

stance, there are the voters' lists. We find that the voters' lists in Canada showed:

In 1887.. . . .	993,914 names.
1891.. . . .	1,132,201 "
1895.. . . .	1,353,735 "

In Ontario the voters' lists showed as follows:

In 1882.. . . .	406,000 names.
1887.. . . .	495,000 "
1891.. . . .	568,000 "

Then this government came into power—this government which has so enormously added to our population and increased our prosperity—this government which has increased our population at the rate of 100,000 a year. Well, you will find that the voters' lists show just the opposite. They show a decline in population since that date. In 1895 there were 650,000 names on the Ontario lists. In 1898 this number had decreased to 576,000. That was the list prepared specially for the plebiscite on prohibition. And in 1900, at the last general election, the number of voters on the Ontario lists stood at 580,000. Where then were these hundreds of thousands who were pouring into Canada in order to swell our population and add to the glory of this government? They are conspicuous by their absence. They are not to be found in the voters' lists, and I am sure that there is no place where these hon. gentlemen would better like to have them. Because had these hundreds of thousands been brought into the country under the happy circumstances that have prevailed since the advent of this government and been growing richer every day since owing to the wonderful administration of this wonderful government, they would certainly support the regime to which they owed their good fortune, and our hon. friends opposite would have been very careful to see that their names were down on the voters' lists. But where are they? The voters' lists say no where.

Then going back to his old love, playing again the old tune he is unable to forget, the Minister of Trade and Commerce proceeded to magnify the United States at the expense of Canada. He compared the Dakotas and Minnesota with the province of Manitoba. Again I find that the hon. gentleman's figures do not correspond, as they should, with the official returns. According to him the Dakotas gained 120,000 families from 1881 to 1891, or in all 600,000 people, allowing five to a family. But the official returns of the United States census show that the Dakotas, instead of gaining 600,000 in that period, only gained 376,000, or not very much more than one-half the figures given us by the hon. minister. The state of Minnesota he credited with a gain of 200,000 families or a million souls. But taking the figures from the United States census, I find that the actual increase of Minnesota in that period was from 780,000 to 1,301,003, or an in-

crease of 521,103, just about half the amount given by the Minister of Trade and Commerce. On the other hand, Manitoba had increased from 62,000 to 152,000, the exact increase in the ten years being 90,246, or a percentage of 144 between 1881 to 1891. I think I have said quite enough to show that we should hesitate considerably before accepting the figures given us by my hon. friend, and the conclusions based thereon. It is always possible for any of us to make mistakes, and it is quite easy to go wrong in figures, but I think that before a gentleman so prominent in the administration should venture to attack so important a document as the census of the country and openly charge thousands of his fellow citizens with deliberate fraud, perjury, connivance and conspiracy, he should endeavour to be at least accurate in his statements. I should hardly be willing to accept as conclusive the statements of an hon. gentleman, based on statistics which fail so completely to correspond with the official returns.

The hon. gentleman was rather inclined to be jocose in the course of his speech, and told a story rather at the expense of our hon. friend the member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton). He said that he once had a vision, during which he passed through the different circles of Inferno, and that when passing through the circle reserved for faithless souls, he came to an apartment in which he found a number of figures hanging up in unaccustomed and extraordinary attitudes. They proved to be the souls of farmers who had believed in protection, and being too green to burn, were hung up there to prepare them for the furnace. I wonder if the hon. minister is to be rewarded, according to Dante's conception, by being placed in that circle destined for faithless souls. If he should come into that quarter of the Inferno, he will find there a number of figures hanging up in anything but comfortable attitudes, and will find out that these are the souls of the sons and daughters of the great province of Ontario who were so green as to believe the Minister of Trade and Commerce when he told them that, if returned to power, he would destroy the microbe of protection, drive out of the country the combinsters, revise the tariff and give the people all the commodities of life at prices free from the increases caused by the iniquitous protectionist system.

I well believe that that may be his experience; and, if so, of all the tortures the hon. minister will suffer when he finds himself in that place reserved for faithless souls, souls that have violated the trust placed in them by confiding friends, his greatest torture will be the anguish, the appealing, pitiful expression, of those poor souls, men and women from Ontario, who will look upon him with eyes of reproach and say: You brought us hither; I am that lady of Oxford