

Is this not evidence that after mature deliberation, after a calm consideration of what is called the national policy and the action of the Government in the past, in reference to the whole policy of this country, the people of Canada not only reaffirmed the opinions which they had formerly expressed, but increased their majorities in every single constituency? Soulanges, which had formerly a Liberal majority of 39, was subsequently carried by the Conservatives by 118.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Carried by the canal.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—Carried by the votes of the people. My hon. friend suggests that it was carried by the canal. There is no water in the canal yet, so that it could not carry anything, as it is not navigable. I hope it may be at no very distant date when that canal will be in such a shape as to place us in precisely the position that the leader of the Opposition intimated to the House that we had very improperly told the people of the United States we wanted to be totally independent of them.

The hon. gentleman referred to the question of the exodus in this country, and he told us that there must be something appalling in the policy of the Government. He said that the people were fleeing away from the country as if from a plague. I think there is an explanation why the hon. gentleman's party occupy the ground they do to-day in this country—that is, the hopeless minority in which they are placed. The people have been led to believe, by just such speeches as were made in the Senate yesterday by the hon. member, and such as perhaps we may hear again, not only in Ontario but in other sections of the Dominion, that the country was going to decay and ruin; while the plague from which they really flew was such utterances as the hon. gentleman addressed to us yesterday. The hon. gentleman also drew a comparison between the progress made by the state of Michigan and the state of Washington, and our own country. It was convenient to him to refer almost exclusively to those two states of the Union as against the Dominion.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Michigan as against British Columbia.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—A very pertinent question was asked by the hon. gentleman on my left, when he asked the hon. member to compare other sections of the United States with adjoining parts of Canada. That, however, was not convenient to the hon. gentleman opposite, and consequently he slid away to the Pacific coast and compared Washington with British Columbia.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I compared Dakota with Manitoba.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—And Dakota also, from which territory, I am very glad to know, thousands who have been misled in the past by just such utterances as we have heard here are flocking back into our own country, into the North-west and Manitoba, as rapidly as they can. In connection with this I am reminded of a statement which I have in my hand, obtained from the Minister of Interior, in which he gives the figures showing that during the past year over 14,000 have gone into the North-west and Manitoba, and a large proportion of these have been people who were misled by the utterances of certain parties in this country to move to Dakota and who are now glad to get back into Canada, where they can live and prosper better than in the United States. Had the hon. gentleman referred to Maine, Vermont and a number of other states—

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—And Massachusetts.

Hon. Mr. BOWELL—If he had compared those states with Canada the figures would not have been quite so suitable for his purpose. American statistics prove beyond a doubt that the depreciation of the value of land, and the number of mortgages in some of those eastern states are much greater than in Canada. The mortgage indebtedness is much greater than in any portion of Canada. This is proved by the late census beyond a peradventure. They have steadily decreased in population, while the province of Quebec, which has been looked upon as a standstill province, has rapidly increased, and if hon. gentlemen want a few facts in connection with this statement, I will give them. I find by some figures which have been placed in my hands that the decrease in the rural sections of those eastern states is about as follows—I am speaking now of the census of 1892. Here is the