

because it was sometimes difficult to distinguish between emigrants and people who went to the States on business or pleasure with the intention of returning. Nevertheless, from his part of the country the number of people who left for the States last season was so much in excess of ordinary travel and of previous seasons, that no doubt could exist that a large emigration took place. The estimates varied widely, but the lowest showed a very high figure compared with previous years. The steamers on the line from St. John to Portland and Boston were crowded on every outgoing trip with Canadians, a large number of whom were the flower of our population, consisting to a large extent of skilled laborers. He had heard it stated that the population of St. John and Portland had decreased within some months by 6,000 or 8,000 souls. Clergymen of several denominations had told him they had observed a marked diminution in their congregations, and any one accustomed to the town could not help remarking the small number of people to be now met in the streets, in the stores, and around the wharves. But very few of those who left would return. True, some had returned to work in the boot and shoe factories, in which there was now more employment than a year ago, but the number who returned was very small. It was not an uncommon thing to see the steamers detained, waiting the arrival of a car or two car loads of people for the United States, from Nova Scotia, and various parts of his Province by the Intercolonial; and there was not a schooner, of the many that left every bay and creek of the New Brunswick and part of the Nova Scotia coast, for the United States, that did not carry some passengers who intended settling in there.

It being Six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

#### AFTER RECESS.

Mr. ANGLIN. It might be said, as it had been said, that of those who left the city of St. John during the years 1875-80, that a large number were those who came there to assist in rebuilding the city after the great fire of 1877. It was true, a very large number came from the United States in the fall of 1877, and probably some in the spring of 1878, but it was also true that nearly all of those people had returned by the close of 1878, and that few, if any of them, were included in those who left the city and neighborhood in 1879, when there was so large an exodus. But speaking of the great numbers who left, and many of them he feared never to return, he did not include at any time mere sojourners in the city. He spoke entirely of those who were either natives of St. John or of the Province of New Brunswick, or had lived there the greater part of their lives, and had hoped to spend the rest of their days there, but who were driven away for want of employment, or because, if they were employed, their wages were so low as scarcely to provide food for their families. They had heard similar reports from the Province of Quebec. They had heard from time to time that there were trains, with cars crowded with natives of that Province and others, who were residents of the Province, who were leaving to seek employment in the United States, many of them with the expressed intention of settling in the United States permanently. No doubt some of these had returned, but he was sorry to say that the number returning was small, compared with those who went away. But the most startling reports they had received were from the western districts, and the report of which was the subject of the resolution before the House. It would almost seem incredible that from that district, and from the ports of that district, so vast a number of the people of Canada could have gone out of the country to settle in the United States. The report, however, appeared to be official in its character, though its accuracy had been impugned. He believed the

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hon. Minister of Agriculture some weeks ago had told the House that he had caused official inquiry to be made through one of the gentlemen employed in his department, and that that gentleman had satisfied himself that the figures were grossly exaggerated. But they had heard another account of that inquiry and its result. They had heard it stated that the United States official who had made this report to his Government, had treated as an insult to himself and his Government the inquiries made by the officer deputed by the Minister of Agriculture, and had insisted on the absolute accuracy of his returns. This much, however, was certain: that the returns which were now impugned by hon. gentlemen opposite, and ridiculed by them as being exaggerated and incredible in their character, were precisely such returns as these hon. gentlemen chose to rely upon for the four or five years when the Mackenzie Administration was in power. They had then pointed to the outflow of people from Canada during those years; and the average number which left during those years was very much less than the average number that had left for a great many years preceding which hon. gentlemen opposite were in power, though the number was larger than they desired to see leave the country. Those hon. gentlemen declared to all who chose to believe them—and many professed to believe them—that that outflow of population could be checked if only they were restored to power and afforded an opportunity of putting their great National Policy into operation. It was quite natural that they should now feel sore at finding that in this second year after they retired, in the year after the National Policy went into operation, the outflow of the people exceeded the outflow of any previous year—not merely during the Mackenzie Administration, but also during their own previous Administration—by so many thousands. It was the largest outflow that had ever been heard of in this country, so that it was quite natural that these hon. gentlemen should try to throw discredit on the official returns which showed such results. But in doing this they also attempted to throw discredit on the very figures which they themselves had relied on during the campaigns of the previous three or four years. In those years they had never heard the accuracy of these returns doubted; in those years they were wailing and lamenting over the deplorable fact that our people could not find employment in their own country; that our young men had no scope and verge for their ambition in this country; and that those who were enterprising were unwilling to be cribbed, cabined and confined in Canada, under a Government that did not know how to protect the country or promote its welfare; that did not know how to open up revenues of industry for the ambitious and enterprising young men of the country, who were, therefore, leaving it in such numbers. He thought it was to be regretted that objection was made to the amendment moved by the hon. member for Centre Huron (Sir Richard J. Cartwright). He thought if they would go into an inquiry on this subject at all, it should be a thorough inquiry; if they were to have the test applied to one set of figures, the same test should be applied by the same men to the corresponding figures, so that if they were found to be exaggerated in one case it might be ascertained if they were not exaggerated in the other. Then they would, at all events, be able to form some idea of the extent of the emigration of Canadians to the United States from that district, and by the ports of that district, however much they might differ as to its causes. Its causes were, he believed, multifarious. He would be sorry to hold the present Government responsible to the full extent for that extraordinary outflow of our population. He did not believe the Government could have prevented it no matter what they did, but at all events it had proved that the operation of the National Policy was powerless to check the outflow of our people to the United States, though these