

of our people to take their savings out of other industries and place them in sugar, cotton, iron and other manufactures. What has been the result? Ask the shareholders of those enterprises whether they would not to-day have preferred to place their money in 1879, 1880 and 1881 in five per cent. debentures rather than place them in the industries to which I have alluded! Ask any one of them if he would not have preferred to take that course rather than to follow the advice of the Government in spreading the industries of this country and increasing the manufactures! We were unable to compete with foreign manufactures, and our own people found, when depression came, that they could buy as cheaply abroad and pay the 40, 50 or 60 per cent. taxes, as the case might be, as to purchase in this country. The lesson is a good one, and if our people gain experience by it, it will be a blessing to this country in its early history to pass through an ordeal of that kind.

In the next paragraph of the Address we are told that the flow of population into Manitoba and the North-West, although impeded by various and unexpected causes, has been substantial. My views on that question of emigration have been placed before this House on previous occasions, and I think the history of one year with another goes to confirm the soundness of the opinions I have so frequently enunciated—that is, that we could exercise in but a small degree the influence which causes people on the other side of the Atlantic to cross to America. The laws which govern the flow of population to this continent are beyond our influence or control. No doubt we may offer facilities, we may give away our lands, and widely advertise them. All those things, I am free to admit, have their incidental advantages, but that they affect to any marked degree the current of population from one country to another, I entirely deny: and we have only to look to the last ten or fifteen years, or take any era we like, and compare the immigration into this country with that into the United States, and we find that they move up and down just as truly as the mercury in one thermometer falls or rises with the mercury in another. As the immigration to our shores swells up theirs

swells also, and as theirs diminishes ours also goes down. Theirs kept going down from 1877 to 1879 just as ours did. I was often taunted, when I occupied a seat on the other side of the House, with the idea that we were unable to devise any immigration scheme that would induce immigrants to settle in Canada. I answered ther that the causes that led to the removal of people from one country to another were entirely beyond the control of anything like legislation on our part. In 1877 in the United States immigration had not only ceased, but the migration was the other way, and we know how the volume began to swell in 1879, 1880, 1881 and 1882, until it had risen to the largest figures that ever marked the flow of immigration into the United States.

We hear that the Government propose to adopt the Torrens system for the transfer of property in the North-West. I think the system will answer there very well. I would not like to see it applied in the older provinces, more particularly in the Province of Ontario, with whose laws I am more familiar, inasmuch as I do not think it would be suitable where there are intricate titles from antecedent titles. In the North-West the titles are few as yet, and lands have not so freely changed hands, and the Torrens system can be safely and easily introduced there.

For the third time we are told that it is proposed to introduce a bill for the purpose of giving us more uniform representation through the elective franchise. I have never favored that view, because I think it is a matter that ought to have been left with the provincial authorities. I think there is less danger of political interference with the franchise where it is left entirely with the local authority to form the basis upon which the electors shall be permitted to vote. It will give rise, no doubt, to the appointment of revising barristers, and a host of appointments altogether in the interests of the political party that for the time being has control of the patronage of the country. It therefore leaves the system open to the imputation of being fostered with the view to the aiding in that way of the political party that makes the appointment of the officers whose duty it will be to bring it into operation.

A provisional arrangement, we are told, has been made between the Dominion and