

in accord with this expenditure on immigration.

Mr. PATTERSON—No, no.

Mr. FOSTER—Well, at least, he did not criticise it; at least I think I am within bounds when I say that he did not criticise it harshly, but held out the idea that immigration was necessary to this country, and the increase in the appropriation for immigration purposes was not an improper increase. Well, the hon. member for Middlesex finds fault with it very much. A summary way of dealing with this matter would be to allow the hon. member for Middlesex and the hon. member for Brant to settle this matter between them; but I think I see why the hon. member for Middlesex took strong exception to this idea of immigration. In turning up an old copy of the *Hansard* of 1876, I find that the hon. member for Middlesex was then indulging in what has come to be an almost chronic pastime with himself—making a prophecy. He was talking about the United States, and the way they built railroads, and immigrants followed; and then he ventures upon this prophecy:—

"Anyone, who has watched the flow of immigration for the last four or five years, must admit it was beyond the range of probability, that anything like the number of immigrants would settle in America during the next ten years as in the last decade. The immigration of the last year was not one-third of what it was the preceding twelve months, and it was unlikely to increase in the future. The wages of the working classes in Great Britain and other European countries having largely increased of late, and their condition being much improved, the inducements for the people of the Old World to immigrate were, therefore, not so great as they had been in the past."

That was the utterance of the hon. gentleman from Middlesex in 1876; it was one of his forecasts; he cast, as it were, the horoscope of the coming decade. He looked over the condition of affairs in the Old Country and in the New; and from his high position of vantage ground, coming up pretty nearly to the approaching election, and with a strong prospect, and in the hope, that he would be one of the governing body during the next few years, he ventured on his prophecy—that immigration must decrease; and that there is no possibility that it can increase after this. Now, a little bit of fact alongside of that prophecy. The hon. member for Cardwell said the other day, that time was the worst enemy which these gentlemen had to contend with; and time has unravelled and uprooted this prophecy. That was in 1876; and there was to be no great increase of immigration. Now, the number of immigrants who came to the United States was, in—

1876.....	169,986
1877.....	141,857
1878.....	188,469
1879.....	177,826
1880.....	457,277
1881.....	669,431
1882.....	788,992

That is the way in which time and fact play havoc with the elaborate prophecy of the hon. gentleman from Middlesex; and I think it was because he was a little vexed with time, because it did not fulfil his prophecy, that he undertook to find fault with and criticise this expenditure on immigration. Well, I think that no expenditure that this country goes to, or may go to, is an expenditure which is so well warranted and which will so richly repay this country, as is and will be the expenditure for immigration. I am willing to back up this Government in the widest possible immigration agency that it will put to work, to bring settlers into this country at a moderate rate of cost. Why, sir? Because I find that in 1882 112,000 persons settled in this country of ours; 100,000 of these were probably white men and the others Chinamen; and we find that these 100,000 who were brought in cost only \$3.20 per head. Now, I say, bring all the people you possibly can into this country at \$3.20 per head. Why? Because, Sir, take the average, and they will, from the first year that they are here, pay back some \$5 or so into the Customs of this country, and they will therefore pay for the expense of bringing them here; and they will do more than that. Every one of them brings a certain amount of wealth into the country, and that becomes to us a stock-in-trade, from which wealth grows and increases; and more, Sir, every one of them brings labor to this country and work for the period of his lifetime, and this will be an increasing quantity to this country. More than that, Sir, every one of them becomes an immigration agent, and writes to friends at home, praises up the country, and brings a greater or less number of his friends into this country; so, I say, put down just as much for this item of immigration as you like, so long as you bring immigrants into this country at the rate of \$3.20 per head, and there is no person in this country but would say to the Government, go on with your policy and we will back you up in it.

Sir JOHN MACDONALD—And go forty-five cents better.

Mr. FOSTER—Now, the next criticism of the hon. member from Middlesex was with reference to