

"The growth in wealth," says Sir Charles Dilke, "of the Dominion, by every test that can be applied, has been rapid since Confederation but more rapid since the adoption of the Protectionist policy than it was before that moment." What are Sir Charles Dilke's tests? The flower of our people have been leaving us and are still leaving us by thousands. The value of farm property in Ontario has sunk twenty-three millions in seven years, and the North-West remains unpeopled; while the success of the protected manufactures themselves may be measured by the avowal of the late Senator Macdonald at a meeting of the Board of Trade, that the capital invested in his branch of trade would not be worth more than 33 per cent. of its face value if exposed to free competition. Meantime the public debt has been growing apace. There has been of late a rush into Canada, as well as into the United States and other countries, of British capital seeking investment, which gives us a fillip, but is an addition to our debt. Sir Charles Dilke takes the growth of Toronto for an indication of general prosperity. But the true account of the matter is given in another part of his own book, where he describes the set of Australian population to the cities. Our towns and even our smaller cities are almost without exception stationary or in decay. The exodus, while it is a disastrous drain, is a safety-valve for the escape of discontent, without which more would be heard even in England about the real effects of Canadian Protection.

In the midst of his Imperialism Sir Charles lets fall some notable admissions. Not in his chapter on Canada but in his chapter on the West Indies, he says: "If there were no Custom Houses between Canada and the United States, the bulk of the Dominion trade—indeed, comparatively speaking, almost the whole of it—would be done by the Canadians with their continental neighbours." He also says that "although the official position of the British Empire and the United States may be so distinct as to be sometimes antagonistic the peoples themselves are—not only in race and language, but in laws