

never had good crops; that they were unfortunate. The people did not want a Government in power that was unfortunate. People will not employ men who are unfortunate. Did hon. gentlemen want to go back to the policy that they advocated and carried out when on this side of the House? Did they want them to go back to bad crops and hard times? He wished to know if the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) wished to advance such an opinion. He (Mr. McCallum) wished he would, because then the people of Canada would hold him to account for it. He (Mr. McCallum) was very much amused, when on the Opposition side of the House, to see the hon. gentlemen opposite swallowing everything that was offered them, no matter what. It put him in mind of something he had witnessed about two years ago. Robins had built their nests on the verandah of his house, and the old robins coming to the young ones, the latter opened their mouths and whether a worm or a stone was dropped into them down they went. Hon. gentlemen opposite forgot that they were fed on stones, the chief of which was the free-trade stone, and a great many who had swallowed stones had sickened and died without being able to find their way back to this House; and even the hon. the leader of the Opposition had got a stone in his stomach and sickened for a time, but he got well and the electors of West Durham had sent him here. But hon. gentlemen opposite would not learn by experience, and the old bird was feeding them the same bad diet.

Mr. GIGAULT said the statistics of the American officials were not correct, and he could prove by an American journal that we could not rely on their reports. The *New York Tribune* of 31st January last, speaking of this emigration, said:

"It is commonly said that a large part of the emigration from Canada is of persons who have crossed the sea in vessels which entered Canadian ports, but who have either changed their purpose as to location, after a brief residence in the Dominion, or were originally intending to cross into this country, and to make their homes in the Far West. It would be interesting and useful to have the officials at Port Huron, where a great proportion of the Canadian immigrants enter, instructed to ascertain and report more minutely in regard to this movement."

It was thus obvious that the Minister of Agriculture had very good reason not to attach too much importance to the statistics of the American officials at Port Huron. It would prove very amusing to the electors of Quebec to hear what had been said by Opposition speakers to-night. According to them there was a great exodus from that Province, and that there was only desolation in that part of the Dominion; but the electors of that Province would affirm that there had never been so much satisfaction and contentment as there was now. Some strong Liberals who voted against him at the last election had told him they did not know how the Reform party could expect to obtain power when the National Policy was doing so much good. Yet hon. gentlemen on the Opposition side of the House continued to pretend that the National Policy was ruining the country. The Reform party had had occasion very often to appeal to the electors since 1878. The hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Huntington), who spoke a short time ago, knew something about that. Brome was not very far from his own constituency. It was represented in 1878 by a Liberal. Now it was represented by a Conservative. The Reform party had appealed also to the patriotism and intelligence of the electors of Charlevoix and Argenteuil to show that they were dissatisfied with the National Policy, and they knew what answer had been given to those appeals. Speeches and words would not make the electors unhappy. The only thing that would make them unhappy was the fear that the Reform party might return to power, and again introduce that ruinous free-trade policy which existed before 1879. That fear he thought, however, should not exist. The more the Reform party spoke against the

National Policy the more unpopular that party became. There was hardly any one without employment in the Province of Quebec to-day. He thought the usefulness of charitable institutions in that part of the country was almost gone. There were almost no poor there; those who could not formerly get employment obtained it to-day. He knew that new manufactures had started in his county and had sprung up in St. John, Montreal and other parts of Quebec. Money was so abundant that many farmers who had money and were willing to lend it at 6 per cent, could not obtain borrowers. The hon. member for Bothwell need not say there was disappointment among the people. On the contrary, there was great satisfaction with the policy of the present Government.

Mr. BOURBEAU. Mr. Speaker, it is well known that for a long time past the young people of Canada have been emigrating to the United States in order to find work. It is a well known fact that it is not long since manufacturers in Canada received any encouragement. The protective tariff adopted by the Americans had encouraged the manufactories of that country, and consequently had drawn away our young people seeking work. We have remarked that emigration to the United States has principally increased since the crisis came upon us in 1874. A tide of emigration then set in which it is not always easy to stop, but I think I am aware of the cause that induced a great many Canadians to go to the United States since last year. The American railway companies have largely contributed to that state of things; they have agents established all through the country, active agents for the sale of passenger tickets on their lines, and these agents were instructed to tell people that were in debt, people whose business prospects were not brilliant, people who had most suffered by the crisis that we have just got through—these agents were careful to tell them: "If you go to the United States, to such or such a town, the manufactories are in full operation, wages are good, you cannot fail to make a great deal of money, and you will come back in a couple of years with enough money to pay your debts and to purchase a fine farm." I have known persons who have allowed themselves to be led away by the fine speeches of these ticket agents, who went to the States, after having sacrificed the few goods they had, and who are now weeping and wishing to come back to Canada. But they cannot; they will be obliged to remain there some time yet; they will still have to know homesickness, with their families, in a strange land. I went to the United States myself, not with the intention of working there, but in order to verify the fact that more than the half of those who are there would fain see themselves back in Canada and wish they had never set foot on American soil. What most aggrieves these poor emigrants who have been drawn to the States by the insinuating speeches of the agents is to learn that our manufactories in Canada are now progressing, that new ones are being started every day, and that workingmen get better prices in Canada to-day than in the United States. I do not say that prices are higher, but they are more remunerative, because living expenses are less here, because in Canada they are at home and can practice economy much more effectually, and live much more happily here than in the United States. The hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) has spoken of the bankruptcies that have occurred in Canada within the last year. I think, Sir, that the bankruptcies that have occurred in Canada since last year are far from attaining the rate of bankruptcies that occurred during the time that the present Opposition were in power, that is to say from 1874 to 1878. The National Policy adopted by our Government has put new life into the business of the country. Our manufactories are filled with workingmen who had been long waiting for work, and we see great activity everywhere. Our leather manufactories are working on a great scale; we have to-day