

nations would not know much of each other through commercial relations. But, as the manufacturing industries were spreading in almost every direction, the commercial relations of each country became more numerous and more extensive. Experience was there to teach us that two manufacturing countries often exchanged together products of the same kind. This was due to individual initiative. And, in order to favour individual initiative, there was certainly no better way than to diversify, as much as possible, the careers which your own people could follow. The more different careers there were open to the inhabitants of a country, the better the development of all kinds of talents and aptitude was favoured. Consequently, the mass of the people became so much more enlightened, so much more advanced in progress; while, at the same time, it was easier for a man to follow the career for which he had special aptitude, to get his living in it. And, what must be one of the principal objects and desires of a Government worthy of that name, if it was not to procure to the mass of the people the easiest means of getting along in the world, of earning their living? The hon. gentlemen of the Opposition pretended the contrary; they contended that a Ministry had nothing to do with the increase or the decrease of the prosperity of the people; that it could not legislate to help them in this way. That was the most extraordinary principle that ever was laid down so emphatically since the Christian nations had come out of the barbarous ages and assumed the control of their Governments. These hon. gentlemen were too much doctrinaires in political economy. They indirectly said to their people: "You can do this more cheaply than that, and you must do it, whether you like it or not, no matter if you have less aptitude for it than for other work." That was an absurdity. For instance, some wanted to make almost all the Canadians farmers, whether they liked or not, and were able or not to till the soil, and could succeed in that occupation. It was true that a large portion of our population made good farmers; but many had taste and aptitude for other callings. The great number of Canadians who left this country, where they could not find a

sufficient diversity of works, to go to the United States, where more protected industries offered them better employment, was a good proof of the correctness of his contention. He estimated the number of Canadians in the United States at least at six hundred thousand, including those born in Canada and those born of Canadian parents. Some people thought it was only the French Canadians who emigrated, and that it was almost impossible to prevent their emigration, attributed to their adventurous character. It was a mistake; the French Canadians preferred their native country to a foreign one, and they proved it by trying to return home as soon as they could improve their situation. And there were not only French Canadians in the United States; one could count there, also, English-speaking Canadians by thousands. For instance, there were so many Nova Scotians in Massachusetts alone that, some years ago, it was to his knowledge that there were in Boston intelligence offices exclusively kept for supplying Nova Scotian help. And he must add that Nova Scotians were highly appreciated by the Americans for their qualities as good and intelligent workers, as were, in general, all Canadians. Besides, there were about a couple of thousand of persons of British origin who, after having uselessly sought employment in Canada, for want of diversity and development of industries, had, in different times, crossed over to the other side of the frontier, and enriched the Americans with their skill and labour. So, it was not a question which affected only the sympathies of the French Canadians, but which ought to touch the feelings of all patriotic Canadians of every origin. The best way to retain our own population at home, and to attract a good immigration from the Mother Country, was to provide diversified and better employment for the working classes. The hon. the leader of the Opposition, and his hon. friend on his right (Mr. Cartwright), had laid great stress on the alleged fact that the United States were ruined by Protection. How was it, then, that a considerable part of our population was still leaving our shores to go and find employment there? But he would again answer the hon. gentleman on this point, with the utterances of the hon. gentle-