

fully on this question, and he should now let the leader of the Government finish.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—Now, the hon. gentleman also threw great doubt upon the returns which were made with reference to immigration to this country, and seemed to doubt whether the congratulations which are in the Address were just and proper. I may say that this information is taken from the ordinary agents employed by the Government, and the statements are made up just in the same way as they were prepared by the hon. gentleman when he was in the Government—when he was acting Minister of Agriculture, and when he defended, from the place which I now occupy, the very same returns, made by the very same persons. These returns show that in 1878 there were 29,000 immigrants; in 1881, 47,000; in 1882, 112,000, and in 1883, 133,000—showing a gratifying increase,—not so large certainly as one would desire, but still a very satisfactory showing, and one which, I think, will justify the paragraph to which I have referred. But the hon. gentleman says there was an equally large exodus, or a very great exodus, and he stated that a certain return or despatch made by the British Minister at Washington shewed clearly that the exodus was as great as the newspapers in the interest of the Opposition in this country have reported it to be. Now, I have taken some pains to inquire into that, and the House will be surprised, and my hon. friend and other members will be glad to know, that this is not an official return in any sense.

HON. MR. SCOTT—I said at the time I had not the figures.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—The hon. gentleman thought it was an official return, or those who listened to him were led to believe it was; but it was not a compilation made up in the embassy at Washington by the Minister there for which he is responsible at all. It is merely a despatch based on statements appearing in American newspapers. I have the evidence in my hands, that the British Minister at Washington finding those statements in the American newspapers writes to the foreign office, saying that so and so is the case. All he means by that

is “I have seen the statement in the papers that I send you, by which statement it appears that the immigration into the United States from foreign countries was so and so,” but there is no official statement, nothing to indicate that the British Minister at Washington has adopted that statement in any way whatever. I am sure my hon. friend and the House will be glad to know that, because repeated misrepresentations have been made on that point from time to time, and it is a subject in which one feels very interested. I should be very much distressed indeed if I thought the information was true, but I believe it to be incorrect. The great bulk of those who cross into the United States are merely going through that country to the North-West.

Another statement which I desire to speak about, is one which was made, I really do not know whether by the hon. member who leads the Opposition, or the hon. gentleman from Halifax—perhaps by both. It was a statement throwing more or less obloquy (that is a rather stronger expression than I desire to use) on the course that has been pursued in the Consolidation of the Statutes, and the loss of two years time and the expenditure during that period without much appreciable result. Now, during those two years the Consolidation of the Statutes was entrusted to a late friend of my own and of the hon. gentleman's, Mr. Cockburn, and I should be much pained indeed to see any statement go forth calculated to cast any reflection upon the course pursued by that gentleman during his life, with reference to this work, in which he took a deep interest. During those two years the expenditure consisted merely of the salary paid to Mr. Cockburn, \$4,000, and the salary paid to his assistant, Mr. Ferguson, \$1,000.

HON. MR. POWER—A year?

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—Yes. The work they were engaged in was the preparation of a digest of the various acts passed, not only by the Dominion Parliament, but by the legislatures of the several provinces before confederation on subjects which have fallen within the scope of the legislative authority of this Parliament. To show the extent of that work, I have

HON. MR. ALMON.