

and I will take the state of Michigan. They are under conditions very nearly similar, Michigan on the one side and Ontario on the other. In 1880 the population of Michigan was 1,636,937. It had increased in 1890 to 2,093,000. The population of Ontario in 1880 was 300,000 odd more than the state of Michigan, yet at the last census it was less than 7,000 more than the state of Michigan—that is, the state of Michigan had increased 300,000 more than the province of Ontario. Now, I will take the province of British Columbia and I will take the state of Washington.

Hon. Mr. MASSON—I am speaking of old Canada.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Why confine the comparison to old Canada?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I will give the hon. gentleman all the figures he wants and perhaps more than he would like, but he asked me to give him the population of those states that were bordering our country and compare the increase of population on each side of the line. That would be a fair standard to judge by. Nothing could be more simple or reasonable. Washington occupies one side of the line, British Columbia the other of the 49th parallel. British Columbia had a settlement a quarter of a century in advance of Washington. That is, there was a population there.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—That is not correct.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I am aware that John Jacob Astor established a fur trade there.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—Parts of Washington were settled long before there was any settlement in British Columbia.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I will give you the population as it was. The population of British Columbia in 1880 was 49,000. The population of Washington in the same year was 75,000. The population of British Columbia at the last census was 92,000, while the population of Washington was 349,000.

Hon. Mr. McINNES (B.C.)—The hon. gentleman has made a slight error in the figures he has given. The first return gave 92,000, but later returns made it 99,000.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—That would give an increase in British Columbia of 50,000 and in Washington an increase of 250,000. The conditions of the two countries are very nearly similar, the quality of the land about the same and the mineral development about equal. I do not know if the mineral development is more advanced in British Columbia than in Washington. Now, I will take Manitoba. We were told that Manitoba in ten years would have at least a population of half a million. Its increase, however, has been less than 100,000, while the Dakotas immediately south of Manitoba, not certainly possessing as fine land, not certainly as attractive for settlement, not certainly possessing the many advantages that Manitoba possesses, have increased from 135,000 to 510,000. Now I think these figures are significant.

Hon. Mr. ALMON—Will the hon. gentleman give us the figures of Vermont and other eastern states and of our eastern provinces?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—We are looking for a greater growth in the west than in the east, and it was the great west that was to build up this country. We have spent a very large sum of money in it and no doubt it is coming up rapidly to the high level that we hoped it would enjoy, but I hold that it would, under better conditions, have grown more rapidly than it has. I say that it ought to grow more rapidly. No one can deny that. I cannot be challenged as being pessimistic because I call attention to these figures. I know it is quite usual, if a man questions the policy of the Government, to put that man down as disloyal. I think it is exceedingly unfair and improper that gentlemen cannot call attention to and illustrate the position of this country by comparisons with other countries without being called disloyal. Now, as to this marvellous development and prosperity, I would like to draw attention to one or two more facts.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—May I ask the privilege of the hon. gentleman from Ottawa to interrupt him for a moment. If he will remember, I said that the pessimists were few in number but like the cricket made a bigger noise than many.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I had not the hon. gentleman in view at all when I spoke. I