

clauses would be carried out, until it is made the special duty of some officer less local than a school section Trustee. If it were made the duty of the township or village clerk, in some such way as is the registration of births and deaths, the carrying out of the requirements, so far as desirable, might be counted upon."

Now, that is the opinion of one of the Inspectors of schools in the Province of Ontario, showing that his own experience, his own contact with the school officials and with the population of his district, lead him to the opinion that the statistics which we have had here cited to us as evidence that this country is not progressing, are wholly, or at any rate largely, unreliable. I have only one word more to say in relation to the general question which has been brought before us. We hear from the hon. gentlemen that the immigration into Canada during the last ten years, and especially during the last five years, has not been nearly so large as represented, and that the emigration from Canada has been very much larger than the officials of the Government of Canada choose to admit; and they tell us that some serious thought must be given to this, and some serious remedy provided for it; and what is the remedy? What do they propose? That some 1,800 mechanics who came to this country, assuming for a moment that they had assisted passages, shall not be assisted in the future. After the long speeches we have heard, after all the statements as to the condition of this country and as to its retrograde character, the solution of the whole question is to be found simply in stopping the payment of assisted passages to mechanics coming to Canada. The hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake) referred to what he was pleased to say was the policy of the Conservative party when they were in opposition—that they were not at all reluctant to point out that emigration was taking place from this country, that they were not at all reluctant to point out that people were leaving Canada for want of employment within the country itself. But the hon. gentleman should remember that when those statements were made they were made in connection with the advocacy of a policy which proposed to give employment to people in the country itself. They were part of the general argument in favour of that policy. Whether it was successful or not has nothing to do with the argument at that time. Is that the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite to-day? Do they propose to add to the population of Canada by closing the factories of Canada? Do they propose to add to the population of Canada by stopping immigration into this country? Is that the policy which they propose for our acceptance in this country in the future? Because, in the past persons have gone from Canada, and others who came here and remained only a short time and left us, or were counted as coming and never came at all—is that the policy which hon. gentlemen have to offer us as a solution of the difficulty with which we are face to face, according to their statement at this moment? No. The hon. gentlemen offer us no such argument in the speeches they have delivered here to-night, no such conclusion. The only conclusion which they offer in the Resolution which is in your hands, is simply that we shall not hereafter assist a certain class of persons to come to Canada. Why, Mr. Speaker, one would imagine that nobody else had ever assisted such people in coming to Canada. This policy of assisted immigration is not a new policy. If I mistake not, it was the policy of the Conservative party when they were in power previous to 1873. If I am not mistaken, an arrangement was made with the steamship companies for assisted passages by the present Minister of Agriculture when he was formerly Minister of Agriculture. That same policy was continued by the hon. gentlemen opposite when they were on this side. They gave assisted passages; and I find that during the five years they were in office, from 1874 to 1878, inclusive, no less than 6,256 mechanics were brought into this country under that policy of assisted passages; while during the five years

of the Conservative Government only 5,446 have been brought into this country. No one will pretend to tell me that the employment of mechanics was greater—aye, was anything like as great during those five years as during the last five years. It is quite true that in the present year there is a certain congestion in the labour market; it is true there are some persons who cannot find employment in their particular handicraft just now in Canada, but every one knows that it is a result begotten of the last three, or four, or at most, six or eight months. It was previous to that time that mechanics were induced to come here; when the incentives to their coming here were presented to them on the other side of the water, there was abundant employment for everyone who choose to come to this country, as, I believe, there will be for every one who chooses to come to this country within a very short time hence. But, Sir, what do we find further? We find that although at that time it was the policy to assist mechanics as well as agricultural labourers, at the present time it is not the policy to do so. I find by the Report of the Minister of Agriculture, laid on the Table this evening, the statement that assisted passages were granted during the year at the rate of £4 for labourers, £2 10s. for female domestic servants and the families of agricultural labourers; and for labourers without families there was a special rate of £3 sterling. I believe it is a fact that latterly there have been no assisted passages granted to mechanics coming to this country, but that those who have come, have come of their own free will; and I have yet to learn that it is in the interests of the people of Canada to shut the doors of this country against those who, of their own free will, may choose to come here and make homes for themselves in this Dominion. Out of the large emigration that is coming to Canada, some 1,800, according to the statistics of last year, were of the class that we are told are not to be induced to come here in the future. Sir, I entirely concur in the policy which the Government has pursued and the policy which the Minister of Agriculture has announced on the floor of Parliament, namely, that mechanics will not receive assisted passages; that assisted passages are to be confined to agricultural labourers, to female servants and to that class of persons who always find employment in Canada, and for whose employment there is abundant opening in all parts of the country. Sir, I believe that this Resolution which has just been introduced and which, as every one can see who knows what is going on outside, is intended simply for the purpose of creating an impression that the Opposition are singular in their policy of preventing assisted emigrants from coming to Canada, while during the five years they were in office, when there was scant employment for the people of the country itself, they were giving those assisted passages—I say I believe this Resolution will have little influence in this country, and that the motives of the hon. gentlemen presenting it will be readily understood by the people. An hon. gentleman beside me has just called my attention to the policy of the Local Government of the Province of Ontario. In the Report of the Department of Immigration of that Province, for the year 1883, this passage occurs:

"The assisted rates of passage for emigrants during the year have been as follows: Farm labourers and domestic servants, £3; children under twelve years, £2; infants under a year, 10s.; other classes of emigrants, £4. The regular (unassisted) rate has been £4 4s."

That is the statement of the Department of Agriculture of the Province of Ontario. We know that in Toronto there has been some difficulty in consequence of some immigrants not being able to get employment. They have been chiefly Irish immigrants who came to this country, and I find, in reference to them, this statement in the report of the Minister of Agriculture.

"Mr. Hodgkin, accompanied by Father Nugent, on behalf of Mr. Tuke's Committee, also visited Canada with the same object in view,