

Add that number to the rest, and the result of the computation of the increase of population in 20 years, on the basis of a 30 per cent. natural increase, would give a total population now of 8,705,037. I make no allowance for the increase in the population on 1,117,041 Canadians and their children who were in the United States in 1871, during the two following decades, which at the rate of 30 per cent. in each ten years would be 770,754. If you add the natural increase of 30 per cent. each decade, amounting to 770,754, these figures would give as a population we should actually have in Canada 9,475,791 in 1891, if there had been no exodus from this country, and if we had maintained a natural increase of 30 per cent. each decade, which is less than the United States maintained for 50 years of its natural existence.

It is evident that something is wrong, and it is to be lamented that the interests and the future of a magnificent country like this, stretching from ocean to ocean, with all its resources in timber, soil, minerals and fisheries, a country capable of supporting 80,000,000 of people, a country starting on the race of progress with prospects so fair, should have had its interests so mismanaged by incompetency that in place of having what it might have had if it maintained the ratio of increase which the United States has maintained, and kept its people and immigrants at home, a population of 9,475,791, has less than 5,000,000. Truly my hon. friend was correct when he said that taxation and increase of debt are just the factors to produce the results we have in this country.

To recapitulate for a moment. This calculation may seem extravagant. I was led to this result step by step. First, I took the United States census returns and found that the natural increase there was over 30 per cent. every 10 years, and had been so for the first 50 years of their national existence. I enquired, Is there any reason why Canada should not present as good a showing? I could not find any reason, for I believe the Canadian people are as vigorous and as likely to increase in population as are the American people, and if any one can show a reason to the contrary I will revise my figures. But as I believe we are as vigor as a race as the Americans, I hold that we should show at this stage of our national existence what they showed for fifty years after their national existence began, over 30 per cent. increase every ten years, and I assume that our natural increase is as great. Assuming that point to be established, I go on then and show beyond peradventure that if our immigrants had stayed with us we should have had a population of 7,500,000, entirely independent of the number of people who have left Canada prior to 1871; and the whole calculation was thus worked out, and the result cannot be questioned. If the basis is right, the result is right. If we have a natural increase of 30 per cent., as the Americans have had, if we had retained our immigrants, as we ought to have done, and had had no exodus of the native population, we would have had the population I have indicated, which the census returns show we have not got.

So much for the general question. I desire to refer for a moment to the section of country in which I am immediately interested. I find on examination of the partial returns brought down that the group of ridings along Lake Erie, commencing at the Niagara frontier and running as far west as Elgin, embracing Norfolk,

Haldimand, Monck, Welland, Lincoln and Niagara, this group of ridings had in 1881 a population of 127,004. It has by the last returns a population of 115,810, a loss of 7,194, or 6 per cent. in 10 years. When I call attention to that portion of the country I think it will strike hon. members as strange that this should be the result. These ridings lie along Lake Erie. They are traversed by two through lines of railway passing from east to west, giving connection with Detroit on the west and Buffalo and New York on the east. They are excellent agricultural counties; they are excellent fruit counties; Lincoln and Niagara are the finest peach regions in Canada, and if any section should show an increase of population these ridings should show it, as they possess the finest soil and superior facilities for reaching markets. My own riding of North Norfolk has declined from 20,933 in 1881 to 19,400 in 1891, or a loss of 1,533, equal to 7.32 per cent. South Norfolk has decreased from 19,019 to 17,780, being a loss of 1,237, or 6½ per cent. Now, Sir, there is not a more beautiful country on this continent than these two ridings. They are abundantly watered with pure spring streams and copious living springs; a magnificent fruit country, a country raising the finest wheat, a country admirably adapted to the production of fruit, and clover, and root crops, and barley, and oats, and all crops that grow in the temperate zone; the finest corn country in the Dominion, a country that is capable of being made a garden, a country not one-half of which is under cultivation at the present moment; and yet that country, situated as it is, with two great lines of railways traversing it from east to west, presents a loss of population of 6½ per cent. in one riding and 7½ per cent. in the other. That is surely a commentary on this National Policy that does not require further dwelling upon.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there was a time when the Province of Ontario increased in population at a satisfactory rate. That period was from 1851 to 1861, when we had for seven years of that period the benefit of reciprocity with the United States. Ontario increased during that decade from 952,000 to 1,396,000, an increase of 46.60 per cent. That was a satisfactory increase, and we never have had a satisfactory increase since. Quebec, during that same decade, increased from 890,000 to 1,111,000, an increase of 221,000, or 24.96 per cent. I repeat, Sir, that this was during the operation of a reciprocity treaty, because for seven years of that period, from 1854 to 1861, we had reciprocity. During the next decade the increase is not so satisfactory, but during that period we had the retarding influences of the American war, and for five years of that period we had no reciprocity. It was natural to suppose that the decade from 1861 to 1871 would not be as favourable or as satisfactory as the other. So, Sir, I affirm, from the data furnished here, from the fact that Ontario increased by 46 per cent. of population in the ten years, during a portion of which we had reciprocity, from the fact that it has not increased satisfactorily since reciprocity was lost to this country, I infer that reciprocity with the United States and access to our natural markets had very much indeed to do with the expansion of the population in that province during the period I mention. I assert that the showing of the present census returns is unsatisfactory, and I assert that it proves conclusively, when we come to ex-