

wish to take up the time of the House in regard to this matter, because I know there will be an opportunity later on—I hope, during this session—of discussing this subject more fully. But, unless my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. Mr. Fisher) exhibits more energy during this session than he has exhibited since we last met we shall not have the census returns in time to discuss them even during this session. I endeavoured to procure bulletins giving me some information with regard to the matter. Coming here I found bulletins in the library which are apparently not quite up to date. I hope the Minister of Agriculture will be able to give us some assurance within the next day or two, as to the date when the census returns will be brought before the House, for I think the time of the House should be occupied with some discussion with regard to them. But I have this to say—if we apply the argument which the Minister of Trade and Commerce so ably applied to the census figures some ten years ago, we shall find that all the efforts of this government, all the enormous sums of money they have expended during these four or five years in promoting immigration to this country, have been absolutely wasted. The Minister of Trade and Commerce on that occasion proved, very much to his own satisfaction, —and, indeed, set out in the terms of his resolution—that there was a natural increase in this country of at least 2½ per cent annually. I do not know whether the hon. gentleman has any information in his possession which enables him to say that that rate would not be a fair one during the past five years. If it is a fair rate for the past five years, then even though you assume that not a single soul was added to the population of Canada from the time of the last census until this government came into power, you will have the result before you that not one soul has been added to the population since that time beyond the natural increase.

Now, I feel I am really not able to do justice to a subject of that kind as the hon. gentleman could. Perhaps if he were moving a resolution at this stage, and were on this side of the House, he would be very likely to conclude it in the language in which he concluded a resolution he moved ten years ago. It was as follows :

That the deplorable state of things disclosed by the above mentioned returns imperatively demands a radical change in the policy and methods of government followed by the administration.

I do not think that the hon. gentleman, even with all the experience of the last ten years, added to the abundant experience which he previously possessed, would be able to improve upon that.

Now, we have been told by the Minister of Agriculture on several occasions, both in this country and in the mother country—because I was glad to note that the Minister

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

of Agriculture was a member of that somewhat numerous band of ministers of this country who lately journeyed across the Atlantic, no doubt entirely in the interests of this country, and a grateful country appreciates the efforts which they made to enjoy themselves on the other side—the Minister of Agriculture tells us that the emigration to the United States from Canada has absolutely ceased, and that, of course, is entirely due to the advent of the present government to power. It is due, he thinks, to the same cause as that which created the prosperity.

Now, there is another case of resignation, I think, or perhaps it would not amount to a case of resignation; but the hon. the Minister of Agriculture is absolutely in conflict on this point with the hon. the Postmaster General. The Postmaster General is not only Postmaster General, but he is also a journalist, or rather he has a journal in his department which is known as the 'Labour Gazette.' In an issue during the past year the 'Labour Gazette' pointed out that in the provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec and New Brunswick, a very marked emigration of persons to the United States had to be noted. Now, who are we to believe? Which of these gentlemen is telling us what is correct? Has emigration from these provinces entirely ceased? Is the Postmaster General right when he tells us in this 'Labour Gazette' of his that the emigration from these provinces to the United States still continues? The Postmaster General seems to have the weight of authority on his side, because I notice that an independent authority, the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, in a speech recently made in that province, is reported to have said :

He mentioned the great enterprises which they had at Sydney, and trusted that these and similar undertakings would tend to stop the exodus of our young men to the United States.

And his remarks were received with applause. Any one who lives in the province of Nova Scotia, or the province of New Brunswick, or the province of Prince Edward Island, will realize the fact that emigration to the United States has not ceased. It is very difficult to bring about a condition of affairs which will cause it to cease entirely, because migration naturally tends towards great cities and great industrial centres. In saying this I do not mean that we are entirely to rely upon the figures of the census which, for example, indicate, in the province of Nova Scotia, that the urban population has enormously increased at the expense of the rural population. The true explanation of that fact is, that during the past ten years a great many towns in Nova Scotia have been incorporated, and people who ten years ago were classed among the rural population are now classed among the urban population.

Now, sir, I think this particular circumstance, this fact that the people are migrating to the great industrial centres of the