

but a similar condition of affairs prevails in the neighboring Republic. Our taxation is not so large *per capita* as theirs, yet we find a continual movement of people from the Eastern States to the Western States; and the natural tendency of our population is to the West. It is so in this Province, as well as everywhere else. I should prefer that the people would remain in their native Province, but we cannot expect that our experience in that way will differ from that of our neighbors. Therefore, I say, it cannot be the pressure of taxation in Canada, because the National Policy has been approved of by the country. There cannot be in this House any opposition to that policy now, after the unmistakable expression of opinion which has been given by the people at the polls in favor of the course pursued by the Government and particularly with regard to their Fiscal and Railway policy. We have great cause to congratulate ourselves in every way, not only on our present position, but also on the hopeful prospects before us.

Then, as regards the mines, look at the coal industry of Nova Scotia; look at the number of vessels employed and the output of the mines compared with the returns of former years! I see, from some report issued in Montreal, only lately, that over a hundred thousand tons of coal were sent there from Nova Scotia last year, more than in any previous year. All this is indicative of a wise administration of public affairs by the present Government and proves the wisdom of their policy.

I see a paragraph in the Speech with regard to the North-West. I am very glad to find, on the authority of His Excellency the Governor-General, that these vast territories are so well adapted to settlement. It confirms what his predecessors have said. This report going abroad to Europe must have a beneficial effect particularly in Great Britain, in bringing out settlers to this country. It is all important to us to have those territories settled as soon as possible; it will not only benefit those who make their homes there, but it will lessen the general taxation of the country and relieve us of the burden we have assumed in constructing the Canadian Pacific Railway and developing the North-West Territory. It will also contribute to the success of the people who embarked in that gigantic enterprise, and their suc-

cess must be beneficial to the whole country. It was an enormous undertaking, and we should be glad to learn that they are succeeding and are likely to reap large profits in an undertaking fraught with such risks. Already, since they have taken this enterprise in hand, the revenue of the country has largely increased from the sales of public lands, and we can now say with certainty, that the rest of the Dominion will not feel any burden of taxation arising from the construction of that road. I know at one time we thought this country had a white elephant on its hands—that the whole country would be burdened with an irredeemable burden of debt and taxation in consequence of the undertaking. I believe the country is hopeful now, and glad that the work has been commenced. The progress which has been made with the construction of the line has been extraordinary, and beyond the expectations of the most sanguine. All this proves the wisdom of the policy of the Government. Not only that, but the immigration into this country has been unprecedentedly large, owing to the opening up of the North West, while the cost *per capita* of bringing emigrants into the country has been very small, only \$3. Seven or eight years ago, when the late administration was in power, it was eight or ten times as large as it is now.

With respect to the laws regulating the franchise, I do not know what the promised measure is to be, but of one thing I am convinced, that Parliament alone should have the power of declaring the conditions on which its members should be elected. This is a question which should have been dealt with long ago; it was never brought up until now, and it is high time that a measure should be submitted dealing with the subject. On this point, I should think there could be no diversity of opinion.

As regards the license law, I was one of those who opposed the measure introduced by the leader of the Opposition at the time when he was the leader of the Government in this House. I was strongly impressed then with the idea that we should not interfere with the subject, but that it should be left to the Provinces to regulate it. That we have a constitutional right to deal with the matter is evident from the act which the leader of the Op-