

Mr. CHARLTON said they were not discussing imports. The hon. Minister of Agriculture said we were receiving a very large immigration from the United States. Had he any means of informing us what that immigration last year amounted to.

Mr. POPE. I have ; but not with me.

Mr. CHARLTON said he hoped the hon. Minister would not delay in producing it. He felt some curiosity as to the extent of the information the hon. Minister had on this subject. The United States Bureau of Statistics a few days ago issued their report on immigration for the six months ending 31st of December last, which gave the result of the immigration for the year. The annual report would not be issued for a few days yet. According to the report he mentioned, the immigration to the United States last year was not only unusually larger from Canada, but from all parts of the world. It reached 586,068, if any reliance could be placed on the United States statistics, but he supposed the hon. Minister of Agriculture would consider the report mere guess work. The immigration exceeded that of the three previous years. It was 125,000 greater than the largest immigration in any previous year in the history of the country. Over half of that came from Great Britain and her dominions. Great Britain furnished 296,025; about one-seventh—or 84,794 came from Ireland, and 134,728 are said to have come from the Dominion of Canada. That was for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1880. The increase in population of the United States during the last decade had been 11,594,188; the increase due to immigration had been 3,006,245, leaving 8,587,943 due to other causes. The increase by immigration during the last year was 70 per cent. as great as the average annual natural increase for the last ten years. The emigration from Canada to the United States—if these statistics were reliable—amounted to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the total population of the Dominion. Although those statistics were discredited, he believed that no hon. gentleman who had any knowledge as to the condition of affairs in Canada could be ignorant of the fact that a very large emigration had taken place to the United States during the past year. He believed it would be the testimony of every member of the House that in his own particular locality this movement had been greater than at any previous time. In his own locality the movement had been unusually large; and while the population of the whole of Canada had decreased $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. by this emigration, he had no doubt that in his own locality the decrease due to emigration to the United States was from 5 to 10 per cent. It was an indisputable fact that in many parts of the country the movement had assumed vast proportions. His business led him to visit the United States frequently, he had crossed the boundary at Port Huron he presumed a score of times during the last few years, and he had noticed great numbers of emigrants crossing at that port. He had seen loaded trains, a large proportion of whose passengers were emigrants for the western States—not only on the Grand Trunk Railway, but on the Great Western as well. He had seen the streets of Port Huron, of Saginaw, and of Bay City, thronged with Canadians who were moving over from their own country to the United States in large numbers. He had no doubt, from personal observation—from his own experience as an eye witness—that the figures which had been given as to the extent of the exodus were substantially correct. But he had not merely the evidence of personal observation, for any person travelling in Northern Michigan must be impressed with the fact that a large proportion of the population of that country were Canadians. He had made inquiries of intelligent men in Northern Michigan, as to the relative proportion of Canadians to the whole population, and he had never known any man put the proportion at less than one-fourth, and the best informed had told him that in that part of the State at least

Mr. BOWELL.

one-half the population, were Canadians. One of the principal newspapers in the west—a paper published in London—published a special edition for the benefit of its Michigan readers who had emigrated from Canada.

Mr. BOWELL. You do not mean to say that they have all gone in there within the last few years?

Mr. CHARLTON said he was not saying that they had all gone in during the last two years, but he said the population of Northern Michigan was possibly one-half Canadian, that the accession to their number during the last year had been immense, and that from what he had seen himself, and from what he had obtained from trustworthy witnesses, he did not believe the extent of the exodus had been exaggerated by the statistics which had been given. It was perfectly natural that hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches should attempt to discredit the authenticity of the American statistics with reference to this matter. He did not claim that these statistics were absolutely correct, but he did claim that they were substantially correct. He had no doubt from the evidence of his own eyes that our population were drifting away from us with great rapidity; he had no doubt that we had lost last year 134,000 souls by emigration to America as the statistics of the latter country demonstrated. And these men who were crossing over were the very flower of the population of this country—not the old, the decrepit, or the infants, but men in the very prime of life. In Northern Michigan they would find one-half or two-thirds of the stalwart men who were engaged in the lumber woods there were from Canada, and they would find that in Minnesota, Dakota, and the other Western States, Canada contributed the best kind of immigrants. The United States pointed with pride to the fact that they received more immigrants from Canada last year than from Germany; that of the 586,000 they received as immigrants from the whole world, nearly 135,000 were from Canada, and they had no objection to receiving such immigrants still more rapidly. They were offering every inducement to bring them there, and it certainly spoke little for the wisdom of the policy adopted in this country that this emigration movement should continue so large and increase so rapidly. He thought that hon. gentlemen opposite, instead of attempting to discredit the well authenticated reports of American officials; instead of taking refuge behind the plea that the information was false; instead of insulting the officials of a powerful neighbor, might better own up that their policy had not increased the prosperity of this country—own up that in consequence of the policy they had adopted, our population was drifting away from us. It certainly was drifting away from us. He believed these statistics were correct, notwithstanding all the assertions that the Minister of Agriculture might make to the contrary. He believed that the statistics of the Collector of Customs at Port Huron were to be relied upon, and that the Minister of Agriculture has cast on that officer a needless taunt and a gratuitous insult.

Mr. WHITE (Renfrew) said, that if hon. gentlemen opposite were sincerely desirous of preventing the exodus of which they had heard so much they would refrain from so repeatedly presenting to Canadians the advantages of settlement in the United States, as they had been persistently doing since the advent to power of the present Government. They all knew that, during the last two Sessions of Parliament, these hon. gentlemen had been doing their best to point out to our people that the advantages presented by settlement in the United States were much greater than could be offered to settlers in Canada, and surely they did not imagine that statements of this kind made by leading politicians on the floor of this House would have no effect. If these hon. gentlemen believed in these statements about the