

Mr. BLAKE. But the return was stated to be on the 10th of January, and that it was a return for the operations of the year.

Mr. POPE. Many of them were not in.

Mr. BLAKE. But the return was as I have stated. I once again insist on the importance of our having the opportunity, as a House of Parliament, of investigating the material on which the Government is acting—the data, and statements, and papers from which they draw these general results. Nothing can be more important to us than to be able to establish, as a fact, that there is flowing into this country as a permanent immigration of settlers here anything like the figures which the hon. gentleman states; and, therefore, it is of the greatest consequence that the material should be before us, so that we should be able to verify and speak with confidence in favour of the calculations of the Government. The hon. gentleman says, to-day, in answer to my question, that some 50,400 were the entrants into Manitoba. Even according to his own calculation of the deduction to be made, which is 17 per cent., that would give us something like 41,000 or 42,000 as his estimate of the emigration to Manitoba for the year, or of the settlement in that Province for the year. I do not believe there has been any such settlement from all I can ascertain. I believe that if there did go in the 50,000 that he speaks of, a great deal more than 8,000 left the country, if you calculate the various sources of exit and the various purposes of exit which applied during the year. From all I can hear, the figures of the hon. gentleman are exaggerated as to the settlement, if I am to assume that he is to apply to the calculation of 50,400 the deduction only of 17 per cent., and assume that the balance remained settled in the country. But even so, that balance of 41,000 or 42,000, contrasts but very unfavourably with the account which he gave us last Session: Last Session he stated with great confidence that altogether irrespective of the supposed immigration from Ireland *en masse*—the discussed arrangement for the coming out of 5,000 families—there would be 75,000 settlers in Manitoba and the North-West, for the year which has just elapsed. He declared that he expected to get in 40,000 from other countries than Canada—from European countries, and the United States practically—and the 35,000, being the balance of the 75,000, were to come from the old Provinces. His figures—assuming we apply the old deduction, which he has always applied—are not much more than one half this amount, and I believe those figures, so miserably contrasting with his promises for the year, are themselves, as I have stated, exaggerated. The hon. the First Minister declared that the estimates of the hon. gentleman were correct, that they were very moderate, that they were not at all exaggerated, and that he was quite satisfied that they would be realized. These were the statements, first, of the Minister specially charged with the matter, and secondly, of the hon. First Minister upon his particular responsibility, and this is the result of these statements, so far as they apply to the settlement of Manitoba and the North-West, according to the calculations of the hon. gentleman himself. I trust, Sir, that at an early day we shall have before us an answer to this motion. I trust we shall be shown what are the data upon which the Government brings down this general statement; that we shall be permitted to verify them; because I repeat what I said in the debate on the Address that all the calculations which are to be made from the various figures which are given—the figures of the census as contrasted with the hon. gentleman's figures of immigration and settlement year after year, the figures of the municipal census of Ontario—all the data we can obtain indicate that it is not possible that the results which he suggests can have actually been realized; that we can have added so much to the permanent settlement in our country,

Mr. POPE.

as he declares we have added, unless that permanent settlement has been effected by displacement of the native portion of the population approximately equivalent to it. That is not the case from these very figures. There has been a displacement, and a very considerable displacement, but not an equivalent displacement; and from all I can conjecture—and I desire to approach the subject with the assistance of the papers I now ask for—there has been no such permanent settlement from abroad—no such addition to our population otherwise, by the introduction from abroad either of Canadians or of citizens of other countries as the hon. gentleman calculates.

Mr. POPE. I might say to the hon. gentleman, as I said last year, that it will be impossible to give all the particulars asked for, but I will be happy to give him all the information I can. When that information is given, I suppose I shall find him doubting, as I find him doubting to-day. He will believe nothing that comes from the officers of my Department—nothing but what he sees with his own eyes. These returns are from disinterested parties; they are a count of the people going into that country and the people coming into this country. The people who make this count have no reason to exaggerate; still, the hon. gentleman will not believe them. It is true that I said last year that in my opinion there would be a larger immigration, and I believed so. I can appeal to my hon. friend as to the reasons which have prevented immigration—the reports and speeches which have been made by hon. gentlemen on the other side. I can appeal to the newspapers of these hon. gentlemen, and to what has been written in them, and ask him if that has not been enough to discourage people from going into the country. There has not been a single day in the whole season when any labouring man coming into this country could not find employment. In fact, Sir, I have not been able to half supply the demand of farmers for labourers; and yet reports are going to the other side of the water, daily and weekly, that people coming to this country can find nothing to do. That is quite sufficient to account for the falling off in the immigration into the North-West. But, upon the whole, the immigration has been nearly as large as I expected it would be.

Mr. BLAKE. Oh no, no!

Mr. POPE. Yes, nearly as large. There is a difference, but it is not a very large difference. Last year, there left Manitoba a considerable number; but there came in 15,000 more than left. I am not able to state exactly how the matter stands this year, but I shall be able to bring down the figures, and I hope I shall be able to remove some doubts from the hon. gentleman's mind as to the number of immigrants who came into the country. But let me point out that there is a difference between the immigration into the country and the actual settlers. There are labourers who also are immigrants, and when you take all together, you will find that we have not over-estimated. Every man who comes across the border reports to the Customs officers, in order to bring in his goods as settler's effects; and there can be no mistake about these entries. Then, we receive from our own agents invoices of the number of passengers in every ship; and there can be no mistake there. Whether there may be some of those who leave the country, I cannot say. Some may leave, but I cannot speak exactly as to the movement of population. If it should happen to turn out that the number who have left is not half of 17 per cent., that there is a very small percentage of the people coming out, I know the hon. gentleman would be pleased. I know he is a patriot, and regards his country above all party; I know he would be delighted to hear that no people have left that country at all. I am afraid I cannot say that there have not been a few; but I think I shall be able to show