

continued. He had come up from the Island on two occasions this winter, and both times he had noticed many persons on the steamer who were bound to the United States. He had spoken to them in favor of going to Manitoba and had given them pamphlets upon the advantages of that country; but it was of no use. There were some people who had gone from Prince Edward Island to Manitoba and traveled over the whole of that Province and finally settled in Dakota, whence they had induced many of their friends to follow them. My hon. friend from Prince County (Mr. Hackett) must know this very well, as many of them were from his part of the riding. A great many more are preparing to go—a fact which I sincerely regret, for I do not make these remarks for any political purpose. The bulk of them are going from Prince county and from Queen's county.

Mr. MACDONELL (Lanark) said that a considerable exodus had taken place from his own constituency, though he did not attribute it directly to the Government. When the statement was made some time ago that upwards of 90,000 of our own people had emigrated to the United States, he was considerably surprised, and in order to ascertain how far that applied to his own neighborhood he wrote to the Grand Trunk agent at Almonte, T. W. McDermott, to ascertain the number of tickets he had sold. This agent was a Conservative and opposed him in his election. The agent answered that he had sold during the year 133 tickets to people going to Manitoba, and 316 to people going to the western United States. He had asked the agent how many of these returned to the country, and got reply that nine or ten had returned from Manitoba and about as many from the United States. He simply mentioned this fact, not as having anything to do with the National Policy, because it had not. The people leaving that section were not driven away by the National Policy. He would give the credit to the gentlemen opposite that, so far as his town was concerned, they were satisfied with the National Policy. When there were some nine or ten manufacturing establishments in his town, they had reason to be satisfied. But eastern Ontario was now thickly settled. There were very few openings for settlers, and as the young people grew up they looked around for the most advantageous country in which to establish themselves. Some went to Muskoka, some to Manitoba and others to the United States. Being asked the cause of so many people going to the United States, they had replied that it was because the land regulations in Manitoba were not as advantageous as those of Dakota. If a majority of our people went to the United States it remained for the Government to devise some means to prevent it. As was pointed out last Session, the land regulations in the North-West were oppressive, and settlers who had gone into our North-West had even crossed over to Dakota. These were facts which were for the Government to rectify. He simply threw out this suggestion, by no means in a party spirit, but as a reason why we should do something for our own people. If the hon. member for North Renfrew (Mr. White) would go into the southern section of his county he would find his own people by hundreds going to the western States, their farms being swallowed up by mortgages. It was unfair to charge the Opposition with being unpatriotic and decrying their own country because they pointed these evils out to the Government. When the Mackenzie Government was in power, and the then Opposition called attention to the emigration to the United States, he did not remember that they were charged with being unpatriotic. It was a patriotic duty to point these things out, with a view of finding a remedy; and the present Opposition would be unfaithful to their duty and unfaithful to their constituents if they failed to draw the attention of the Government to a movement of Canadians to the United States which all must deplore.

Mr. SPROULE said it was a little singular that all the testimonies of an exodus to the United States came from hon. members sitting to the left of the Speaker. That was not the experience of a large number of the members of this House. He had come to the conclusion that those hon. gentlemen who had this experience in their own neighborhoods, had become individual emigration agents in favor of the United States. He could testify that as concerned his own county, there was not such exodus as had been spoken of. A few years ago, when the country was going down, year by year, when the revenue was growing less, when our debt was becoming larger and our trade becoming smaller, when the people were seeking for bread and could not find it, the emigration to the United States began. At that time, the people out of employment here were not, as a rule, agriculturists, but people engaged in the various branches of manufacturing; at that particular time the manufactures of the United States were going down. But now, when a time of prosperity had come, and these manufactures were springing into life again, people who could not find employment here went there. A few years ago in his section of the country men could easily be hired for \$1.00 or \$1.50 a day, whereas last summer the same class of men got \$1.75, \$2.50 and sometimes \$3 a day, and were difficult to obtain at that. If, as the hon. member for North Norfolk stated, 10 per cent. of the people of his own locality had gone to the United States, and every man was worth \$40 to the country, he thought that hon. gentleman had a just claim on the Government of the United States for something like \$60,000 for having by his eloquence induced that large number of people to go to the United States. There was one argument which hon. gentlemen opposite would appreciate. They would find that the exodus among the Reformers of this country would continue, because they would believe them, and as they would ultimately be unable to find enough of that class of politicians to return them to this House they would probably be left at home. Some of the methods used in this House to prove that the people were going away were rather novel. The last speaker had stated that the number of passenger tickets sold was one evidence of the number. It was well known that if a person bought a ticket to Detroit, or some place in western Ontario, he would pay more, proportionately, for it than one to Chicago. Consequently, a great many people bought a ticket for a longer distance, and when they reached their destination sold their tickets. He thought that would account, in a large measure, for the number of tickets sold for the United States. He had crossed the line forty or fifty times, and he had yet to learn that any person went about taking account of the number of people who went to the United States and to Manitoba. A passenger was very rarely asked where he was going. But almost every train moving westward was infested with immigration agents working in behalf of the western States, and he believed the way they had diffused their information accounted, in a great measure, for the number of people going there. We might reasonably ask ourselves why they were going there. Hon. gentlemen opposite said it was owing to the National Policy. If so, they would be leaving a country with a 20 per cent. tariff for one with a tariff of 40 or 45 per cent. Again, it was said the land regulations of the United States were better than ours. That was not the species of argument adopted by the same gentlemen only a few weeks ago, when they were trying to show that the Syndicate would make a large amount of money out of the lands granted to them. They stated that although the lands of the western States were much inferior to ours, they had been sold for \$4, \$5, \$10, and, in some cases, as high as \$40 an acre. When we compared the prices of these lands with the prices the Government were asking for ours, we had the