

many millions from coal lands, how many from mineral lands, how many from timber dues and grazing leases? How many millions? Not one dollar. Not one single dollar. We are just fifty-eight millions of dollars astray. The sale of the agricultural lands, of the coal lands, of the mineral lands, the royalties, the timber dues, the grazing rents—all that has not produced enough to pay the salaries of the officers charged with the duties of administration. But, Sir, the debt is there; not to be wiped out with a fantastic asset, but to be paid in cold coin out of the hard earnings of the people of Canada, earnings wrung from them by a relentless system of taxation. And I would call to the attention of hon. gentlemen that that relentless system of taxation was introduced under the same hopes—hopes doomed to disappointment. Does not everybody remember how, in those early days of the National Policy, manufacturers were invited to clap on all sail, to manufacture, not for the small, restricted market of five millions of souls, but for the widespread market soon to be enlarged by hundreds, by thousands, and by hundreds of thousands of immigrants, who were to be brought in to fill the North-west Territories? That advice was readily acceded to by the manufacturers. Millions of dollars were invested in bricks and mortar and machinery. And what was the result? In a very short time the warehouses of manufacturers were piled with goods for which there were no purchasers. The population did not increase, and the manufacturers found themselves face to face with a very serious problem. But the manufacturers were equal to the occasion. I take the case of cottons, just as an example. In the summer of 1888 a meeting of cotton manufacturers was held in the city of Montreal. The reports of that meeting are to be found in the Montreal 'Gazette,' and there, amongst other things stated by the reporters, we find the following:—

By actual comparison, good farmers' shirting can be obtained in Canada to-day at a lower figure than the same material can be purchased for in the United States. This is one effect of the National Policy, and it is a great boon to the agricultural community. The country, however, requires 600,000 more people in it to maintain the present number of cotton mills, but these are quickly coming, as 100,000 landed on our shores last year.

Yes, Sir, one hundred thousand had landed on our shores the previous year. Those were the happy, blind days when the Government of Canada was increasing the population by bringing in a hundred thousand emigrants every year. Those were the happy, blind days when the Government of Canada—according to its own statement—added to the population of Canada in ten years no less than 800,000 souls, who, however, were not to be found when the census was taken; they had disappeared; and with them, I am sorry to say, had gone a considerable por-

tion of the native population. But what did the cotton men do then? They had declared that they needed 600,000 souls more to keep their mills busy, but this addition to the population had not been made. But the cotton men were equal to the occasion. They made a combination; they bought up all the cotton mills—except one, I believe—and brought them under the same management. Some of the mills they closed, paying dividends to the shareholders, though the mills were idle, and turning out the operatives to shift for themselves as best they could. Under the system that was to have given work to every man willing to work, we saw operatives turned out in the streets and shareholders receiving dividends for their idle mills. The production of cotton was restricted, and upon this restricted production extra profits were charged to the people of Canada, who were thereby compelled to pay taxes not only to the public treasury, but to the manufacturers of cotton also. Sir, there is the root of the evil; there is the cause of the depression. The public debt was increased under false pretenses, the tariff was imposed under false pretenses. The public debt was created under the promise that there would be such an influx of population into the North-west Territories that, in eight years at most there would be in the treasury a sum sufficient to wipe out the public debt. The tariff was imposed under the promise that there would be an influx of population such as would make the burden of taxation bearable by the people of Canada. Now, Sir, we know that all these expectations have been disappointed. In those early days we had centred our expectations and hopes upon those vast plains which extend from the craggy hills of Lake Superior to the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. And I am bound to say, it is a most magnificent heritage. Great as were the hopes entertained of it, they were not extravagant, but how those hopes have been blasted we know only too well. The immigrants came in, but the flow of immigration became less and at one time almost ceased. What is the primary cause? The primary cause, and I challenge the issue upon this, is the high tariff with which Canada is burdened. The high tariff imposed by gentlemen on the other side, and maintained by them has produced this result—it has made the tilling of the soil a thankless and profitless occupation. We cannot increase the price of cereals. The price of cereals have fallen and so have the prices of other farm products, as is admitted in the Speech from the Throne. We cannot increase the price of a bushel of wheat or pound of cheese. But there was a time when gentlemen on the other side pretended that they could increase the price of farm products. We cannot do anything for the farmer in that respect. But the tiller of the soil in the North-west, and, for that matter, in every