

expected to be discharged by the immigration agents in the old country—whether they are expected to interfere in disputes on this side of the ocean between employers and employed, whether they are expected to inform workmen that a strike is on in Canada and that they should not come; or, on the other hand, to induce workmen to come to Canada to take the place of those who have struck. It is not my intention to enter into that now. But I think the hon. minister is familiar with the facts. I have had a great deal of correspondence sent to me about it.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Does that relate to the case of Mr. Murray?

Mr. CLARKE. Yes. I intend to read a lot of correspondence, but, of course, not now. I am sure that, as I have been so considerate of the feelings of hon. gentlemen opposite, they will allow me to say a few words more before I resume my seat. The hon. Minister of Agriculture (Hon. Mr. Fisher) has placed hon. members on both sides under a debt of gratitude to him. We have been affirming, as the hon. minister knows, that the optimistic statements made from time to time during the past five years by hon. gentlemen opposite respecting the cessation of the exodus were not founded upon facts, and that unfortunately, the exodus still continues.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture, in the argument he has presented to us, and in the figures he has quoted, has dispelled the opinion which was entertained by his own political friends, and he has completely discounted the statements they have made in this House and elsewhere. It must be within the recollection of the Minister of Agriculture that only a few years ago there was put into the mouth of His Excellency the Governor General, in his speech from the Throne, a statement to the effect that there was almost a total cessation of the considerable exodus of our population which at one time was a regrettable feature of our affairs. This statement was made in 1899; yet the Minister of Agriculture has quoted to us to-night a comparison of two five year periods, from 1890 to 1895, and from 1895 to 1900, of the emigration into one state of the Union. He has succeeded in establishing the fact to his own satisfaction, and to ours, that notwithstanding the fact that he was making a comparison between a five-year period of unusual depression and a five-year period of very gratifying prosperity, there was only a diminution, in the emigration from Canada to that one state, of less than 2,000. He has admitted the fact that there was an emigration of 41,823 Canadians in the five years from 1895 to 1900, as compared with 43,000 in the previous five years. That surely establishes our contention that the boast which these hon. gentlemen made

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from platform to platform and in this House—and which we wish had been true—that the exodus had practically ceased, was not the fact, and cannot be substantiated. Prior to 1896, hon. gentlemen opposite quoted again and again, to the immense satisfaction of their friends, the figures supplied by the United States customs returns. They used to roll them under their tongue, they used to give them to us as irrefragable evidence that this country was going to the dogs. They used to quote statistics supplied by the United States customs authorities as to the value of settlers' effects going into that country from Canada; but now the Minister of the Interior says these statistics are of very little value. Let me draw his attention to what these returns do show. In 1897 the value of settlers' effects going from Canada to the United States was \$1,275,000, while last year it was \$1,278,000.

Mr. HEYD. Tell us how many came in from the States.

Mr. CLARKE. At this late hour of the night I will not deal with that part of the subject, but at another time I will give the hon. gentleman the information. But while we are all gratified at the increasing number of immigrants coming into this country, let me remind the committee that we are spending more than five times as much, and did spend five times as much in 1902, to promote immigration into Canada as we did in 1896. Now I will give the committee two quotations with regard to this exodus question. One of them is taken from a paper printed in that part of Quebec from which the Minister of Agriculture hails, the Stanstead 'Journal.' I presume the hon. gentleman knows that paper, I believe it is an old established paper in that part of the Eastern Townships. In its issue of April 16th, it says:

Boston and Maine officials report that the rush of spring travel between Canada and the factory towns of New England has begun unusually early this spring. The tide of emigration from the Quebec central district and the lower St. Lawrence still continues. The United States immigration agents, both on the Boston and Maine and the Grand Trunk Railway, are having a lively time in their efforts to enforce the recent immigration laws passed by the States.

The last statement I will quote is made by the gentleman who occupies the position of secretary of the Ontario Bureau of Labour. That gentleman is a political friend of the hon. gentlemen opposite, and occupies a prominent position in connection with the industrial statistics of the province of Ontario. In an interview to the Toronto 'Star,' the junior Liberal organ in the city of Toronto, on Friday, March 6, 1903, I find this statement:

Mr. Robert Glockling, secretary of the Ontario Bureau of Labour, stated to-day that he had not heard of any great scarcity of iron workers as was complained of by the deputation of em-