

dearest countries in the world instead of the cheapest. (Applause)."

HON. MR. KAULBACH—It has got cheaper since then.

HON. MR. READ—He has lived long enough to see the error of his ways.

HON. MR. SMITH—I would ask the hon. gentleman a question. He says that the policy of our Government is driving the people away from this country. I want to know what country they are going to that is less protected than the Dominion? He says that they are going to the United States. If they are going to the United States, they are going to a country where the industries of the people are protected to a much greater extent than ours are, and therefore what country can they go to? If they go back to England they will find a worse condition of affairs prevailing there under free trade—every mechanic has been impoverished by the free trade policy, and they are beginning to find their mistake; the time is not distant when they will have to come back to protection. The people who are leaving here are going to the North-West.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—The hon. gentleman from Toronto, instead of interrupting the debate, is making a speech.

HON. MR. McCLELAN—I am always glad to hear the hon. Minister express his views, but I may say to him that his speech on this occasion is rather inopportune—it does not come in at the right stage of my remark, and it is not original, as that question was put to me before by the hon. member from Niagara.

HON. MR. PLUMB—And was not answered.

HON. MR. McCLELAN—If I understand the hon. Minister he says that it is very strange that people leave this country because of the high protective tariff, and go to another country that is more highly protected. I cannot account for the people going there. Of course I am sorry that they are going, but I am only stating the fact that the National Policy that was intended to keep them from

going out of the country, is having the opposite effect. It was set forth in the opening speech, and in the resolution of the hon. gentleman's own leader, that one of the objects of the National Policy was to keep the young men in the country.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—So it is.

HON. MR. McCLELAN—It was also to bring about a reciprocity treaty between this country and the United States, but we have seen very few steps taken by the Government since that policy was inaugurated to bring about reciprocity, which the people of the Lower Provinces anxiously await. When the 1st of July comes greater anxiety will awaken that some steps be taken by which reciprocal trade relations can be secured with the country with which we must trade, if we continue to exist as Maritime Provinces of this Union. It is impossible to cut us off from that legitimate business to which we have always been accustomed. But the hon. gentleman asks why people are leaving the country. I cannot undertake to explain the reasons that actuate people to leave one country and go to another. Some, I trust very few, leave their country for their country's good; but the greater part of them who leave the country are a loss to the country, and the Dominion is vastly injured by it. We lose our best settlers. There is one thing which, it strikes me, might be considered by my hon. friend in connection with the answer he has compelled me to make, that the United States, although inflicted with an enormous, and disastrous, and cruel civil war, by which their debt had largely increased, are greatly reducing that debt.

HON. MR. READ—By a protective policy.

HON. MR. McCLELAN—The policy of our leading men is to increase the public debt, and under that policy the debt of Canada to-day, *per capita*, is greater than the debt of the United States. They have many natural and other advantages over us; we have had some advantages over them, and I trust that we will have advantages still, which, in the future, will be more developed; but one of the advantages which this country possessed