

attempted to be palmed off on any intelligent body of men than this great exodus which has been exploded in this House from time to time. No evidence is ever given of it. Mr. Switzner, the United States statistician, says it is impossible to get any reliable data as to the movements of population until the census comes around. All these talks and wild imaginings that gentlemen indulge in as to the exodus I hope and believe are largely the figments of their somewhat excited imaginations. At all events, if there be an exodus from this part of the country, it is not comparable with the exodus from the Eastern States, and there are causes which govern that, and men are investigating them now. Among the causes of this movement of population, there are the great increase in education among the masses of the people, the diffusion of literature, the diffusion of the newspaper, the magazine and the illustrated paper, pointing out the beauties and attractions of this and that locality. I am sorry to say that young men on this continent, not only in Canada but in the United States, are getting reluctant to follow the avocation of their farming fathers. They show a preference for the professions or for trade, or for the mechanical arts and industries, instead of grubbing in the old-fashioned way on the farm. The general movement is westward, and they may go to the North-West of Canada or elsewhere. In the United States large sections are being depopulated. Among the other obvious causes, there are the new methods of agriculture to which people have to conform. Nowadays, the large farming is done on the broad prairie farm, with the mower and the self-binding harvester and all the modern implements, and the consequence is that from the older Provinces, where farms of that magnitude cannot be obtained, and these implements cannot be worked so advantageously, they move westward. Some will go to the States, and some will go to our North-West. Our Manitoba population will sway off to Dakota. There they are frozen out and starved, and then they come back to Manitoba. The land speculator is ubiquitous. You find him everywhere representing how fortunes can be realised somewhere yonder, and the young man goes to the unknown place, whether it be in the United States or in Canada. He is young, sharp, smart, conscious of his ability, and too often he finds that he has been chasing an *ignis fatuus*, but it is the character of youth to be sanguine and adventurous. This would be the same under free trade or protection, with unrestricted reciprocity or with no reciprocity. You cannot put up barriers to prevent young men from moving about, and endeavoring to improve their station in life. There is nothing at all in this cry about the enormous exodus which has taken place as being the result of our tariff policy. On the contrary, our tariff policy has retained so much of our population as is employed in the manufactures and associate industries which it has created. They are exercised about this matter in the Eastern States as much as we are. Why, the other day, I read in a Vermont paper that the Hon. Mr. Camp, I think, when discussing this very question before some agricultural society in that State, seriously advanced the idea that young men were getting to be dudes, and that their fathers and their mothers told them they did not wish them to work as hard as they had to work in their young days. He thought the way to thresh

that crop of dudes is to thresh it before it gets ripe; and he thought threshing between the ages of 15 and 20 years would do these young men good. That is one of the methods they are considering in the good old Puritan State of Vermont—to ~~spunk~~ the young fellows and put them to bed, and not allow them to be drawn off by these western adventures. I did hope that the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) would touch on some broader grounds in his speech, and I had prepared some answers to matters to which I thought he would refer, but he was in his congenial sphere of speaking of the distress of the farmers of Ontario, and I have merely given him something for his consolation, so that he may see that his poor distressed friends, as he thinks they are, are no worse situated than people elsewhere.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant) moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and House adjourned at 10.40 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 28th March, 1890.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS

### COLUMBIA AND KOOTENAY RAILWAY AND NAVIGATION COMPANY.

Mr. MARA moved that the 49th and 51st Rules of the House be suspended, so far as they relate to the petition of the Columbia and Kootenay Railway and Navigation Company, in accordance with the recommendation of the Select Standing Committee on Standing Orders, as contained in their 17th report.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. MARA moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 128) respecting the Columbia and Kootenay Railway and Navigation Company.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

### ROYAL ASSENT TO BILLS.

Mr. BLAKE. I wish to call the attention of the Ministers and the House to a question of parliamentary privilege which arises on the proceedings that took place here and in the other House on Wednesday, and I call attention to it at the earliest moment after the Votes and Proceedings have been placed before us. By referring to those Votes and Proceedings, it will be seen that you, Sir, reported to us a Message which you received from the secretary of His Excellency the Governor General, bearing date 24th March, informing us that:

"The Honorable Sir William Ritchie, acting as Deputy to His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber on Wednesday, the 26th inst., at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of giving assent to the Bills which have passed the Senate and the House of Commons during the present Session."