

the country from the National Policy. But the hon. member for Inverness (Mr. Cameron) has discussed the subject and endeavoured to show—I have not time to follow all his figures—that there was a great exodus between 1874 and 1878. Although he did not go so far as to minimize the exodus during the last ten years, yet he dwelt with special emphasis on the exodus from 1874 to 1878. I will quote to the hon. gentleman and to his friends the statements made by a gentleman who is as well acquainted as any one with the facts of the alleged exodus during that period. I refer to the evidence taken by a committee of the House in 1878 upon this subject, when Mr. John Lowe gave evidence. After giving the figures of the immigration into this country, and other particulars with respect to the growth and population in Canada during the previous five years, he made this statement:

It will be noticed from the percentage of decline that Canada has suffered far less from diminution in the number of emigrants than the United States, and also that the diminution of the emigration to Canada is much less than that of the emigration from Great Britain. This may be taken as a proof that we have obtained considerable numbers of emigrants from the United States.

During that period our emigration had fallen off less than emigration to the United States, and the figures can only be explained by an emigration into Canada from the United States. Later on during the same examination we find this statement. The question is:

Have you any means of ascertaining the extent of the exodus of our people to the United States, or elsewhere?

Mr. Lowe answered:

We have no means of obtaining a record of emigration from the country. The Statistical Bureau of Washington give some figures, but I do not know how they obtain them. I do not think there is now any exodus of our people to the labour markets of the United States. It is clear, from the reports published in the newspapers, that there has been little demand for labour there since the depression commenced in 1873. I read in a newspaper only the other day a report of a meeting of unemployed labourers in Boston, in which statements were made giving a much worse account than anything we have had in Canada. There is besides the ascertained fact which I have already stated of a very large emigration from the United States to Canada.

Q. I suppose those are immigrants who have come into Canada by way of New York and the Suspension Bridge?—A. No; about 6,400 immigrants from Europe came by the Suspension Bridge. It is believed those from the United States are to a great extent returned Canadians.

And so we find that although there was then a strong depression prevailing through the country, the balance of emigration was in favour of Canada. This careful and competent statistician of that day was of the opinion that owing to the depression that existed in the United States the balance on the whole was in favour of Canada; and this coming from an expert in that department,

with a full knowledge of the facts, certainly should be received as the best evidence that could be given. At any rate, there is one thing certain, that whatever may be the cause, the exodus to the United States has increased instead of diminishing during the whole period of the National Policy; and although there was for a time a certain amount of prosperity in the Dominion, yet it did not present sufficient attractions to retain our young people here, and the country lost an enormous number of its population and we have not had that growth and progress not only which we had during the previous ten years, but which we had a right to expect, even in the view we take of it on this side of the House, from the National Policy. The Maritime provinces have progressed less than the neighbouring states of New England, and if we follow the line of demarcation between Canada and the United States any where we find that in every instance where we institute a comparison the growth of population has been strongly in favour of the United States, and this in face of a policy which its advocates promised would stop the exodus. And so, after all these years, we are brought face to face with conditions which demand the immediate action of Parliament in reforming the tariff so as to lift the burdens from consumers, in extending and widening our trade and in affording the people better opportunities of exchanging their products with their neighbours. But we are confronted with the alternative of a roving commission, disturbing trade, coming to no definite conclusion, open to the suspicion of making improper bargains in secret with privileged classes who have so far been chartered to fatten on the welfare of the community. This is given us as an alternative to that immediate action which Parliament should take for the relief of the people. But if Parliament should take the action demanded, take prompt and vigorous action, in a very short time all the evils which are lamented and complained of from one end of the country to the other would be removed, and our people would start out on the career of unexampled prosperity which Providence has placed within our reach, but of which unfortunately man in his blind and foolish courses, has attempted and almost succeeded in depriving us.

Mr. CHESLEY. Mr. Speaker, on rising for the first time in this House to make a few observations on the subject under discussion, I know and feel that the liberal measure of indulgence so freely accorded to new members will be extended to me on this occasion. I shall not at this late hour of the night, and after the lengthened discussion which we have heard, attempt to make anything like a lengthy speech. No matter how much I might desire to say on this question, I feel that the whole subject has been so thoroughly gone over and has been so completely thrashed out by the various speakers, that there is really nothing new to be said upon