

Governor General put in his mouth these words :—

There is good reason also to believe that the increase of population during the latter half of the decade has been very greatly in excess of the average of former years and that in the near future we may look for a much more rapid growth than occurred during the period covered by the last two censuses.

The last clause of that I have no fault to find with. We may really look for a more rapid growth during the present decade, and in the future than in the past, but I have no hesitation in saying that the statement in that speech, that there is good reason to believe that the increase in the population during the latter half of the decade has been greatly in excess of the average of former years is not true. As a very celebrated doctor of divinity in the maritime provinces used to say "it lacks the essential element," and I must say that I cannot conceive on what ground this statement could be based or what reason they have to form that opinion. The hon. leader of the opposition has shown, by the returns of settlers' effects, that the movement of our people to the United States seems to be going on towards the end of the decade just as actively as at any previous period. Those of us who live in the east, at all events, know that this is the case, and yet some three years ago the same set of advisers made the Governor General of Canada, then the Earl of Aberdeen, say that the exodus from our country had ceased. It was lamentable that the advisers of His Excellency living in this country and knowing, as they must have known, how very different was the fact, should have put such words in his mouth. It is hard to describe those words adequately without using strong language, but I must say that the words that are in the speech on the present occasion, though not so openly wrong as that was, are nevertheless lacking in foundation. We have no evidence whatever that there has been a larger increase in our population in the last five years than there was in the first half of the decade. On the contrary, if we were to reason from analogy we would say that the rate of increase during the previous ten years, from 1881 to 1891, was possibly continued into some of the earlier years of the last decade. That would be quite as reasonable a conclusion as the one which they have

given voice to in the speech. We have no evidence whatever that any such increase of the population took place towards the close of the last decennial period. There is another clause in the speech with which I have no fault to find, but upon which I wish to offer a word of comment. That is the 11th section, which reads as follows :

Our thanks are due to His Excellency for the information that his government having caused inquiry to be made has reached the conclusion that the establishment of direct steamship service with South Africa would enable Canada to secure in that country a profitable market for her varied products and to that end His Excellency will endeavour to arrange for such a service.

I have no fault to find with that and hope that such a service will be established, but I hope that when the government take up this question they will grapple with it earnestly and give a proper and good service, that they will see that not only will there be departures and sailings at certain periods, and steamships of proper power and tonnage employed for the purpose, but that these steamships will be equipped in such a way that they will take care of the perishable products of our country when they are crossing the equator to South Africa, because I can tell my hon. friend that if they do not take the right course on that point, a steam service with South Africa will only carry probably some manufactured goods and some of the coarse products, such as hay and oats. We ought to have a market in South Africa for many other things. We ought to be able to send many of the finer products of our farms there. Our cheese should find a market there, and probably in some parts of South Africa we might have a market for our fruit at some seasons of the year, and there might be some other articles of that kind, perishable in their nature, which can only be carried that great distance, and over the equator in ships which are thoroughly and properly equipped with cold storage, or more properly speaking proper ventilation in the holds, and between decks of these ships. I have no hesitation in saying, without discounting the efforts of the government in the last few years, that we are lamentably behind in the care of perishable products being carried from our country across the ocean, and unless we are able to design means by which we can