

been a rush of work, which prompted the amendment in 1871 of the Act of 1870, in several very important particulars. We desire, at present, to save all the money possible. I believe the last census cost \$500,000. By timely preparations we hope to save a good deal. The Department of Agriculture is charged with this special duty, and will have plenty of opportunity for judicious preparations by means of its own ordinary machinery and with very slight assistance by proceeding smoothly and calmly the coming summer, to make all the requisite provisions for a correct and complete census. It is simply taking time by the forelock, and avoiding the enormous expense caused by the hurry in 1871. Of course the hon. gentleman's remarks respecting the expense of collecting vital statistics deserve every consideration, but, no doubt, the census would be one-sided without general statistics. It is quite true, moreover, that criminal statistics have received a certain degree of attention. Those statistics, under the present law, would, no doubt, prove of very considerable value. It is well to combine all subjects as much as possible in gathering statistical information. With the same machinery we may get information on all branches, without which the circumstances of any country cannot be satisfactorily known. We hope, by certain provisions, to attain these objects inexpensively. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Mackenzie) alluded to the subject of immigration, and to the fact that his Government had warned the people of England against sending out persons and classes not wanted here. That action, perhaps, was well intended, but I think the manner in which the intention was carried out in England was exceedingly unfortunate, because it was so strongly expressed by the renowned Agent-General of Canada at that time. It was stated that Canada was overcrowded, and Australia, New Zealand and the Cape of Good Hope published our Agent's announcements as a means of inducing emigrants to those colonies; they published the fact that Canada had stated she was full to repletion, and wanted no more emigrants, who should, therefore, go to the East and not to the West; yet, at the same time, the expenses of the Emigration Office—of

the London establishment—were most considerably increased. The hon. gentleman said that he quite agreed with my hon. friend the mover of the Address that national prosperity could not be produced or restored by a Ministry. Well, I believe the country has shown that it thought prosperity may be restored by a change of Ministry, and has changed the Ministry accordingly. Whether the country possesses good judgment it is not for me to say. I am bound to believe, however, that it exercised a wise discretion in that regard. The hon. the leader of the Opposition says I announced there would be an immediate rise in the price of everything the moment we returned to power. What I did say was that I believed the late Government had lost the confidence of the country, and the very fact of a change of Ministry would restore confidence, and that the first effect would be seen in a rise of bank and other stocks, and they did rise. They rose from two to four per cent. within a week after the 17th September. At present our policy is in the future. It rests on intentions. Now, intentions are very good, but performance is better. We hope to perform our intentions. We intend to perform our pledges. Nobody more agrees with the hon. member for Lambton than myself, in the statement he made on a celebrated occasion, that the man who, in Opposition, makes a promise and propounds a policy, and fails to act upon it when in the Government, is little better than a demagogue. I will accept the name, if we do not carry out, while in office, the pledges and promises we held out to the country, in Opposition. The hon. gentleman observes that the Speech is a very meagre bill of fare. But I think it a very fair bill. When we deal with the Pacific Railway, the depression in the country, the tariff, the re-adjustment, of the fiscal system of the country, when we propound a policy which is to relieve the depression and establish an equilibrium between revenue and expenditure—to encourage our manufactures and all our industries—I believe we cannot justly be accused of a meagre bill of fare. I believe the hon. gentleman will find it a little too strong for his digestion. But even were we liable to the charge of presenting a too