

when the hon. member for Pontiac introduced to the hon. Minister of Public Works, on Saturday last, I think it was, the Rev. Father Paradis and a deputation which accompanied him, consisting of a number of leading gentlemen of Ottawa, in order to impress on the hon. Minister the desirability of improving the Upper Ottawa District, among the arguments made use of by the hon. member for Pontiac on that occasion was this:

"If father Paradis' scheme was adopted it would prove very attractive to intending settlers and keep thousands of our industrious habitants, who are now seeking homes elsewhere, on our own soil."

Mr. IVES. Keep them from going to the North-West.

Mr. PATERSON. That is our own soil. I do not understand our own soil is confined to the Province of Quebec. It is the North-West, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Manitoba—all the Dominion is our own soil, and the fact that Father Paradis was accompanied by Ontario gentlemen, shows that it was not keeping them on Quebec soil that was meant. That was not the point; they did not urge their project for any small, selfish reason like that, for from the broad ground that we should keep our own people in our own Dominion. I need not press on this point, for in the speech of the hon. Minister of Public Works himself, delivered some time ago, he showed that he is cognizant of the fact that many of our best citizens from that Province have found homes elsewhere, and I dare say, judging from this and other expressions I have heard, instead of their returning to us, there is still a large exodus of people from that Province. Under these circumstances, if we are unable to find employment for our own people, it is undesirable that public money should be expended in bringing this class here. I do not desire to enlarge on the question, I do not desire to bring other questions into it, but I say that with such a magnificent country as this, with such possibilities for development as this contains, I find figures demonstrating the existence of this deplorable state of affairs. When I show that we have a territory containing millions and tens of millions of acres on which there are no settlers, yet still our people, instead of staying here, are flocking to another country, the conviction is borne upon me that there is, and that there must have been, legislation enacted in this country which is hostile to its best interests, which has produced the bitter fruit we now see; and if that conviction be borne upon the hon. Ministers who conduct the affairs of this House, it is desirable that they should give it their serious consideration. It is well for them that they give it serious consideration, and if errors in legislation have been made, that those errors be remedied; and, if there can be any scheme devised whereby a better state of things may be brought about, that they bend all their energies to bring that state of things into existence; but, until they have done that, Sir, and until there is more room for people of the classes I have mentioned than I have shown there is at the present time, I, for one, am prepared to express the sentiment, that it is not at present a desirable thing to expend the public money of Canada in assisting to this country immigrants of mechanical or labouring classes, such as work in our towns and cities. I, therefore, beg to place in your hands the following Resolution, to leave out all the words after "That" and insert the following:—

The whole question of immigration into Canada and emigration from Canada requires the serious consideration of this House; and that, in the opinion of this House, under present circumstances, no public money should be expended towards defraying the travelling expenses of mechanics, artisans, clerks or labourers, excepting agricultural labourers, emigrating to Canada.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. It is a fortunate thing, Mr. Speaker, that other speeches than speeches such as the one we have heard, can be pronounced in this House and be read outside, in this country and abroad. Should all the speeches on the affairs of this country be similar to that which we

have just heard, there is no doubt that the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat would be perfectly right in saying that the immigration to this country would cease in a very short time. I am sorry to see that the hon. gentleman, whenever he gets up, has nothing else to say about the country but to disparage it, and try to show that this is a country that is oppressed, and that there is only depression all through the land, from Victoria to Halifax. The hon. gentleman even goes as far as this—he alludes to the speeches of the Governors of this country, those who have left us as well as those who govern us, and he is sorry to see that they have so many good things to say of Canada. He tries to minimize the good that can come from their speeches. He tries to show that they must be under a delusion, or that since they left the country things have changed to such an extent that their speeches are not in accordance with the facts. Well, with all due deference to the hon. gentleman, I have no doubt that, in this country as well as abroad, the speeches of Lord Dufferin, the speeches of Lord Lorne, without speaking of the respected Governor we have now, will be read through the three Kingdoms, will be read through the United States, through Canada and everywhere where the English language is spoken and read; that they will be read with interest, that great weight will be attached to them, and that they will produce a great deal of good and will be a great benefit to this country. I must say that, in so far as Lord Lorne is concerned, he has already done a great service to this country, and we should be most thankful to him for the great interest he takes in Canadian affairs, the great interest he takes in the prosperity of this country; and I am sure that not one of us would say that there is, in this country, a better Canadian than Lord Lorne himself. One of those speeches will do more good to this country than two hundred speeches such as the one pronounced by the hon. gentleman. Those speeches pronounced by the hon. gentleman, or similar speeches, are only calculated to destroy the credit of this country, prevent immigration, and show to the outside world what is not the fact, that this country is a poor country, badly administered, and that we are suffering from all quarters. The hon. gentleman has gone into figures to try to prove his argument that this country is going down instead of prospering; that this country is not prospering; that, on the contrary the people are leaving the country for the United States, and that our schools, for example, are not encouraged; that the number of children has diminished in those schools, and he gave for example the schools in Nova Scotia. I will not enter into those details; he has had plenty of time to prepare and look over the statistics, but on the spur of the moment I will remind him that at the period he speaks of there were school difficulties, educational difficulties, in New Brunswick between the two leading portions of the population there—the Roman Catholics, and the Protestants, as a whole—and at that time the fight was such that the Roman Catholics, or a large number of them, kept their children at home and did not send them to the schools; and that lasted to the period when an arrangement was come to, by which the two sections of the country could send their children to the schools. The statistics, if he takes them from that period, will show that the children who go to school have largely increased, year by year. The same thing will occur if the hon. gentleman refers to the school statistics all through the country. Surely, he would not point to his own Province, that great and prosperous Province of Ontario, to show that the number of children has diminished.

Mr. MACKENZIE. Yes; they have.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. He would show, on the contrary, that the number of children has continued to increase.