

defeated in Welland County. It was established that his county had been usurped; the usurper was brought before the courts and branded with bribery and corruption and deprived of his political rights for seven years. I do not call that a defeat. I am convinced from what I saw myself in the Niagara District recently that the hon. gentleman would have been returned for his county had he not, for some personal reason, refrained from entering into the contest. Of course this attack by the leader of the Opposition was made in the most courteous language, and with the skill of a master in eloquence. The attack was directed at my hon. friend's breast, but the blow struck him below the belt. I fancy that the hon. leader of the Opposition must have had some reason to be displeased with the people of Welland, because he made an attack upon that county, and stated that it had lost a thousand of its population according to the last census; and he made an appeal to the descendants of the U. E. Loyalists not to desert the district in which

their forefathers had settled. Now, I do not think there was any need for such an appeal. According to the census returns, the population is really not deserting the peninsula of Niagara. True, Welland itself has lost a thousand of its people, but it has only been a shifting of the population. The adjoining counties and the city of Hamilton have increased. Toronto has increased by 85,000, Hamilton by 12,000, Nipissing by 11,000, and Manitoba by 90,000. In all these sections of the country you will find settlers from the district of Niagara. From the hon. gentleman's remarks about the Niagara District, you would think that the garden of Canada was being abandoned by its population. It is only necessary to refer to the figures which I am about to read, taken from the last census, to show that the productions of the farms and orchards of that section of the country have immensely increased and represent an enormous value in money. The statement following shows that the industries of that section of the country have also developed to a great extent:—