

all disadvantages, faster than old countries like England, or many countries in Europe, and be the alteration in value what he pleases, it is a proof, I repeat, of arrested development, that the volume of trade to-day in Canada is nearly \$20,000,000 a year less than it was fifteen years ago. Now there was another note I gave, that was the failure to settle the new territory we had acquired. Sir, this also, is a matter of notoriety. Here we have their own census returns, showing the most lamentable failure, showing, if they are to be believed at all, that such was the result of policy of the Government that of 166,000 settlers who went to the North-West and settled there with the intention of remaining, only 44,000 were found by actual count five or six years thereafter. Now, Sir, very recently, for four or five hours together, this House rang with declarations from hon. gentlemen representing that country, setting forth the unexampled fertility, setting forth the unexampled excellence, setting forth the beauties of that country in terms so glowing that I came to the conclusion that really and truly the earthly paradise was situated north of latitude 49, and that Regina was only another name for Eden—if only Mr. Commissioner Herchmer were removed. Sir, cannot these gentlemen see that every word that was said then, every word that is said now, (and much of it may be said truly) in praise of the fertility, in praise of the excellence, in praise of the resources, in praise of the chances of development of that country, are the severest possible condemnation of the Government opposite, who have squandered 100 millions of the people's money in pretending to promote colonisations, and have only this beggarly and miserable account of settlement to exhibit for it to-day? Sir, I come to another point which may fairly be said to be in dispute, where again I give a challenge to these hon. gentlemen. When talking about the proofs of the decrease in the value of property in Canada, I say that to my certain knowledge, to the certain knowledge of scores of friends whom I see here, in the great Province of Ontario more particularly, there has been, in the last 8 or 10 years, a great and notable depreciation in the value of farm lands. I believe that if proper investigation were had, if these hon. gentlemen would do as I asked them, if they would appoint a proper committee of members of this House, with power to investigate this matter thoroughly, then we would have had, and I am very sorry for it, the most unanswerable proof that over the greater portion of the Province of Ontario, over the greater portion of the 20 millions acres of farm land which it contains, there has been a very great reduction in the actual selling value, amounting, in all probability, to something like 8 or 10 dollars per acre for every one of these 20 million acres. That is the statement which I make, that is a statement which I know, from friends who are very largely interested in forming correct conclusions on this subject, represents probably less than the entire reduction in the selling value; and if you want to frame a true national balance sheet, you have got to set such a reduction as that in the selling value of the farm lands in Ontario—of the other Provinces I do not venture to speak—as an offset against your little petty addition to the savings bank deposits, and the deposits in the other banks, and a score of these other indices of prosperity on which the hon. gentleman so much relied. Now as to the increase of the debt, the hon. gentleman knows as well as I do that all this sophistry, all this petty quibbling evasion, will not avail to alter the fact that Canada entered Confederation with a debt of 75 millions, whereas to-day, on the first of March, the net debt is 236 millions, with very doubtful assets for part of the remainder—will not avail to alter the fact that 21 years ago the total taxation of Canada was about 11 millions, and to-day, on his own showing, the total taxation of Canada is 31 millions, or he expects it to be—it won't avail to alter these things, nor is it in the slightest use

for him to waste the time of the House, or to waste his own time, in innumerable calculations as to the development of certain minor industries here and there, or the question whether our taxation per head is a few cents more or a few cents less than that of the United States. Now as to immigration, here again I present to the hon. gentleman his own statements. If these statements have one scintilla of truth, if the estimated population be correct, if the statements in the hon. gentleman's other returns and statistics are correct, it is only too clear that there has been a monstrous loss of the people of Canada. If indeed those immigrants whom the hon. gentleman says came here, have come and settled here, then three-quarters of a million of the best of our people have gone from us. That is the inevitable result, and to that I again call the attention of the hon. gentleman. Sir, it is known to everybody that all through the rural districts of Ontario there is scarcely a single county where the rural population is gaining to-day; there may be gains in a few towns, there may be gains in a few cities, but the rural population is stationary, is in a position of arrested development, and one of the main causes of that is the unjust and oppressive incidence of taxation, particularly on the agricultural portion of this community.

Mr. HESSON. The farmers in Ontario have been enlarging their farms, where they had fifty acres, they now have 100, where they had 100 they now have 200.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Then the others have gone, and they who owned the fifty acres and the 100 acres have departed. Gentlemen, like my hon. friend have been laying field to field and buying up farms, and the bold yeomanry who used to send him here, have departed to the other side of the line. Why, Sir, within a few miles of my hon. friend's residence there stands the little town of Brussels, which I formerly had the honor of representing, and from it I was sent the other day—not for the purpose of using it here, it was a mere matter of investigation on the part of an enterprising newspaper proprietor—I was sent an account of the number of men—not women and children—who had gone from the little town of Brussels, with a total population of 1,200 souls, within the last ten years. How many would the hon. gentleman suppose there were? Twelve hundred souls would represent about 250 adults, males, I suppose, and seventy of them were found to be now residents in the United States. Their names were given, their residences were given. From the little town of Brussels alone seventy men, representing probably seventy families, had gone to the United States. I hope and trust that is an extreme instance, but I am afraid it is only a fair illustration of what is taking place, not in Ontario alone, but in Nova Scotia, in Prince Edward Island, in New Brunswick, aye everywhere throughout this Dominion, and I am afraid that until it got its present Government in Manitoba as well.

Mr. HESSON. Brussels is improving every year.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I have great regard for Brussels, but that does not alter the fact that 70 men formerly resident in Brussels are now residents in the United States. As the Minister of Finance was seized with the spirit of prophecy, and as I hold it is rather dangerous to prophesy until you know, I may be permitted to call his attention to what befell a certain predecessor who likewise prophesied a few years ago. In 1882 I had a little controversy with Sir Leonard Tilley on subjects very closely akin to those I am discussing to-night. That hon. gentleman undertook to tell the House where we would find ourselves in 1890. We have nine or ten months to go upon, but here is Sir Leonard's statement, to which I call the attention of the House, delivered in the full spirit of prophecy as to where we would be in 1890. Sir Leonard declared: