

seems remarkable that so few have entered there. One cannot help reverting to the arguments used, the statements made, and the prophecies uttered as to the immense population that would flow into that country from the inauguration of the Pacific Railway, and the discussion which took place during the passage of the Syndicate resolutions. One great reason that was given why we should not haggle with this wealthy syndicate was, that they had foreign agents, foreign capital and great influence abroad, and that, having retained alternate sections of land and having an interest in the profits of the road, they would bring their powerful influence and appliances to bear in a way that would strengthen the hands of the Government very much in filling that country with population. Then, again we have the interest and influence of the Hudson Bay Company, which retained one-twentieth of the whole of that country. It was stated that they would assist in peopling the territories, and we know very well that subsequently the Colonization Company boom was inaugurated. In fact every facility was given for the formation of wealthy companies in Germany, England and this country, and colonization companies were formed; there were companies organized by different Christian denominations, by the press association, and all through Ontario there was more or less of this fever for being connected in some way with a colonization company. The Government possessed all these means of settling the North-West, which we were told, was our great western heritage, but with all these advantages combined with enormous expenditure, and with the National Policy to aid them, the settlement of that country has not, I am sure, met the expectations of any hon. gentleman even in this House. The policy of rapid construction was, in my humble judgment, against the proper organization of a settled and contented population in that country. Unless you have a contented population no government can succeed in their efforts at colonization. If a settler has been boomed in, if he has been brought over by an assisted passage, if he has been to a certain extent pauperized in the beginning and made dependent, he goes there with a false impression of the country. He

goes there to find that he has no immediate neighbors, and it is impossible for him to have any within a reasonable distance, and the discontent thus created is the beginning of troubles, and difficulties, and petitions of right, and claims of all kinds set up, and difficulties arising which would not arise if the colonization had been kept within closer bounds—if the settlement had been confined within narrower limits—until such time as further area was required for settlement. The rapid construction of the railway, it appears to me, was not calculated to produce a useful result. It is well known that a judicious expenditure of money on a public work will aid settlement, but a rapid expenditure of money necessitates bringing in a transient population from the United States who simply work for gain and leave for their homes when the work is over. There was not that steady expenditure which would have taken place if the road had been pushed on in accordance with the requirements of settlement only; hence the occupation of the North-West is not at all equal to our expectations. If it had been according to our expectations we would have been saved a great deal of the difficulties which have occurred since, up to the present time, and untold difficulties and expense which may be entailed upon us in the future.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—Wait until the road is finished.

HON. MR. McCLELAN—In addition to the statement which I have brought forward to prove the diminished population of the country, I might make a passing reference to the increasing rate of emigration of Canadians to the United States, as shewn by the Bureau of Statistics. In connection with this subject of immigration, I was referring previously to its effects upon values. We all know very well that when more people are leaving a place than are coming in, when there are more sellers than there are buyers, property will very greatly depreciate, and that depreciation has, with some few exceptions, existed in almost every district in the province from which I have the honor of coming; and not only has depreciation taken place with regard to farming lands, but it has also taken place