

to do. I want to say in this connection, Mr. Speaker, that I have it on reliable authority that seven out of every ten fishermen in the port of Gloucester are Nova Scotians. Now, if the reciprocity agreement had been sanctioned we would have got that population back again, and that is what I am complaining about. I have nothing to say against a single word that fell from the hon. member for Cumberland; but I repeat that before we bring in any more population we must provide larger markets for the population we have already. We have not even a sufficient market for the industries that are being developed at the present time. We have not sufficient market for our fish, hence the fisheries are not as flourishing as they ought to be. Now when I was interrupted by the hon. gentleman, I was going on to discuss the causes for the loss of population in the province of Nova Scotia. It is well known that the farming centres have lost population, and while the late government had proposed a remedy, the present government so far has shown very little indication of a desire to afford a remedy for our loss of population. I make the statement on good authority, that the late government were preparing to relieve the farming centres of the province of Nova Scotia of some of the hardships under which they are labouring in getting their products to our markets. We have pretty good markets there. In the estimates last year the late government had put many thousands of dollars to help build a railway as a feeder for the Intercolonial railway down to the little town of Baddeck, which is the shire town of the county of Victoria, but which unfortunately is fast losing its population. We have no means there, especially in the winter months, of getting our farm products to market. A considerable amount of money was placed in the estimates last year for the purpose of providing a railway by which those people could get their products to market, and have a needed communication with the rest of the province. But what has happened? The present government has blotted those estimates off the book, and notwithstanding the fact that the hon. member for North Cape Breton (Mr. McKenzie) has asked many questions from the Minister of Railways on this subject, he has received no satisfactory explanation of what the government intend to do with that road, and what they intend to do with the sum of money which was voted by this House for the purpose of building branch lines in many other counties of Nova Scotia; for example, the acquisition of the St. Peter's road. The money was not voted for it, but I think I may safely say that it was the intention of the late government to take over that road, and extend it into the town

of Louisburg, to build a road also into the county of Guysborough, which is becoming depopulated owing to the fact that the fishermen have no markets for their fish, and also owing to the fact that the farmers are unable to get their products to market. What has happened with that road? Is the hon. member for Cumberland doing his duty in trying to impress upon the government the desirability of going ahead with that very important branch of the Intercolonial railway, so important to the people of the eastern part of the province, to Halifax, to the county of Pictou and to the county of Guysborough? These are some of the things that would help us to keep our population. We want better markets, better facilities for getting our farm products to market than are possessed by the people of Nova Scotia at the present time. Let me say again that I agree with the proposition that the maritime provinces have not been given enough attention in the matter of immigration. I do not say that too much is being expended for the west; but what I do say is that in Nova Scotia we want not only more population but better markets for the population we have. I have much pleasure, Mr. Speaker, in supporting the resolution of the hon. member for Cumberland.

Mr. A. DeWITT FOSTER (Kings, N.S.). I desire to say only a few words in support of the resolution which has been so ably moved by the hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Rhodes), and which has also received the support of the hon. member for South Cape Breton (Mr. Carroll). Let me say, however, that the speech of the hon. member for South Cape Breton struck me as being characteristic of those made by hon. gentlemen of the opposition. He says that he is in favour of this resolution, that is he is in favour of more attention being paid to the maritime provinces in the matter of immigration, and in developing the resources of that part of the Dominion; yet he evidently still feels so sore at the result of the elections on the 21st of September last, that he cannot get away from the old song of new markets, a proposition on which the people of Canada pronounced so decisively last September. He has placed his views upon 'Hansard,' and I hope that his speech will be circulated largely in the maritime provinces. I hope that the miners employed by the Dominion Coal Company, and by various other companies will have a chance of reading his speech, and the farmers also, in fact all who were responsible for his election. I hope that it will be perused by other miners in that section of the country, whom we are credibly informed were locked up in the mines on a certain occasion. The very fact that that was so—as I am informed—