

this time of emigration from the older Provinces, I maintain that we cannot expect that that state of things shall continue, unless the void is in some way supplied from the older lands, and that either the void to be produced by the emigration from the older Provinces—if that is to continue—must be supplied by immigration from abroad, or we must expect the future supply which is to continue the peopling of the North-West and Manitoba to come direct from older countries. The condition of the Province with which I happen to be most familiar in this regard, is striking. It has hitherto received a very large supply, take it altogether, of immigration. It has hitherto progressed in population with very considerable rapidity, but as near as I can judge at this time, that progress is at a standstill, and for the last two or three years the state of things has been such, that unless there should be a change we would find a positive retrogression instead of advance in the population in the Province of Ontario. I have obtained access to the Municipal Census of that Province, which gives, not indeed the Census of all the inhabitants, but the Census of all the ratepayers and their families, and which, therefore, as to totals, is not to be compared with the Dominion Census, is yet for the purpose of comparison of different years a reasonable guide. I find that from the spring of 1872 to the spring of 1882, omitting Algoma, Parry Sound and Nipissing in which the returns were not complete, and it was impossible to obtain any proximate statement, there was an increase according to the Municipal Census, of 278,437, or a rate of about 20 per cent. upon the ratepaying census—a very satisfactory rate of increase compared with the Dominion Census, which I think, gives only about 17 per cent. The immigration for these ten years as given in the public papers is 254,479, or almost equal to the amount of increase ascertained as I have stated. But the significance of the reference to the Municipal Census consists in the fact that it is an annual Census, and that you are thus able approximately to apportion the rate of increase and progress of the Province between the different periods of the decade. Dividing it into periods, the first seven years give an increase of 260,000 odd, or a rate of over 37,000 a year, while the immigration is 175,000 odd, or a net increase of nearly 85,000. But the last three years of the same Census gives the increase—1880, as 10,577; 1881, 6,516; and for 1882, 676 only, or a total of 17,769; while the immigration for these three years is 78,753, or nearly 60,989 more than the increase by the Municipal Census. The Census of the school population leads to somewhat the same conclusions; that for 1871 being 489,615; 1874, 511,603; 1879, 494,404; for 1880, 489,924; 1881, 484,224. So that drawing from these two independent sources the information, it is extremely obvious that while these do not give you accurate figures, they lead to that which other sources of information also lead to, that there has been a serious drain upon the population of our Province for the last two or three years, that I attribute to the continued immigration to the States and the large immigration to the North-West Territories; and, as I have said, it is impossible that it can continue unless in some way the void is to be filled.

It being Six o'clock the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

Mr. BLAKE. When you left the Chair, Mr. Speaker, I had just pointed out that we possessed special means of information with respect to the population of one of the Provinces. I am not in a position to give the same specific information in respect to the other Provinces, and in regard to them I can only refer to the ordinary sources of information available to us, but which seem to indicate that in regard to them, as well as to the particular Province to which I have referred, the question of immigration, the question of retaining and increasing the population, is one

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of very serious consequence. The United States Census for 1880 indicates that 712,000 Canadian-born were in that year settled in the adjacent Republic, being a very large increase over the number found there by the previous decennial Census, even without making allowances for deaths in that number and deaths in the number of emigrants from Canada to the States, and therefore indicating a very considerable tendency of population in that direction. All of these circumstances combine to make this question to which allusion has been made in the Speech, and respecting which a gratifying announcement was made by one of the speakers, one of very pressing importance as well to the old as to the new Provinces, and I am sure hon. members generally will be disposed to sustain the Administration in any well considered motion which they may bring forward for the further promotion and encouragement of immigration. The hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Tupper) gave the House some calculations based on the *per capita* cost, but it seems to me, without entering into the details of those calculations, that the inferences which the hon. gentleman drew from them were based upon a fallacy. It is quite clear there are certain tolerably fixed charges which you must expend on such a service whether the results be great or small, and those fixed charges will, when divided over an increased immigration, of course largely reduce the *per capita* charge. It would however be fruitless at this stage to enter into any discussion of the hon. gentleman's figures. The Speech announces a further measure in the direction of centralization. The hon. leader of the Government some time ago stated in a public speech that he would, if returned to power, pass a law which would reinvest the municipalities with the power of regulating the liquor licenses, and I presume it is in pursuance of that statement so made that we find this announcement in the Speech. I have not had an opportunity of examining the judgment on which this conclusion is based; I presume the hon. gentleman will take care that it is distributed at an early day to all members of the House, because it seems to me to be a question of very serious consequence and upon which we should have the fullest opportunity of reaching a conclusion. I have not formed the impression from a perusal of the reports in the newspapers which I saw, that the decision on the question was one which determined this point, and I rather assume from the language which is used in the Speech that the advice which has been tendered to His Excellency, and to which he referred, is that that decision points to the inference that this power is vested, and vested solely, in the Parliament of the Dominion. For my own part I should exceedingly regret to see Parliament take any action on that matter whatever, unless and until it were finally decided by a judgment upon the precise point that the Acts of the Local Legislature in the various Provinces making the arrangements which are now in force, were beyond the power of those Legislatures and that those or similar enactments were within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Parliament of Canada. In this respect I share the sentiments of the hon. gentleman's lieutenant in the Ontario Legislature, who, I see the other day in a speech delivered at Hamilton expressed his regret that there should be any doubt as to the jurisdiction of the Local Legislatures in this matter and expressed his opinion that if it were finally decided that the Constitution as read did not cover that power, the mode in which the difficulty should be met was not by the Dominion Parliament acting or assuming jurisdiction, but by altering the Constitution and giving to Local Legislatures that power, which up to this time it has been supposed they had, and upon which basis for the fifteen years of Confederation the liquor traffic has been regulated by the various Governments and Legislatures of the different Provinces. I believe that it would be extremely unfortunate if we should, except under the pressure of absolute necessity, deal with this matter. I