

hon. friend has made, and which his party behind stands at his back in supporting, and that is that there is no salvation for Canada except by continental union with the United States, get it on what terms we may. That is the hon. gentleman's declaration.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. It is not.

Mr. FOSTER. He said that when the delegation went to Washington, they could have had reciprocity under certain conditions of discrimination, and he taunted my hon. friend with not getting it, and he stated in the next breath that continental free trade was the only thing to give great and durable prosperity to Canada.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Hear, hear.

Mr. FOSTER. They see no other way possible by which we could get out of the state of depression in which they say we are and obtain prosperity that would be durable and permanent. My hon. friend has made that declaration to-night, after the wars in the outside constituencies are over, after his shattered forces have come together, after they have reformed themselves in line of battle. As the chosen financial and trade exponent of the party, he waves the old flag of continental free trade as the absolute necessity for Canada in the way of permanent progress. Well, on the other side of the line, the affiliation of which in trade matters with Canada is so absolutely necessary to our very existence, as gentlemen opposite maintain, have they had a stationary condition of population? Let me call my hon. friend's attention to the North Atlantic states, nine in number, and when he is going over census statistics, let me ask him to thoroughly consider that portion of it, the New England states and the North Atlantic states, nine in number, running from Maine down to Pennsylvania, taking in, of course, the great state of New York and all between, and he will find that Vermont had in the last decade a gain of 136 souls, a gain in the city population of about 12,000, and a loss in the rural population of about 12,500. He will find that the state of Maine had a gain of only 12,000 in its population, 1.75 per cent, being a gain in the cities of 31,000 and a loss in its rural portion of 20,000. Taking in all these North Atlantic states, Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, he will find in that whole length and breadth a gain of 2,894,000 souls, of which all but a few thousands was in the cities, and consequently we may state that in those nine states the city population has gained slightly while the rural population has absolutely remained stationary from 1880 to 1890. If you come to Canada, you will find that the urban population has increased by 38 per cent, and that the

rural population shows a slight gain, so that in the urban population our country has increased more rapidly and in rural population has lost less, and it is more fair to take those two great stretches of country and compared the two. He went on to give certain reasons why this exodus should take place. He said an exodus should take place in the case of bloody war, of devastating pestilence or of consuming famine. Well, I am glad the hon. gentleman gave me this hint and I will say that in a certain way we have had these three evils in Canada for the last ten years. We have had a bloody war, political, partisan, carried on by my hon. friend as generalissimo. The seat of that war has been in several places—always in Canada, on every hustings where it was possible to set up a cannon, sometimes on the other side of the line, drawing up its platoons at Washington, at Boston, at New York, at Philadelphia, even in the western states, always fed and encouraged by my hon. friend the generalissimo who, two or three years ago, went up and down this country arm in arm with a gentleman who, two or three years ago, fed the United States, fed those who were hostile to us in the United States, with secret information, and who, to-day, is carrying on a stupendous propaganda with the "Sun" newspaper at its head in order to annex this country to the United States. So we have had bloody war in a certain sense. We have had also devastating pestilence. Devastating pestilence in the line of what? Constant depreciation of the country emitted from one whom, if it be parliamentary, I must call my pestilential friend the generalissimo of this army who has been carrying on the war. In this country, wherever he could find an opportunity to make a speech, wherever he could find a newspaper to voice his utterances, this pestilential emission was taken place, and not only that, but sometimes he has actually employed his pen and sent these pestilential writings of his to be emitted in the very heart of the British Empire, in London and in the provinces of England itself. And this pestilence has had its effect. If my hon. friend has any influence—and he has—if hon. gentlemen who fight with him and voice his sentiments have any influence—and they have—they have certainly persuaded those who would listen to them to believe that Canada is the last place in the world to live in, and that they had better get out of it as soon as possible; and, in the causes of the exodus to which the hon. gentleman refers, the effect of these pestilential statements of Canada's disadvantages, this constant display of Canada's deficiencies should be included as leading to the result of which he has spoken, of leading people to go to other countries from Canada in order to seek their fortunes, and, in too many cases, to their own bitter disappointment, many of