

published? People will say, and they will be justified by appearances in saying: We cannot trust the reports of those delegates which we have seen in print, because we know that others which have cast reflections on your trade policy have not been allowed to be published; we believe that only those who reported what was favourable to the Government were allowed to report at all; and, therefore, we distrust the whole story. Therefore, I say the suppression of these reports is an injustice to the country at large. Now, the action of the Minister intensifies that bad impression. He refuses to permit this motion to pass at present, for the alleged reason that he wants to see the reports when they come, in order to judge whether they are fit for publication. He, therefore, admits that a Government censorship is to be exercised over the reports, which destroys the value of all the reports which have been published.

Mr. CHARLTON. Mr. Speaker, the proposition made by the hon. leader of the House to have this debate adjourned, is equivalent to placing in the hands of the Government the power of using their discretion whether this report should be made public or not. Before this report will be received from England, the Government will have taken the days devoted to private business in this House, and this motion cannot be again reached in its order this session. Now, Sir, it is evident to me that there is a desire on the part of the Government to suppress this report, for I am informed that the Minister of Agriculture had an interview with those delegates, and if he failed to read the report which was submitted to him, I think it is a very significant circumstance that that report was sent back to England. From the conversations he had with those delegates, he must have been aware of the character of this report; and if it told against the policy of the Government, I deem it a high-handed act on the part of the Government to decline to make it public. These farmer delegates come to the country, having been appointed by the High Commissioner of Canada, in England, charged with the duty of investigating the agricultural resources of certain sections of this Dominion. That report was made for the purpose of being laid before English farmers, and securing if possible immigration to Canada. I presume, Sir, that the gentlemen selected for this purpose were men possessing some knowledge of their business; I presume that they travelled with their eyes open; and I think that the people of this country and of the world may learn something from the impressions which these gentlemen gathered in the course of their tour. If we are to have everything suppressed which does not accord with the views of the Government, if we are to have every utterance or opinion of a delegate or an employé of the Government suppressed because it tells against the policy of the Government, we might as well have a Star Chamber at once; we might as well have no investigation at all; and I denounce this as a high-handed act on the part of the Government, to decline to publish this report, upon the flimsy pretext that the Minister never read it before sending it to England. Sir, the Minister knew the character of that report, and there are men in Canada who know its character, and, if necessary, it could be given to the public without the consent of the Government. The Government suppress it be-

cause it asserts that the farmers of this Dominion require access to their natural market, with the 65,000,000 people to the south of us before they can secure prosperity, and the Government have deliberately suppressed that opinion, expressed by their own chosen servants who were sent to this country to investigate it as a field for immigration and who have had the honesty and uprightness to tell the truth without colouring it for the purpose of advancing the interests of this Government. I do not believe that this debate should be adjourned. I do not believe that the motion of my hon. friend from Huron should be denied. I believe that we should insist that if there is such a report in existence, that report should be made public.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). I think the Government did very well and wisely when they invited the English farmers' delegates to come to this country for the purpose of ascertaining whether Canada was a desirable place to live in. This investigation has cost the country a large sum of money, and we are entitled to receive the opinions which these delegates formed during their stay in this country. The personal expenses of these delegates amounted to \$6,811; we have also paid over \$20,000 for the printing and distribution of the report which is made by them, and \$2,000 which was spent on parties who attended the delegation in different sections of the country while they were gathering information. Here is nearly \$30,000 which it has cost this country to bring these delegates from England to examine this country as to whether it was the proper place to urge immigrants to come to settle in. At the same time I understand that these delegates were told that they were not to deal with any political issues at all, and I believe that a private report to the Government brought in referred to the prejudicial effects of the National Policy on this country. I am satisfied that something of that kind has been said in this report, or it would have appeared in the House before this. Is the reason for its non-appearance that it contained anything derogatory to the National Policy, which has been now in force for ten or twelve years? I have no doubt that when these delegates came to Nova Scotia, and looked at its vast resources, when they saw its vast stores of iron and coal, they considered that if we had free trade with the United States those resources would have been developed to an extent we can now have little idea of. I have no doubt that when they visited the eastern provinces and saw the great market to the south, which the National Policy has shut out from them, they came to the conclusion that if Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island are to become desirable places for immigration, we must change our fiscal policy. In the face of all this, can you expect, Sir, that we, as an Opposition having the interests of the country at heart, would fail to insist that the opinions of those men should be placed before Parliament and the country? There are several conditions in a country required to make it a desirable place to live in; and those delegates no doubt came to the conclusion that while we have a very fine climate and fertile soil and any amount of cultivable land fit for settlement, which the Government has placed at the disposal of immigrants at very low rates and easy terms of payment, they also became impressed