

in speaking of the exodus, said it was not to be wondered at because England, Ireland and Scotland had to suffer from a similar exodus, and the New England States had lost their population in many parts, and he added that it was a characteristic of the Anglo-Saxon to go westward until he had circled the globe. I hope sincerely that the exodus from Canada is about circling the globe, and is now on the home-stretch back to Canada. The hon. gentleman has given his view in that connection, only it was somewhat marred by the fact that somehow, when the the people of the Western States start on their journey west, they keep within their own boundaries and do not cross over into our territory, and what I lament is the fact that while we are losing our own population we are not gaining any from the other side. It is lamentable, when we take our last census returns, to find that in Canada we are not able to retain our own natural increase of population, but that all the immigrants that come to our country and a percentage of the natural increase of our people have left us and gone somewhere else. That is a question I do not like to dwell upon any more than upon the depreciation of real estate. I do not mention it in a spirit of depreciation, nor did the hon. member for South Oxford so refer to it, but we simply point to the fact and ask that the Government should give it their attention and see whether there is not some way to be found by which a better state of things could be brought about and our young men kept in the country. The hon. gentleman spoke of the English market and of the differential duties which he anticipated would be imposed by the British Government upon farm products, and he said if the British Government would charge other countries five cents or ten cents a bushel on their grain, the English market would be a grand market for us. Are we to understand that the hon. gentleman was put up to answer my hon. friend from South Oxford in order to give this House and the country the first intimation that our Government are about to adopt the scheme of Imperial Federation as their policy? He said he was glad to see that the Finance Minister had given a ray of hope in his Budget speech with regard to an extension of trade with England and then he went on to give his own views of the direction in which legislation would tend to the benefit of this country by Imperial Federation between Great Britain and her colonies, differential duties being imposed by Great Britain on the products we are able to send her, but I do not see, from his remarks, what it is we are to do for Great Britain in return for these differential duties. I do not see what part of the hon. gentlemen's scheme will in any way turn to her advantage. Is it part of the hon. gentleman's scheme that Canada shall, in her turn, open her markets to the manufactures of Great Britain? I put him that question. He has been willing to answer me on several occasions this evening, sometimes without even my requesting him to do so, and might I ask him for an expression of his views on this point? Is he prepared to say on behalf of this Government that they entertain the project of admitting British manufactures of all kinds free into this country?

Mr. WELDON. Will the hon. gentleman say whether he is opposed to such a scheme?

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). I do not think the hon. gentleman is as candid as he might be. He has posed as a statesman to-night. He denounced my hon. friend from South Oxford as being no statesman, and proposes to us a policy, in opposition to that of my hon. friend, of differential duties on the part of Great Britain in favour of colonial goods, and he is bound to state whether, as a necessary condition of that policy being adopted by Great Britain, the Government propose to admit English goods free.

Mr. WELDON. I did not say a word about Imperial Federation.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). The hon. gentleman did not use the term, but spoke of our trade with Great Britain; and will he tell us whether he had not in his mind, when speaking of differential duties, the idea of a federation of Britain and her colonies?

Mr. WELDON. That does not matter.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). The hon. gentleman is not candid enough to admit that. I think the change predicted here by my hon. friend cannot mean anything else. And in confirmation of this I will just read a report of the hon. gentleman's remarks in a newspaper interview after the elections, concerning the Imperial tariff. He said:

"The time has come when England must choose between abandoning Canada or agreeing to an Imperial tariff that will give Canadian products a preference in the British markets in return for a preference to British manufactures in Canadian markets."

He does admit it. When the hon. gentleman could say so to the newspaper reporters, why should he not be candid enough to make the same statement here when I ask him to do so in the most pleasant manner possible? He continued:

"If England will not do this, annexation is not only probable but appears to be the inevitable destiny of Canada."

Some hon. MEMBERS. Treason.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). That is a bad shape in which, according to the hon. gentleman, we find ourselves. I do not think there is much hope that British statesmen, in their present state of mind, will give these differential duties, and I am very sure that, whatever our Government might otherwise do, the Red Parlour which controls it will not quietly submit to allowing British manufactures to come in free. I think, therefore, this scheme of the hon. gentleman is rather in the distant future; and I am afraid, if he is a true prophet, and he poses as one to-night, since, having denounced my hon. friend from South Oxford as a false prophet, the inference follows that he must consider himself a true one, our only alternative, according to him, is annexation, and that is a black outlook for this country. He will have to go to Washington. With reference to the English market, a great deal was said during the late election, when we were discussing the policy of the Liberal party and that of the Government, about the British market being our natural market and providing us with an outlet for our products; and it was said that we should do nothing to destroy that market. Why, Sir, if we were to adopt reciprocity with the United States, how would that destroy the market of England for Canadian agriculturists? What is the fact? The British market is as open to-day to