

ceiving that thereby he had dispelled all objections. It is very much the same with hon. gentlemen. They assume that the country is prosperous, and as often as wiser men endeavour to show them that their position is erroneous, they simply repeat that the country is prosperous. The fact that so many thousands of Canadians every year turn their backs on that prosperity gives them no concern whatever. They ignore the fact, or, if driven to the wall and forced to deal with it, they have the most ingenious theories to explain it away. On a former occasion, the Minister of Finance accounted for the exodus from this country by saying that there was a great movement of population from the east to the west. According to this theory, there must be, somewhere in the west, a centre of gravitation towards which the people of the east are fatally attracted. I will not discuss that theory. The ancients believed that on the Mediterranean Sea ships were fatally attracted to the whirlpool of Charybdis or the rocks of Scylla. But the ancients did not know what we know, that there was such a thing as gravitation. Perhaps, after all, my hon. friend is another Sir Isaac Newton and has discovered some hidden law of nature. Gravitation is a thing which not only applies universally but there are many modifications of it. We know, for instance, that the waters of the ocean are attracted by powerful currents towards certain centres. In certain countries at certain periods of the year the wind blows in certain directions. And so perhaps, after all, there may be in the west a centre of gravitation which attracts the people from the east and unconsciously impels them to abandon their comfortable homes and all the wealth piled around them by the National Policy. Well, Sir, if we really have to battle against some unknown force of nature, in all conscience, in all justice, the National Policy must be held free from blame. If there is in the west some new centre of gravitation which attracts people from the east, it is all in vain that my hon. friend the Minister of Finance and ministerial orators and newspapers vie with each other to paint the enchantments of the National Policy; people will go away from their homes, perhaps to have their fortunes shattered, as in the days of old ships were shattered on the rocks of Scylla. But my hon. friend, since he has given attention to that theory, must have observed that it does not apply uniformly upon this continent. It may be that south of the forty-fifth parallel the attraction is from east to west, but, Sir, this does not apply north of that line. North of the forty-fifth parallel, attraction is not from east to west, but from north to south. If the attraction was from east to west, we should have a displacement of population, but no loss, but actually we have a loss of about 1,000,000 people, who are attracted, not from east to west, but from

north to south. And the hon. gentleman may have observed that his law of gravitation does not apply to all classes of the population; that one class is exempt from it—the recipients of ministerial favours, those who directly or indirectly live upon the public treasury. But those who work hard for a living, the tillers of the soil especially, upon those it is that this attraction acts. Consideration of these facts must convince my hon. friend that his theory is too fantastic for an assembly composed of men of average common sense. The hon. gentleman must admit, that if there is a movement of population, it is not due to some mysterious agency, but to the well-known law, exemplified in all ages, that when people are oppressed by the conditions under which they live, they will seek relief in emigration, whenever they can emigrate. It is an appalling condition of things when a young country like Canada, which could afford food and shelter for 100,000,000 of men, cannot keep its paltry population of 5,000,000. It is an appalling condition of things, but we are told by gentlemen opposite that there is an offset to this, and we are asked to look at the wonderful development of our manufacturing industries under the National Policy. Well, Sir, here we become the prey of the statisticians of Canada. And the statisticians of Canada are a body of most positive men. For them there is nothing doubtful; they undertake to solve every problem that comes in their way. LaBliche, in one of his most amusing comedies, introduces a statistician, who is an enthusiast in his science, but who at least does not pretend to solve every problem with unimpeachable accuracy. He undertakes to calculate the number of widows who on a certain day cross the Pont Neuf. He very nearly reached perfection, yet not quite absolutely. He calculated that on the day in question the number of widows who passed over the bridge was—if I remember the figures—something like 967, and one doubtful. As to this one, he would not be precise in declaring whether she was a widow or not. He confessed his honest doubt. Our statisticians have no such doubts whatever. They have undertaken to calculate to the last cent what is the capital invested in our manufacturing industries, and according to their calculations the amount so invested is \$183,532,827, an increase, as they say, within the last ten years, of \$92,664,127. Now, the object of this, the impression sought to be conveyed by these figures, is that the national wealth of Canada is increased by \$92,000,000, a very large figure, I admit. But the statisticians of Canada have not told us what proportion of water there is in these stocks, nor have they told us what amount of money was really sunk in these investments. For it is a matter of notoriety that a very large proportion of the money which has been invested in manufacturing industries under the National Policy, has been absolutely sunk and lost.