

those who brought about that state of things. When we call attention to the enormous loss of people which is going on from the great Province of Ontario, when we know that 60,000 or 80,000 people a year are lost to that Province by the misgovernment of these gentlemen, they tell us it is unpatriotic, but it is not unpatriotic to cause this exodus of our people. When we condemned the gross and flagrant corruption which they have displayed in dealing with so many things in this North-West country, it is unpatriotic, because it reflects on the honour of these hon. gentlemen; but it is not unpatriotic to take tens of thousands of acres of land and sell them for one-quarter of their value to Lieutenant-Governors of the Provinces. It is very unpatriotic for my hon. friend to point out these facts, but it is not unpatriotic for these gentlemen to misgovern the North-West, as my hon. friend has shown they have misgoverned it. Sir, the hon. gentleman says we will not endorse the complaints of the people of the North-West. What have we been doing night after night but calling attention to the consequence of the Tariff which these hon. gentlemen imposed, under which we all suffer, but under which the people of the North-West suffer most and worst of all. Have we not called attention again and again to the dishonest exercise of the veto power made by these hon. gentlemen. Have we not called attention again and again to the reservations which have taken place all over the North-West, and yet this same hon. gentleman claims credit for his sacrifices for the benefit of the people of the North-West. He tells us that he and his colleagues staked office and lost it to build a railway to the North-West. Why, Sir, they staked office, and they lost it in the attempt to debauch the electorate of Canada. That is how and why they left office, and I say there is no viler page in the history of the country than that which records the mode and manner in which they left office in 1873. And these are the men who talk to us about our conduct in exciting discontent, about our designing to come into the Government of this country over the ruins of the country. Sir, if these hon. gentlemen unhappily retain office much longer, I am afraid there will not even be the ruins. They talk about stopping immigration into Manitoba, and they are the men under whose policy Ontario alone has lost 234,000 of the best of her people within the last four years. I say that 234,000 people, nearly one-fourth of a million of the people of Ontario, have been to all intents and purposes driven out of it by the misconduct and misgovernment of these hon. gentlemen. And they talk about having a vote struck down in the Estimates to bring in immigration. Why, Sir, the vote which was taken the other night expressly declared that we were perfectly willing to bring in all persons except mechanics and artisans, and if the Minister knows anything about what is going on in Canada, he knows too well that under this policy, which was to remove all distress, there are thousands of people to-day in the different cities of Canada who are unable to obtain employment. Sir, he talks of danger; he talks of the unholy objects of these people. Well, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. gentleman what he would have us do. When we find that the country is being misgoverned, does the hon. gentleman suppose that we are going to supplicate interviews with him and his colleagues, and confide to them, with whispered humbleness, our views as to the dangers which await this country? Here, on the floor of this House, is the place where we have to tell the hon. gentlemen what we think of their policy; and it is in the discharge of a public duty that my hon. friend has spoken to-night, as he ought to speak, calmly and temperately, asking the consideration of this Government to what the people of Manitoba demand—not desiring to prejudice the controversy, but asking simply that their demands should be considered and adjudicated on by the Government.

Now, Sir, it is quite idle to ignore these complaints. It is quite idle for the hon. gentleman to blind himself to this discontent which he knows to exist, of which so many evidences and proofs have been accumulated by my hon. friend, which are known to exist by everybody who pays the slightest attention to the affairs of the North-West—I say it is quite idle for the hon. gentleman to suppose that there is any use in shutting our eyes to the plain and patent fact that the great proportion of the settlers of Manitoba and the North-West are at this moment very seriously dissatisfied with the policy of that hon. gentleman and his colleagues. Sir, the hon. gentleman said one thing that is true. He said that these complaints would go far. I am very sorry to say that they will—that mischief will be done by them. But I say that is the very strongest proof of the substantial justice of these complaints. Who are the men who have been making them? Why, Sir, they are the very men whose interests are most of all bound up—far more than the hon. gentleman's—in everything that can possibly promote the prosperity of that country; and if you find these men, who know that so well, indulging in these complaints to their own detriment, you may be sure that the oppression has been grievous indeed which has induced them to speak as they have done. I regret, Sir, myself, that they should have gone so far as to declare that Manitoba desired no immigrants. For once I agree with the hon. gentleman that that is to be regretted. But we know on better authority than his that there is an oppression which drives men mad; and very much that kind of oppression has been perpetrated by himself and his colleagues on the great mass of the settlers of Manitoba. Now, Sir, let us examine the position for a few minutes, and ask ourselves a few plain questions: What makes Manitoba and the North-West of such great value to the people of old Canada? What makes it worth our while to expend enormous sums of money in that country? The hon. gentleman knows that if to the cost of the Canadian Pacific Railway, or to the sum we are obliged to pay for it, you add the sum already expended in that country in one way or other, you will find that about a hundred millions of our money will in all probability be spent in that enterprise. He knows, too, that in the expenditure in other directions, such as on Indians, Mounted Police, and the immigration service, which is chiefly for that country, enormous annual charges amounting to no less than \$2,000,000 a year are incurred. Now I ask of what value is that great expenditure to us? Why, Sir, the value lies wholly here—that Manitoba and the North-West, if wisely and well administered, would provide homes for all that enormous mass of people who for many years back have been daily and hourly quitting Canada and finding homes elsewhere. My chiefest charge, Sir, against these hon. gentlemen is this—that their policy has been such that the people of Canada who ought to have found homes in their own country have been driven into the United States to find homes there. Sir, so far from thinking that the hon. gentlemen are entitled to any credit for what they have done for Manitoba, I say that, they have grossly neglected their opportunities. I say that with common prudence, common energy and common care, four or five times the number of people now in that country might have been brought there; and, what is more, they would have been our own fellow-citizens, who, as I said, have been driven to seek homes in the United States. More, Sir; once you have established a drift away of our people, it is to be remembered that that drift lasts. Every man who goes from Canada to the United States is apt to bring many others in his train. That we have seen, that we know; and every scrap of evidence laid before us—from the Census of the United States, as well as from the statistics of our own Provinces, points in the same direction; it all shows that the impolicy of the Government