

prised when I came to look at the figures of the Year-book to find that my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce had done scant justice, if justice at all, to the compiler of that volume. The Minister of Trade and Commerce said:—

The Year-book may be a very valuable document. I will give a few illustrations of what the Year-book was worth a little while ago. I remember that this same document—I thought that that was what my hon. friend referred to—estimated, in 1887, that the population of Canada was 4,856,226. In 1888 the Year-book's estimation of the population of Canada was 4,946,497. In 1899, it had risen to 5,075,855. They suppressed 1890 and 1891, but I will carry out the calculation. On the same line of calculation, the Year-book would have given us a population of 5,210,000 for 1890, and 5,345,000 for 1891—just ten years ahead of time. These are the 'official statistics' that the hon. gentleman relied upon for the purpose of contradicting what, as I shall show presently, was a very well-reasoned hypothesis on the part of my hon. friend (Mr. Fielding).

Mr. Fielding's hypothesis being that Canada had increased in population as much in the last five years, from 1896 to 1901, as it had done in the preceding fifteen years. Now, I always like to do justice as far as possible; and, where an accusation is made, especially against an unpretending volume, which has no tongue except those silent ones which are found in its pages, I like to see whether there is any reason to doubt the accuracy of the statements made. Comparing the figures given by the Minister of Trade and Commerce with those of the Year-book, I have discovered some surprising discrepancies. The hon. minister says that the Year-book gives the population of Canada in 1887 as 4,856,226. But I find, on referring to the Year-book, that it gives the population of that year as 4,638,109. Then, in 1881, the hon. minister said that the year book gives the population as 4,946,497, but I find that it gives it as 4,688,147. In 1889, the hon. minister says that, according to the Year-book, the population of Canada was 5,075,855, but I find, on referring to that same book, that it gives the population as only 4,739,617.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. What copy is my hon. friend quoting from?

Mr. BELL (Pictou). The edition of 1900.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. My hon. friend had better quote the volume that I quoted from.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). Perhaps the hon. Minister will be kind enough to lay his volume on the table so that we may all see it. Then the minister went on to say that in 1890 the year-book, for some reason or other, suppressed the figures, and he supplied the figures himself. He said that the population of Canada during that year, according to the process of figuring adopted

Mr. BELL.

by the year-book, was 5,210,000. But I find that the year-book gives the population as 4,792,605. In 1891, the hon. gentleman represents the Year-book as giving our population at 5,345,000—ten years too soon, as he said—but I find that it gives the population as 4,846,377. The Minister of Trade and Commerce is therefore out in his count as follows:—

1887.. . . .	218,000
1888.. . . .	258,000
1889.. . . .	336,000

And in 1900, when he supplied the figures off his own bat, he is out 417,000, and in 1891, 498,623.

I think it but right to call the attention of the minister to these facts, and the only reason I can suggest for the discrepancies, is that possibly he may have discovered some edition of the year-book not issued for general use.

But my hon. friend was not satisfied with simply discrediting the year-book. He proceeded to discredit every one who had anything whatever to do with the taking of the census in 1891. He attributed motives, in the most reckless and unlimited fashion, to every one who had anything to do with it. He told us that when the census of 1891 was taken the Conservative party was in a discreditable position, and that the enumerators were presumably men in close contact with the powers at Ottawa who knew that Sir John Macdonald's government was in a desperate position and that it was necessary to place before the people census returns which would show that the national policy had been a success. Now, what possible connection could the census of 1891 have had with the election which was run by the Conservative party under Sir John Macdonald in that year. The general election took place on the 5th March, 1891, and the census enumerators were not appointed until April, 1891. And so far from Sir John Macdonald having been in a desperate position then, we find that the very first division in the House of Commons, after that general election, gave him a majority of 29, which was increased at every subsequent by election, until at the end of the term beginning 1891, the Conservative party had a majority in this House of 46.

I think my hon. friend will find it rather difficult to atone for his strictures with respect to the census of 1891. According to him Canada is not at all a desirable place for immigrants and he should not be surprised if they do not come in greater numbers. If it be correct that some 2,500 enumerators in 1891,—there were 5,000 last year, violated their solemn oath, we must conclude that perjurers are as common in this country as black flies in May. Not only have the enumerators, according to the hon. gentleman, violated their oath, but so have the commissioners and the other census officials, every one of whom was sworn to do his