on these points; but I can tell them that wherever men are meeting to-day, it is a common matter to hear the question raised, whether, in all the circumstances and under such conditions, it is possible for Canada to exist politically much longer. I tell them that that question is being put.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Yes, and they will very soon find that that question has a very grave and important meaning for all of us. The question is being put, aye, from one end of the country to the other, whether our parliamentary system is not an utter and down-right failure, whether it is anything more than a mere mask for a system of intolerable corruption. I tell them that the question is being put whether, if it be unhappily true, as some of their apologists assert, that the condition of things in Canada is such that you can only keep Confederation together by these corrupt methods—whether, if that be true, which heaven forbid, Confederation would not be a moral nuisance to be extinguished from the face of the earth. They are asking whether the exodus, besides draining our physical manhood, is draining all the moral and political manhood out of Canada as well. The practical answer is given to this question, an answer, I am sorry to say, not in words but in deeds. You will find it contained in this most pregnant and significant fact, that in the last ten years, if the official statements given are to be relied upon, Canada has lost 1,500,000 people. You will find it in the fact that a country which might well sustain 50,000,000, and has a present population of less than 5,000,000, has lost nearly one-third, or the equivalent of one-third of its population, and they have gone because they have lost faith and hope in their country. I ask this House whether the fiercest civil war that ever raged in any country would have done more harm to Canada than the decade of misgovernment we have just closed. The answer is not far to seek. I have here a statement of the results of the fiercest civil war that has raged on this continent for this century. I have here a statement of the results to the entire Southern Confederacy, and it is well worth while for the people of Canada and for this House to consider what those results were. I find that the population of the States of Virginia, Florida, Georgia, Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri, North and South Carolina, and Tennessee, was in 1860 exactly 11,000,000. I find that in 1870 that had grown to 12,487,385 souls, so that in the Southern Confederacy, which for four years was desolated by the very fiercest civil war almost that the world has seen for this century at least, the growth of those southern states, all of which were the scene of bloody hostilities, amounted in ten years to very nearly fifteen per cent; whereas I find that in Old Canada and the Maritime Provinces, in the decade from 1881 to 1891, the total