

when it was in their interest to do so. He had not heard any gentleman on this side of the House say that the National Policy had caused people to emigrate, and he did not think it had driven many people out of the country. The point taken by the Opposition was not that the National Policy had driven the people away, but that it had failed to keep them in Canada. Any hon. gentleman who had been in the House while the late Government was in power could not have forgotten the chapter of lamentations, mourning and woe expressed by hon. gentlemen opposite in regard to people leaving the country. They said that when they got into power they would build up the industries of the country, find employment for our young men, and that the exodus would be stopped. The Opposition claimed that the policy of the present Government had failed entirely; that in reality the exodus had increased. He did not know how much it had increased. He knew it was very hard for them to live in the country and feed and clothe their families. His hon. friend from Middlesex stated it was necessary for them to look this matter in the face. It was impossible for them to prevent people going to a country where they could better themselves. They did not claim that that could be done. They only remembered what the present Government had said when they were out of power, and only referred to the matter to prove that their assertions had been groundless. They had deceived the people with the cry that if they got into power they would give employment to everybody, and that no person would be compelled to leave the country. People were found leaving faster than ever. In the county he represented, in a great many instances the able-bodied men were going to the United States. He would like any hon. gentleman from New Brunswick or Prince Edward Island to rise in his place and say that the exodus is not greater than ever before. The hon. the Minister of Finance does not say that they are not going away by thousands, he only says that two thousand came back. He (Mr. Gillmor), would be surprised if any representative from New Brunswick would rise in his place and say that the exodus from that Province has not been astonishing. He believed it was the same with respect to Nova Scotia. He did not believe that any hon. member from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, or Prince Edward Island would rise in his place and say the people were not going away in thousands. He had been informed that in two years 1,000 able-bodied men had left the county of Carleton; they could not leave at the same rate in the future. He did not know whether the National Policy would keep them there or not; but they were not there to go. He did not blame the Government for not stopping them. It was out of their power to do so, they cannot prevent them. It might be that increase of business would stop the exodus for the present, because it would give more employment. But will any hon. gentlemen have the hardihood to tell an intelligent people that they had anything to do with increasing the price of lumber. Would they dare to do it? No. What had they done to keep people in the country? The National Policy had started some manufacturing, it had started one factory in the county he represented. It was a soap factory and gave employment to three or four men, but that was a small number of people in a county with from 25,000 to 30,000. Hon. gentleman opposite sing a different song now. Formerly the statement was dragged into every speech that the people were leaving the country. Now Quebec was quite satisfied, every body was well to do. Nevertheless, in Maine they were appointing postmasters who could speak French in order to meet the requirements of French settlers. People left the country to better their condition, because they received higher wages in the United States, and because it is more prosperous than Canada. He regretted the fact, but no Government could prevent emigration, but hon. gentlemen opposite when before the people at the last

Mr. GILLMOR.

elections endeavored to convince the people that they could do so. There was no policy, which a Government could adopt to keep its people within the country, except that of making the taxation as light as possible; and any Government which imposed heavy taxes humbugged the people and did not deal honestly with them. There had never been at any previous period in New Brunswick, such an extensive exodus as had taken place within the last two years; and no member from New Brunswick, on either side of politics could truthfully say to the contrary. In both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick the same state of things prevailed. Hon. gentlemen opposite did not wish to refer to this question now, and probably there was nothing practical to be gained by it; but it was pleasant as a set-off to the charges brought against the late Government. Our young people were emigrating to the United States, because it had a less burthen of debt than Canada. In spite of an enormous war, its debt was only \$38 per head, as against \$40 in Canada, without any war, army or navy expenses, while here taxes are imposed on the bread, fuel and clothing of the people. Yet the hon. gentlemen opposite still promise that a blessed time is coming. That had been the promise of the Finance Minister for twenty-five years. There was always a good time coming, if we lived long enough; meanwhile the public burdens were being rolled up, and the people were being crushed. The people were leaving the country, and they were acting rightly if they could better their condition.

Mr. WALLACE (South Norfolk) said that hon. gentlemen opposite were continually expressing regret at the great emigration from this country, yet they never lost an opportunity of giving publicity to it. It was desirable that the real facts connected with—if it was true—that statement should be brought down by the Minister of Agriculture, in which he promised to prove that the great exodus was not correct, as was alleged by the returns of the Custom-house officer at Port Huron. He (Mr. Wallace) could not agree with the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) that there was a great emigration from the north riding of that county last year. The hon. member for North Norfolk has placed the emigration at from 3½ to 5 per cent. of the population. Taking the population of the county at 30,000, that would amount to from 1,000 to 1,500, or from 200 to 300 families. He could not believe that there was anything like that emigration from the county of Norfolk. He thought that the statistics would prove that that was altogether over-stated. The emigration from the country was not as great during the last two years preceding the advent to power of the present Government as it had been during the past two years. He thought if hon. gentlemen would reflect for a moment it would be very easy to account for that fact. They left their country to better their condition. Now, what was the condition of the American industries between the years 1873 and 1878? Every man knew that there was a commercial depression, that during that period workshops were closed to a very large extent. They know, as stated by the people of that country themselves, that the United States was filled with tramps. He would ask what inducement there was to any man to leave Canada and go to a country, where such a state of things existed, to look for employment, and go there without a hope of bettering his condition. He thought that fact alone would account for the lesser emigration during that period. The manufacturing industries of that country give a greater diversity of employment to our young men, who, not wanting to go into farming, find a better scope for their abilities. By developing the industries of this country, thereby giving employment to everybody, increasing the wages, and inducing immigration to the country, will be found the diversity of employment required to keep our young men here. That was what was contemplated by the National Policy, and