

people of Canada. I think I can remember—unless I am very greatly mistaken—that the balance of trade against England has been steadily increasing by hundreds of millions of pounds sterling, not dollars, for a longer period than either I or my learned friend can remember; I am inclined to think that England is not the poorer because it has had a very heavy balance of trade against it for a long time. It might be contended—and contended with a good deal of show of reason—that the balance of trade of which he speaks really to a very great extent—I do not know to the full extent—means that we have sold our exports at a very good profit, and that we have made very considerable profit in the imports coming back to us in exchange for the exports. That is as good a theory as the one my hon. friend propounded and has a good deal to recommend it. If my hon. friend will take the imports into Canada, he will find many items such as this, six or seven or eight million for household goods for settlers imported into Canada. Does he consider that that is an item which is very expensive to the people of Canada? Does he think that a balance of trade of that sort is likely to do us much harm? That is one point in which the balance of trade will always, I hope, continue to appear heavily against Canada. There is another consideration I would call his attention to, and that is this: when you talk of the balance of trade against the country, and particularly a country which is bringing in at this present moment between two and three hundred thousand immigrants per annum a very large number of them men possessed of considerable ability and considerable capital, you will bear in mind two things; that this large immigration indirectly, although it does not appear on the surface, accounts for a good deal of the balance of trade, and that immigrants such as we are bringing in alone are worth individually very large sums to the people of Canada. I would not like to place an absolute value per head on the immigrants we bring in. I know that high authorities in the United States have over and over again computed the value of immigrants to the United States as high as \$1,000 per head. If my hon. friend is very much alarmed at the balance of trade against us, let him multiply these two or three hundred thousand by one

thousand—I just give it as an illustration—and he will find that the balance of trade will be converted into a large sum in our favour, if we continue to import them at the rate we are doing.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—What about Doukhobors?

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—If we bring in a few thousand Doukhobors and ten times as many other settlers, I think we can afford to have them. I am happy to inform the hon. gentleman who interrupted me that although there are a few fanatics among the Doukhobors, I am advised by the Department of Agriculture that there are a large number of industrious and thrifty people amongst them, and that their children and probably the Doukhobors themselves will make, under our institutions, as soon as they become a little more assimilated with our people, as valuable citizens as anybody could desire to have. As I observe, my hon. friend and myself may agree to differ on this question of the balance of trade. I do not think it at all likely that he and I will ever come to see eye to eye on this subject, but I would say to him that I think that we need not distress ourselves, and the country need not be very much alarmed at the fact that there has been a considerable balance of trade against us for a good many years, and unless I am wholly and entirely mistaken, if my hon. friend will condescend to look back to the years during which his friends were in power I think he will find that in most of those years there was a very considerable balance of trade against the Dominion of Canada. Take for instance any of the years that I referred to: Take 1882, our total exports were \$102,000,000. There was entered for consumption \$112,000,000. The total nominal imports were \$119,000,000. Take 1893, the total exports were \$98,000,000. The imports entered for consumption were \$123,000,000, and so I might go on all through the whole list, showing that during the administration of the friends of the hon. gentleman, be it good or evil, there was always a heavy balance of trade against us, not that I attribute any blame to them or attach any great importance to the matter. As I said, he has only to look at the mother country and he will see that after making all pos-