

Mr. Lalime says :

" We can go to Montreal for \$4, and three or four weeks we could go for \$2. There we have left friends, we have left many of our relatives, and there is nothing strange if we go there once in a while to meet them. Of course you will hear everywhere, in all places, Frenchmen saying they will return to Canada. But you must not forget that experience shows us that only a few will go there to stay. Every one of our fathers and mothers who came here from Canada always came here to stay two or three years. The children take the customs of New England of the United States, and after three or four years residence when the father says: we will go home, the children say we will not. Gentlemen, I could give you lots and lots of examples where the father and mother have gone back to Canada, but the children are here. They have settled, they are American citizens, and they will never go back to Canada. Immigration has good deal to do with the railway business. Let me state to you that the monthly railway receipts of ticket sales from here to Canada for one line, and that is the one I represent, the Vermont Central, are about \$9,000. These are the sales to the French population from New England to Canada. That amount may seem to be quite large, but let me tell you that our sales to return average at least \$18,000 to \$20,000 a month. That is from Canada to New England States. The reason also, gentlemen, why the sales are so high, when I speak of \$9,000 from here to Canada, is that through two months the railway men always make excursion rates. We can go to the Canada for almost nothing—as I was saying, we have been to Canada during two months for \$2. There is nothing strange, then, if the Canadians will travel and will go there. More than one third of the business is done by people buying tickets here and sending them to Canada. You take the French Canadian centres, Salem, for instance—the population in Salem comes from Rimouski, about 120 miles below Quebec. They all come from that neighbourhood. What has brought that population to Salem? I should say that two men in Salem have done all the business. They came here and settled, and every month they sent for five, six, ten, fifteen families, and we see them coming. Some will go back, but three-fourths of them will remain here, and it is just the same in other places. A gentleman comes and settles in a certain place and he will get so many others to come there; that is the way it is done and we are selling tickets that way all the time."

Mr. L'Herault (Fall River) said :

" It needs no argument to prove what our friend from Worcester has said, because we can all look back ten or fifteen years. Did we then have any French in Boston or vicinity? Very, very few. No real estate owners. To-day we can count the French Canadians in New England by thousands, and many of them real estate owners."

Mr. L'Herault stated further :

" That the French Canadians in New England are getting naturalized rapidly. Messrs. Gagnon, Gauthier and Gillets' statistics are brought together in a table which shows the total population of thirty-two cities and towns to be 417,877, of which the Canadians are 88,653; of those 2,516 are real estate owners; 13,406 are school children; there are forty Canadian schools, and 4,480 naturalized Canadians. The Canadians holding public offices number 53; Canadian merchants and professional men, 549; Canadian tradesmen, 2,014. Cohoes, Troy and Lowell are also given, indicating, perhaps, still more remarkable results, of which the Canadian population is 109,645, and the Canadian school children, 16,219."

Therefore, Sir, I say that it is clear that this emigration from the Province of Quebec has taken place to a very large extent within a measurably short period, since Confederation; that it has taken place more largely of later years; that it has assumed within a very few years this regrettable character of permanence to which I referred—permanence, I mean, in the settlement abroad of the bulk of those who emigrate—and the situation with reference to that Province is, no doubt, as I have pointed out it is with reference to the Province of Ontario, a very serious one. If this is the state of things, there is no use in concealing it from ourselves, there is no use in shutting our eyes to it. Surely if these are the facts, these facts do deserve the serious consideration of this House on the two points—first, what is the result of our immigration policy? how many do we keep in this country of those we get here at this great cost? Secondly, what is the result of the emigration from Canada during the last few years—what is the condition of things as to that? These two points do deserve our most serious consideration, and it is also extremely plain, speaking with reference both to the Province of Quebec and the Province of Ontario, at any rate, that there ought not to be any further importation of those classes of immigrants, aided by the public moneys, to which my hon. friend's Resolution specifically attracts attention; and nobody who lives in a city or town, and who has watched what has taken place in

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the cities and towns of these Provinces this winter, but must be quite satisfied, from painful personal experience, that of those classes, there is here at present an ample supply, and that to assist by public money the immigration of more of those classes is simply to add to the difficulties and to diminish the wages, by increasing the supply of labour, of those who are already plunged into very considerable difficulties and very considerable distress.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). I do not propose, at this hour of the night, to enter into a discussion of the subject which has been brought under the notice of the House by the hon. member for South Brant (Mr. Paterson), and the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat. I am sure those of us who have listened to those two hon. gentlemen will have only one regret, and that is, that such a marvellous amount of industry, research and calculation, had not been devoted to a better object than to proving that this country is not progressing, and that the statistics which are furnished by the enemies of Canada are correct. It does seem to me that we might have looked somewhere else than to the Parliament of Canada for the laboured calculations which have been presented here to-night, to prove that Mr. Nimmo is right in the statements he has made as to emigration from Canada, and that the statements of the officers of the Government of Canada, sustained as they are by the reasonable condition of things and by facts as they are known to exist to everybody, are entirely incorrect. But I desire simply to call attention to one class of statistics to which the hon. gentlemen have referred, and which were referred to before by another hon. gentleman in a former debate, namely, the school statistics. Now, the figures as given, at first sight do appear to be very extraordinary, and yet what do I find? I have here the Report of the Minister of Education for the Province of Ontario, for 1883, and I find that, according to that Report, the school population of the Province of Ontario in the year 1873, was 504,869, and in 1880, 499,924. We may therefore assume that during the decade the school population of the Province of Ontario decreased 14,945. Multiplying that number by five, according to the mode pursued by the hon. member for South Brant, to get at the actual population, we find that there should, according to these figures, have been a decrease of actual population during the last decade of about 75,000 people, and yet we have the admission of hon. gentleman, as well as the official Census returns of the Province, to prove that the actual increase was over 300,000. I think, with that one fact, we may fairly assume that there is not much reliance to be placed upon the figures which were given, as an evidence, at any rate, that this country has been decreasing in population. But I find more in this Report of the Department of Education of the Province of Ontario. I find in the report of one of the inspectors some reference to these statistics. Mr. Arthur Brown, who is the Inspector of the county of Dundas, makes this statement :

" It is to be noticed that the Trustees' returns make the number of pupils resident, December, 1882, 423 less than at the same date the previous year. Considering that the number of children enrolled in 1881 was 591 less than the number returned as resident, and that for 1882 the number enrolled approaches within 182 of those resident, I cannot but think that the Census has been defective, and that there are more than 5,397 children resident in the county. I consider the number, 1,499, returned as not attending school 110 days, tolerably correct, so far as those pupils whose names are enrolled are concerned; but there must be quite a large number, 7 to 12 years of age, who have not attended school at all, whose names have not been enrolled, and who have consequently escaped Trustees' notice altogether."

Then he goes on :

" It is noticeable in the supplementary reports that a considerable number of Trustees have reported that they have not complied with the provisions of sections 5 and 6 of the amended School Act of 1881, &c., and others have conveniently left that part of the report blank. I have before referred to the disinclination of Trustees to make trouble for their neighbours, and the little likelihood that these compulsory