

have obtained the figures of pupils in attendance at the public schools in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and I ask the attention of the House to the results that they show. In Nova Scotia, in the year 1879, I find there were 99,094 children registered as attending the public schools of that Province. In the year 1876, three years before that, during the reign of my hon. friend from East York, there were only 94,162 children attending those schools, or in the three years there was an increase in the attendance of pupils in the schools of Nova Scotia of 4,932. I suppose one child would represent about five inhabitants. If so, it would show an increase of about 25,000 of population in the Province of Nova Scotia, between 1876 and 1879, inclusive.

Mr. CAMERON (Inverness). Hear, hear.

Mr. PATERSON. What does the hon. gentleman mean? That I estimate too many?

Mr. CAMERON. Rather fast.

Mr. PATERSON. I said one in five, did I not? I think that the figures that are given by the Minister of Education puts it at one in every five inhabitants attending school, as near as may be; and if I am not mistaken, I think New Brunswick is much the same—but I speak subject to correction. But if we take one child as representing four of a population, it gives something like 20,000 of an increase, and I think these figures will not be considered extravagant. A child going to school would be likely to have a father and a mother and a brother and a sister living, and if he had not he would be likely to have a father and a mother and one brother living, at any rate.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Besides his cousins and his aunts.

Mr. PATERSON. But, as I desire to be strictly accurate, we will not take them in this, as that would be like some of our Census returns—a compounding of figures. Taking again the pivot year of 1879, when the Tariff was introduced, you had 99,094 pupils attending the public schools of Nova Scotia. In 1882, which are the last figures I can get, what do we find? That there were 95,912 children attending public school, or a decrease in three years of pupils attending the Nova Scotia schools of 3,182, during the three years that the hon. gentleman's policy was in operation; while for the three years prior to their policy going into effect, there was an increase of 4,932. Now, Sir, these figures are taken from the Report of the Minister of Education of that Province, and he certainly has no object whatever to serve in exaggerating them. I may say that these are, perhaps, the most accurate figures it is possible for us to get, for they profess to be the actual register of the number of pupils of all kinds attending school there. Now, then, we come to the Province of New Brunswick, and what do we find? Taking the same pivot year, 1879, we find that there were attending the public schools of New Brunswick 70,889 children; taking the year 1875, there were 59,625 children attending schools, so that in the four years, from 1875 to 1879, there was an increased attendance of pupils in the New Brunswick schools of 11,264. Take the year 1879 again, as the pivot year, and there were 70,889 attending school; taking the four years from that down to 1883, under the operation of the hon. gentleman's policy—as I have the returns for 1883 in New Brunswick—and what do I find? There were but 84,581 children attending in 1883, or 6,308 less.

Mr. PAINT. They are employed now, instead of going to school.

Mr. PATERSON. They are employed now, instead of going to school! I am sorry to see any member of a Canadian Parliament rise and plead as an excuse that boys and girls who ought to be at school, through the effects of

that protective policy, have been driven into factories to earn their daily bread. But, Sir, these figures show that while there was an increase during the four years prior to this policy coming into operation, of 11,264, during the four succeeding years, while that policy was in operation, the attendance fell off 6,308. Multiply that, as I have asked you to do, on the basis of the scholars representing one in five—or, if the gentleman from Nova Scotia prefers, one in four—and they will tell a tale that, I am sorry to say, accurately bears out the conclusion forced upon us by a comparison of the American statistics of emigrants received from us, with our own statistics of immigrants that we have brought into our country. Now, then, I think I have said enough, perhaps, to warrant me in saying that I do think a case is made out with reference to the Emigration Department that calls for the most serious consideration of this House. I now propose to enter upon another branch of my subject, in order to lead up to a proposition that I desire to submit to this House, and upon which I desire them to express their opinion. Sir, if the figures I have given to you be correct—and I have shown the sources from whence they are derived, and hon. gentlemen can examine them for themselves—if the facts be as these figures declare them to be, I would ask if it is not time that the public moneys of the people of Canada should not be used for the purpose of bringing immigrants from other countries into our country, only to pass from our shores on to the shores of another country; or, if they do not do that, to displace an equal number of citizens who, without any disparagement to those who come here from abroad, I say it is more desirable for us to retain in our midst those who come to us from abroad to take their places. Now, Sir, I say, and I say it unhesitatingly, from personal knowledge, though we have been here now nearly three months, and I am free to confess that a business man shut up in the city of Ottawa, attending to his duties, having but limited correspondence with those who are left to manage his own affairs, is hardly in a position to tell exactly the actual state of affairs that exists in the country. I was impressed with this fact before I left my home to attend to my parliamentary duties, that we had, after a period of prosperity, much sooner than I could desire, much sooner, indeed, than I expected, that we had met with reverses in trade, that we had reached that stage of protection, if I might use that expression, which would come sooner or later, that we had reached it much sooner than I anticipated. As a result, I do know, though my own city is one of the busiest little cities I believe in this country, and we felt it perhaps less than other places, I could not shut my eyes to the fact that while there had been difficulty at some times during a pressure of business in some of the factories, of securing men, that that period had passed and that we were actually in a position—I myself, and others with whom I conferred, manufacturers in my own city—that we were forced to say that we regretted very much to find that we had applicants for labour to such an extent that it was painful almost to say, no, no; as we were forced to do in justice to the men that we had in our employ. And, Sir, that impression was strengthened by the fact that the newspapers told us that which had become a matter very palpable even then, that many of the manufacturing industries throughout the country, notably our cotton and woollen mills, had reached the stage in which they had over-produced, in which there was an enforced necessity for them to shut down production, and to discharge their operatives; and, Sir, from then till now, as I have been able to follow the course of events, I find this state of things, instead of becoming better, is becoming worse. I find that the wages of our workmen are being reduced, I find in the newspapers that the men in the employ of the Grand Trunk Railway Company are in consultation whether it is possible for them, or whether they will consent to a reduction of