

freight and stock following nine hours afterwards. A few passengers having left the train at Alexandria and Glyndon, but by far the greatest number got off at Urookston, bound for Dakota, a couple of the baggage cars being also detached here. The journey was continued until St. Vincent was reached about six o'clock yesterday morning, when a considerable number more left the train for Northern Dakota. Not over 100 out of the original number came to this city and only about 150 to the Province."

He was quoting from the *Winnipeg Times*, a paper published in the interests of the hon. gentlemen opposite. These were statements made on the spot where the information, no doubt, was tolerably accurate, startling as it was. It was due to the opposition that the hon. the Minister of Agriculture, who had charged the late Administration with neglect of duty, in not stopping the exodus which he said then existed, to see now that the proper steps were taken to investigate and settle this question. If this exodus was taking place, then the Government should take steps to remedy the evil. This question ought to engage our serious attention. Such a drain on our population must have a very serious effect upon our future prosperity, and upon our ability to bear the heavy strain involved in the heavy financial burden now existing and to be increased. Last year they called the attention of the hon. gentlemen opposite to the peculiar advertisement contained in some pamphlets that were circulated under the authority of the Department of Agriculture. He was not sure that he might not be able to show that there was a connection between the pamphlets circulated so freely under the imprimatur of the hon. the Minister of Agriculture and this great exodus. The intention of these pamphlets, no doubt, was to disseminate information about the Dominion of Canada, but they did more, for they showed in the most tempting way, the great inducement which Dakota, Montana and Northern Minnesota offered to the settler. Was it possible that this large exodus from Canada was the fruit of the industry of the hon. the Minister of Agriculture in that direction? Had he been sowing the wind and reaping the whirlwind in this matter? Had we here a proof that the hon. gentleman was qualified to fill the high position he occupied, because he was capable of sending a large number of our population to a foreign country than in inducing foreigners to settle here?

Mr. COURSOL said the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Huntington) had recommended the House to discuss this question from a high point of view, and not from a party point of view. It was to be regretted that his advice had not been followed by his own friends. The arguments of hon. gentlemen opposite were evidently aimed at the National Policy. He was not in a position to deny the statistics produced by the hon. gentlemen opposite, but he believed they had been greatly exaggerated, and would so be found if they were thoroughly sifted. There was unquestionably a large exodus from this country to the United States. Many reasons had been assigned for this, though, perhaps, they would not be equally convincing to both sides of the House. One fact which could not be denied, was that the great prosperity of the United States, and the high prices paid for wages since the last twenty months, had attracted a good deal of emigration thither. But it must be remembered that this movement was from a country moderately protected, to another country much more highly protected, and where the people were more largely taxed than we were. The National Policy was only in its infancy as yet, but it had already accomplished much in the way of encouraging manufactures. If, as he hoped, the present Government remained in power for a long time to come, and maintained the National Policy, he was confident it would accomplish very much greater results in building up native industries and affording employment to the people. No one will deny but that, in the Province of Quebec, this policy has built up numerous manufactories. In Montreal and other cities thousands of people had been

afforded employment in manufactories that had been established under the fostering care of the National Policy. What could be the reason given by hon. gentlemen opposite for this pretended exodus to the United States? Was it on account of the policy of the Government? Was it on account of our institutions? Was it because those hon. gentlemen had been painting in such bright colors the land of the stars and stripes? Or was it because the people of Canada were becoming less loyal and more Americanized than before? Were they leaving the country because they preferred American institutions to ours? He did not believe that. He believed the people of Canada were emigrating to the United States because they wanted money, and because some of them preferred the comparatively easy and well paid work of the manufactory to the laborious and precarious work of the farm. It was impossible to stop emigration in any country. The census of last year would show that even in the United States, emigration was taking place from the east to the west. It was a delusion to attribute this emigration to the National Policy, which hon. gentlemen of the Treasury benches might be proud for having inaugurated, and which the people would support them in maintaining. The hon. member for Iberville (Mr. Béchard) had cited the local election for the county of Rouville as an evidence of dissatisfaction with the National Policy. That hon. gentleman must know better than any one else how that election was carried, as he had, if he (Mr. Coursol) mistook not, taken a most active part in that election; yet he could not deny that the county of Rouville was progressing and had been benefitted by the National Policy. That election had nothing to do with the National Policy; not one word was said about the Federal Government; but the issue was a purely local one. Every means was used to defeat the candidate of the Local Government, and the opposite party knew what kind of corruption was exercised for that purpose, and what efforts were made to injure the popular and talented leader of the Quebec Government. That election was no test of the National Policy. The real tests were the elections which had taken place for this House since that policy had been inaugurated. In the Province of Quebec no less than five elections had taken place, within short periods of each other. In the counties of Joliette and Brome, the candidates favoring the National Policy were triumphant by large majorities; in the county of Bagot, the hon. President of the Council was elected by acclamation; in the county of Quebec, the hon. Minister of Militia was also elected by acclamation; and in the county of Montmorency, the National Policy candidate was elected by an immense majority, although it was predicted that the people there would go against it. These were facts showing clearly that the National Policy was the policy of the country. Hon. gentlemen opposite might say—and he supposed that explained the position they took now—that if they got back to the Treasury benches, and brought back free-trade, not one soul would leave this country for the United States. This was a question which should be looked into calmly, and coolly, with the view of finding some process which could be put into operation to stop this emigration; and if hon. gentlemen opposite could suggest such a process, they might fairly claim to be regarded as benefactors of their country. But he thought it was impossible. Canadians, like other people, emigrated when it pleased them, and when it was to their interest to do so; and he believed the only effectual way to keep them in the country was to maintain the policy we had inaugurated, to build up our industries and extend our manufactures, and from the moment we could give our people work all the year round, the country would prosper and the people would stay at home.

Mr. GILLMOB agreed with the last speaker that it was impossible for any Government to prevent people emigrating