

majority. To substantiate my statement, I will quote figures taken from the report of the Minister of Agriculture, for the last decade, from 1882 to 1892. The following table will show the arrivals at the port of Quebec during the last decade, as also the proportion of French immigrants, compared with the English immigrants :—

ARRIVALS OF IMMIGRANTS AT THE PORT OF QUEBEC.

Year.	Total.	English, Scotch and Irish.	French and Belgians
1882 .....	44,850	33,693	50
1883 .....	45,965	37,972	306
1884 .....	31,729	26,151	150
1885 .....	17,030	14,717	140
1886 .....	22,782	18,108	100
1887 .....	32,749	22,256	147
1888 .....	28,530	18,772	255
1889 .....	22,091	15,662	166
1890 .....	21,165	14,828	147
1891 .....	23,435	14,666	307
	290,126	216,825	1,768

It is quite obvious, from the above table, that the immigration policy of the Government up to this day, was calculated to drown the French population of Manitoba and the North-west Territories in a wave of foreign emigrants. In view of such a policy, I think I am warranted in stating once more that the French-Canadian Ministers are open to censure for not better protecting the rights of the people they are representing in this Parliament. It is a most lamentable error to have thrown away millions to encourage and foster such an immigration, while our own citizens were leaving their native land for the neighbouring states. That such a state of things should have been brought about by the mere force of events, and that such a result was not foreseen as probable and inevitable, I cannot be prevailed upon to believe. I contend that this immigration policy was directed mainly against the French population of Manitoba. Such a policy was calculated, at the same time, to prevent our French-Canadian citizens from emigrating to Manitoba and the North-west. Meanwhile, our Ministers offered no resistance. To conclude, I may say that it is to be regretted that such large sums of money should have been thrown away to foster a foreign immigration, while no steps have been taken to stem the tide of the exodus that carried away so many of our French-Canadian citizens. I enter here my solemn protest against the policy of the Government. I protest also against the declarations made by the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Daly), as tending to the same end. The exertions of the hon. Minister are always directed to an

Mr. LEGRIS.

end prejudicial to the interests of the country ; and the public money is not spent with a view to the development and the settling of Manitoba and the North-west. I think it would only be fair that the enormous sum of \$200,000, which the House is asked to vote for immigration purposes, instead of being expended in bringing here a foreign population, should be applied so as to check the tide of emigration towards the United States, and so that the stream of our emigrants should be set in the direction of the fertile plains of Manitoba and the North-west Territories.

Immigration Expenses..... \$150,000

Mr. BRODEUR. Before this vote is passed, I wish to enter my protest against so heavy an expenditure for immigration. In view of the census returns that have been brought down, it is very unfortunate that the Government should ask us this year to increase the expenditure for this purpose. It is well known, that during the past ten years the emigration from this country, especially from the province of Quebec, has been very large. According to the census returns, the population of the province of Quebec has not very largely increased during the last ten years ; but I do not think those figures give an accurate idea of the population of the province of Quebec. I have taken the trouble to look into a report made by the Provincial Government, giving the number of deaths and the number of births during the last ten years ; and, comparing those figures, I have arrived at the conclusion that, instead of having an increase of population in the province of Quebec, we have had a large decrease. In the rural districts of the province there has been, according to the census returns, a slight increase in the population ; but, taking into account the excess of the births over the deaths, we must arrive at the conclusion that during the last ten years the population in the rural districts has decreased by 163,114. I say that in all the rural districts of the province of Quebec, without any exception whatever, there has been a large decrease in the population. I will give the figures relating to every county. I may say, however, that these figures do not give the excess of births over deaths in the Protestant population ; they comprise only the returns made with reference to the Catholic population. But I take for granted—and I think my assertion cannot be disputed—that during those ten years the Protestant population of the province has not increased. I find that the population of the county of Argenteuil in 1881 was 14,947, and in 1891, 15,158, an apparent increase ; but during the same period I find that the excess of births over deaths was 1,440 ; consequently, adding these 1,440 to the 14,947, the population in 1891 should have been 16,387. Consequently, there was an emigration from that county of 1,229. In the county of Bagot the population