

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Especially is that the case when my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior couples a somewhat free-trade speech with the presence of two resolutions on the Order paper, by means of which the government are proposing to adopt the most extreme form of protection you can possibly get in this country—absolutely the most extreme form of protection, as any ordinary text-book will show my hon. friend, if he will consult it. When the hon. gentleman says in one breath that it is absolutely impossible to get people to return to agriculture and after they have abandoned it and gone to other pursuits, and when he assigns that as a reason for not getting people who are leaving the eastern provinces to go to the North-west and when, in the next breath, he tells us that he has three emigration agents appointed to get that very class of people to come back from the United States, he is taking up a contradictory position. People from the maritime provinces are going to the United States almost as fast as they ever were.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Victoria, N.S.). No.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). If my hon. friend will be good enough to consult the census returns of the United States and the state of Massachusetts, he will find that in the five years since this government came into power, nearly 50,000 Canadians went to the state of Massachusetts alone.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Victoria, N.S.). I know that quite a number have come back.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I am talking of those who have gone.

Mr. DAVIS. How many went in the five years before?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). A large proportion of Canadians went to Massachusetts during the five years this government has been in power, as well as during the five years preceding. If my hon. friend from Saskatchewan will look into the reports he will find that to be the case.

Mr. SCOTT. They were too poor to move before.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). That is a very valuable remark no doubt, but speaking for the people of the maritime provinces—I am not prepared to speak for the people of the west—I do not think they were too poor to move in the five years before this government came into power.

Mr. SCOTT. Many in the west were.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Victoria, N.S.). My hon. friend knows about that. I was not speaking of the people of the west, my remarks were directed to the condition of affairs in the maritime provinces, and, however valuable my hon. friend's interjections may be when they are in point, they are not exactly in point in this case. I was dealing

with the question of emigration from the province of Nova Scotia and the other maritime provinces, a territory with which I am, perhaps, as familiar as is my hon. friend from Western Assiniboia (Mr. Scott). I say that statement has been made in this House and not challenged, but verified by the figures of the census records of the United States and the state of Massachusetts. My hon. friend speaks of the people of Canada as being too poor to move. That remark is not exactly consistent with the statements reiterated over and over again by him and some of his friends, that these people did move out during the period before this government came into power.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. May I ask the hon. gentleman, is there a yearly census taken from which these figures are compiled?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The United States take their census every ten years, and Massachusetts takes its census every ten years at intermediate times between two censuses of the United States. That is the United States takes its census in 1890 or 1891—I have forgotten exactly the year—and the state of Massachusetts would take its census in 1895 or 1896. In this way it is shown that in the year 1900 or 1901, there were about fifty thousand more Canadians in the state of Massachusetts than there were in the year 1895 or 1896.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. There were state enumerators in one case—

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Yes, and United States enumerators in the other. I stated that when I made the comparison. The Minister of the Interior has referred to the gratification which every one feels at the increased immigration into the North-west Territories. But when the hon. minister says: We have increased the number of homestead entries; we have increased the immigration, might I venture to point out one thing which I think he will admit, and that is that one splendid crop in the North-west Territory does more to bring this immigration into Canada than all that the Department of the Interior could do in ten years. I think he will not be prepared to dispute that. And the two good crops we have had in the North-west Territories in the past two years, which may be attributed by some enthusiastic friends of the minister to the efforts of the government—

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. We had these good crops during the period when hon. gentlemen opposite were in power.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I say that these two good crops that we have had in the North-west Territories have done more to bring settlers into the North-west Territories than anything the Department of the Interior has done. And, no doubt, when there were good crops under the previous