

how much stronger we should be now if Canada had 10,000,000 population instead of 5,000,000. (Applause.) That is one way of defending the Empire. Sir John Cockburn has referred to the defence of the Empire. The Empire will be strong in defence if the Colonies are strong. If an enemy strikes, where does he strike? Hei! Not at all. He will give you here a wide margin, he will not approach this island; he will strike Canada, Natal, Australia, somewhere abroad. If you want the Empire to be fortified let it be done not so much by expenditure on fortifications—that is good in its way, of course—as by filling up our vast prairies and fertile areas by such men as leave your shores as a matter of course. By doing so you will make the Canadian Colony stronger, and that will be one of the best defences the Empire can have. We have only one-and-a-half persons to the square mile in Canada, and you have 350 people to one square mile here. Why, if we had a population of equal size in proportion to our area of square miles, we should have a population of 50,000,000 or 60,000,000 of people. Supposing we had 20,000,000 in Canada—who would be afraid of military aggression then? I believe it is the duty of Government to foster the trade of the Empire, and by fostering our population you would be fostering trade. Manitoba gave us 30,000,000 hushels of wheat last year, and Manitoba has a population of 250,000. Put there another 250,000 people, and you will have 50,000,000 or 60,000,000 hushels more. Providence has given us a good climate and a fine soil, and we only want men to till that soil. The population of Ireland is half what it was fifty years ago. Where did the 4,000,000 go to? To Canada! Not at all, I am sorry to say, because the Irish are our best settlers. (Applause.) We are proud of the Irish race. (Applause.) They are as easily governed in Canada as any other people, although you seem to have some trouble with them here. (Laughter and applause.) Ladies and gentlemen, what I want to impress upon you is this (it is one part of my mission to England to see if we cannot assist and direct emigration to Canada), that in your own interests you should find some means to so direct this great vital stream of 100,000 men and women who leave your shores every year that the Colonies will get the benefit of it and not a foreign country. Of course I speak with all respect of the United States, and when I say foreign country I mean that we should not direct the stream of emigrants to any country whose interests are adverse to ours. (Ap-