

that he thought it was doing. Hon. gentlemen said that the country was being ruined. If that were true, if the industries of the country were not being fostered as they had been during the last two years, would the emigration from this country be less or greater? It would be greater, because if they could not be employed in the manufacture of goods in this country they would have gone to the United States, or some other country. He held that gentlemen, in arguing as they had, were illogical. They contended we were driving people out of this country by high taxation into a country where all admitted the people were higher taxed than they are here. The thing is a positive absurdity, yet these were the arguments hon. gentlemen opposite brought forward to show the exodus was due to the National Policy. What evidence had we that the country was more prosperous than it was. During the regime of hon. gentlemen opposite our trade and revenue declined. To-day both are increasing. Could we have better evidence of the prosperity of a country than the fact that its trade and revenue were increasing.

Mr. DESJARDINS. I am sorry to see the means that are resorted to in order to justify the position taken by the members of the Liberal party, with regard to the National Policy. They think to justify themselves by casting discredit on the Province they represent, and they endeavor to show that far from having derived any benefit from the introduction of protection, we are still in the period of depression. I am able to contradict that statement, because I am in a position to see what is taking place in one of the most important centres of population. I am ready to assert that, in Montreal and the neighborhood, not only there is no such emigration as is stated, but that, on the contrary, there is a homeward tendency. Every day we can see by the papers that property in and around Montreal is going up to former prices, that manufactories are being opened, that the manufactories abandoned under the policy of the preceding Administration are again working under conditions of greater prosperity than ever. And not only are former manufactories taking a new lease of life, but new ones are being established nearly every week. In the county that I represent, the manufactories have more than doubled; the great cotton manufactory at Hochelaga, that was established in spite of the indifference of the Liberal Government, has doubled within two years; and not only has it doubled, but they talk of adding another extension that will treble its producing capacity. On the other hand, in the western part of the same county all the manufactories are in full operation, and thousands of working men find there to-day steady and paying employment. We well remember, Mr. Speaker, that in 1874, 1875 and 1876, the working population was obliged either to abandon Montreal and the neighborhood or else to go and work on the Lachine Canal, that was then being widened, at 50 cents per day, that was paid to them not in money but in goods. If, during the last two years, there has been a continued and large emigration of working men from certain parts of the Province, it was in consequence of the policy adopted by the Liberal Government, and not on account of the policy inaugurated by the Conservative Administration. The present policy has the effect of repairing the evil, of stopping emigration that the policy of the Mackenzie Government did nothing to suppress. To-day, thanks to the establishment of these manufactories, we see the houses that were abandoned from 1874 to 1878, once more inhabited; we see families again occupying these homes that were worth nothing to the proprietors that built them. At Hochelaga, for instance, not only are all the houses occupied, but they are obliged to build a good many more to meet the constant demands of the working people who come and swell the numbers of our population. Well, since such a movement is going on in the principal centre, it is evident that, by the very force of circumstances, it will spread to all parts of the

country. The establishment of manufactories, their prosperity, their capacities increasing to a considerable extent, the consumption in the country will also increase, and, consequently, agriculture, as well as all other industries, will soon profit by the prosperity resulting from this policy, and ere long we shall see the population of the Province growing; this movement of emigration, begun under the Liberal Administration, is coming to an end, and a homeward movement is springing up that will fill the void created in our midst by the scourge of emigration.

Mr. McCUAIG said the statements with reference to the the exodus from Canada were utterly fallacious. Any person at all familiar with the passage and transport trade of this country would laugh at the statements made here to-night by hon. gentlemen opposite to prove the Dominion was going to ruin because of the people leaving it for the adjoining Republic. With reference to the Federal debt of the United States and Canada he (Mr. McCuaig) had compiled from official documents a statement showing the true position of the United States and Canada up to December, 1879. The statements made here in this connection by some of our public men were highly improper, because such statements were calculated to injure Canada as a country. The hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) to use his own language, "urged that the country would not be populated as represented, and that the revenue anticipated by the Government from the sale of lands was greatly exaggerated, and taking the United States as a standard, he came to the conclusion this Dominion was on the verge of ruin," &c. He (Mr. McCuaig) would endeavor to draw a comparison between the financial position of the United States and this Dominion with a view of demonstrating that the fears of the hon. member were not well grounded. The total debt of Canada, on 1st July, 1879, was (see Public Accounts, pages 16 and 17) \$183,974,753; less sinking fund, cash assets, &c., \$36,493,683—net debt, \$147,481,070. To form a fair comparison as to our relative indebtedness with that of the Federal Government of the United States, we should deduct subsidies payable to Provinces, say \$3,442,764 annually, or representing an amount capitalized, at four per cent., of \$86,069,100. Net debt, irrespective of subsidies, \$61,411,970, of which Canada paid for the Administration of Justice in the several Provinces yearly, (see Public Accounts, pages 73 to 84,) \$511,782; for maintenance of Penitentiaries over and above the revenues derived therefrom, \$252,367; for the salaries of the several Lieutenant-Governors, \$73,000; making a total of this item of \$837,149, payable annually by the Dominion Government which, under the United States system, would be payable by the separate States. The capital sum represented by these payments was \$20,928,725, making a balance of debt of \$40,483,245, which under a system of Confederation similar to that of the United States, would be the total liabilities of the Dominion, on 1st July, 1879. Against this liability we had assets (see pages 27 and 28, Public Accounts): Welland, St. Lawrence and other canals, \$30,000,000; railways, including the Intercolonial, and the railways in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, &c., \$40,000,000; Pacific Railway expenditure to 1st July, 1879, \$13,000,000; expenditure on harbors and light-houses, \$4,000,000; expenditure on Ottawa Works, Grenville Canal, &c., \$3,000,000; purchase money for the North-West Territory, including expenditure of its organization, \$3,000,000; expenditure on Public Buildings at Ottawa, Dominion streams, roads, bridges, &c., \$4,600,000, say in round numbers, \$100,000,000. The public debt of the United States on 1st December, 1879, was \$2,068,849,545; and the Dominion debt on 1st July, 1879, deducting subsidies and allowances to Provinces, for comparison was \$40,482,342, or estimating the present population of the United States at forty millions, and that of the Dominion at four millions. The public debt of the United States would form a charge of \$50 per capita on their popu-