

John Thompson possessed, which ever enabled us to win an election there. It has simply gone back again to its normal condition and I do not therefore consider it as a loss to the government. My hon. friend however claims that that is a great victory. The amount of bombast indulged in by our Grit friends over this one election only serves to remind the public how rarely they have a chance for such rejoicing. It is only one case out of many. Since this Parliament came into existence look at the number of constituencies we have won. I think 54 by-elections have been won by the government as compared with 15 which have been gained by the opposition, and the government has a vote of 28 more than it had at the commencement of this Parliament. I might refer to the state of affairs which existed, in contradistinction to this, when the Liberal party was in power. During the little time that they lived, death stared them in the face. They were paralysed from the beginning of their term of office. They spring into power upon a policy which the country could not sustain, and if I mistake not they lost 24 seats during the four or five years that they were in power, only gaining two during that time. Their influence was waning from the first, and no one seemed to have sense enough to prescribe the proper medicine which the country required to invigorate it and bring it back to a condition of prosperity. They would not take the advice of the members of the opposition who told them plainly enough that their policy was working destruction to the country, that they must endeavour by some means to protect themselves against the inroads of foreign countries, but they were so stubborn in their policy that it was impossible to do anything with them. They talked about being "flies on the wheel," and claimed that no fiscal policy could restore us to a state of prosperity. Year after year went by, leaving them in a worse condition—they were running into debt and finally they were forced to make an effort to remedy the state of affairs by increasing the taxation. They did not attempt to protect any particular industry, but they raised the duty all around ruthlessly, recklessly without regard to any particular industry. They clapped on an additional duty of 2½ per cent, and the result was simply to give them a larger deficit, and finally they went out of power in

a most inglorious manner after having heaped up an additional debt of \$40,000,000. That was the character of their government, and I may add that that was the end of them. They left the country in an almost deplorable condition. The only institutions which prospered under their rule were the notable soup-kitchens for the relief of the poor. It was at that time that the exodus from the country commenced; it was then that the flood gates were opened. My hon. friend says now that the people have gone from Antigonish to the United States as a result of the National Policy. It is impossible that the population could have been decimated in that way, but the fact is that the people commenced going to the United States before the National Policy was introduced, and when they had settled there they drew their friends and relatives to them, and it has taken and will take a long time to counteract the disastrous effects of Liberal rule. The Mackenzie government said it could do nothing to protect Canadian industries or alleviate the existing distress, but it ruthlessly, without regard to consequences, other than to raise money to support a moribund semi-defunct government, added to the then burden and distress of the people by an additional tax of 2½ per cent, and with all that additional money forced from the people, deficits continued to increase. When they were hurled from power they left nothing but a depressed country and crippled industries, with a legacy of \$40,000,000 of debt, for which their successors, our Liberal-Conservative Government, had to provide and Canada was to pay. But what do we find now? Under the National Policy the people are leaving the United States, are flocking back into Canada, both to the province of Quebec and to the Northwest, taking up our land and seeking a livelihood in other ways. I therefore claim that it is not the National Policy which is responsible for any exodus. I thank God that we have the National Policy. If it had not been for that where would we have been to-day when we look around us and see the world-wide depression which exists everywhere? My hon. friend from Halifax quotes a remark in the speech from the throne about the depression in Canada, but he did not read the remainder of the sentence which says: that the depression has made itself felt in Canada, "but fortunately to a less