

the Table the other night, I can assure hon. gentlemen, challenged the sympathy of every Liberal member on this side of the House. For the remainder of the session he could not maintain a perpendicular for five minutes. Questions showered across the House at the hon. gentleman were answered by him from his comfortable seat on the Treasury benches. Hamlets have grown into villages, villages into towns, towns into cities! Have the, really? Are these mere words used by Sir John A. Macdonald, or are they realities? Let us consult the record and see who is right, and whether the statement made by Sir John Macdonald to his followers is shown by the census to be true. I find the following villages and towns, some of them in Nova Scotia and some in my own province, show a falling off in population during the last ten years. The first of these is Pictou, the shire town of the county represented by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. Is it possible that there is a falling off in population there? Is that the town in whose interest the Government spent \$2,000,000 or \$3,000,000 to construct a railway to save a distance of 40 miles when it only saved 4? (Applause.) Yet the population of that town has fallen from 3,403 to 2,999. The list is as follows:

	1881.	1891.	Loss.
Pictou.....	3,403	2,999	404
Dundas.....	3,709	3,546	163
Lauzon.....	3,556	3,551	5
St. Mary's.....	3,415	3,416	..
Napanee.....	3,600	3,434	246
Strathroy.....	3,817	3,316	511
Paris.....	3,173	3,094	79
Whitby.....	3,140	2,705	355
Kincardine.....	2,876	2,631	245
Listowell.....	2,688	2,587	101
Thorold.....	2,456	2,273	183
Amherstburg....	2,672	2,279	393
Mitchell.....	2,284	2,101	183
Dunnville.....	1,808	1,776	32
Iberville.....	1,847	1,719	128
Port Perry.....	1,800	1,689	111
Harriston.....	1,772	1,689	83
Fergus.....	1,733	1,519	214

	1881.	1891.	Loss.
Berthier.....	2,156	1,537	619
Cobourg.....	4,957	4,829	128
Goderich.....	4,556	3,839	717
St. John City....	41,363	39,179	2,184
Charlottetown...	11,485	11,374	111
St. Catharines...	9,631	9,170	461
Three Rivers....	8,670	8,334	336
Lévis.....	7,597	7,301	296
Port Hope.....	5,581	5,042	539

In every one of these twenty-seven villages and towns there has been a falling off in population. The natural increase is gone, immigration is gone, as well as a considerable portion of the population that they held in the year 1881. What is the cause of all this? Will the hon. gentleman point me to a single cause except the vicious commercial policy of hon. gentlemen opposite, as well as the still more vicious administration of the public affairs of this country by the Government for the last ten years? If the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite, and the administration of our public affairs by hon. gentlemen opposite has been ruinous to the hamlets and the villages, and the towns, it has been

### Disastrous to the Rural Constituencies.

(Applause.) I shall not trouble the House with a long list of rural constituencies. I shall refer to three counties, formerly united counties, and I venture to say without fear of successful contradiction, that they are three of the best counties agriculturally in the wide Dominion of Canada; three counties in which there is hardly a hundred acres of land that might be called waste land; three counties in which the population is intelligent, vigorous, active, thrifty, and industrious; and in these three counties the condition of affairs is astonishing. Bruce, in 1881, had a population of 65,218, and in 1891, 64,604, being a loss of 614; Perth, in 1881, had a population of 48,146, and in 1891, 46,311,