

them to the Republic. Though the statistics for the current decade of the United States are not yet available, I am able to refer to some figures showing the later progress of two states, especially alluded to by the hon. member for Cardwell a few days ago, Kansas and Nebraska. We were correctly told that Kansas had increased from 360,000 in 1870, to 850,000 in 1879, thus showing an increase in nine years of 490,000. I have already pointed out the elements of which the increase of population in the Western States is composed, and the domestic and foreign recruiting grounds from which that country draws her increase. These considerations alone show that the results in Kansas do not prove that our North-West is going to have a population of 550,000 in ten years, as stated, for none of the conditions are parallel. But apart from the fact that Kansas had in 1870, 360,000 of a population to start with, from which came a large natural increase forming an important part of the 490,000, it is to be remembered that Kansas had moreover in 1870 over 1,500 miles of railway in operation and during the decade her railway facilities were increased to 2,300 miles. There is no doubt, I believe, that this state has shown the most remarkable development in the history of the world. In 1866 the State of Kansas was the twenty-fourth in rank in the United States as a corn-producer, and in 1878 she had run up to the fourth. In 1866 she was twenty-fourth in rank as a wheat-producer, and she had run up in 1878 to be almost the first in rank, producing in that year 32,000,000 bushels of wheat. With all these advantages, with all these proofs of an unexampled progress, with that large domestic and foreign recruiting ground, to which I have before alluded, we find her increase of population in nine years was but 490,000, and we are told that the North-West without the advantages which were possessed by Kansas, is to have an increase through emigration of 550,000 in eleven years. Now, Sir, I will refer to Nebraska. In that state also there has been, as the hon. member said, very rapid progress. In 1870 the population was 122,000. In 1879 it was 386,000. The increase in the nine years was 244,000: There was thus, of course a substantial nucleus, the natural increase from which would form no immaterial part of the total increase.

There was also a great domestic and foreign immigration. There were also great railway facilities throughout the period. In 1870, there were 705 miles of railway in operation, and in 1878 1,320 miles; yet with all those advantages there was only an increase of 244,000 in the nine years; and even that increase was due to the circumstances to which I have referred, which give the States a greater power of settlement than we can hope for. These are the figures for the two States which hon. gentlemen have chosen, and I believe rightly chosen, as presenting the strongest grounds for their expectations. I do not think they furnish good grounds for these expectations. I do not think that the only experience to which we can refer, having regard to the differences between the two countries, justifies us, however sanguine or fervent our hopes may be, justifies us as business men, dealing with a business transaction, and calculating the cash returns we may count on from the North-West lands in the next few years, in concluding that there will be an emigrant population of 550,000 in that country at the end of eleven years, and in incurring on the faith of that result enormous liabilities, which, if not met out of the lands, must be met otherwise. Such a thing may happen—I wish it would, but I do not think it is probable, because the experience of no other country, making allowances, proves that it can happen in our case. The statement, I think, is purely conjectural, is highly improbable, and cannot be sustained by any analogous occurrence. So much for the first postulate of the hon. gentlemen. I do not grant his postulate. I do not think that it is demonstrable in any way. I believe that all past experience points to its inaccuracy. But it is enough for me to say that it is not so far proved as to render it prudent to count on its accuracy. Next, as to the probable number of acres to be sold and preempted, the hon. gentleman said the Government expect to sell to the purchasers of railway lands 10,820,000 acres, and an equal amount to preemptors, making a total of 21,640,000 acres to be sold. They expect to make free grants of 10,830,000 acres more, making altogether 32,640,000 to be disposed of. Now, the sales by the United States from 1860 to 1869 were 11,770,000