

ment, during the last seven years there has been a dead loss of 9,000, besides the whole natural increase of the people of Canada, which, in seven years, at 2½ per cent., on their own showing, would be 700,000 souls. So, if the Department of Agriculture be correct, 630,744 immigrants came here, and in that case 700,000 Canadians have been extruded from this country to make room for them. I will give five or ten minutes of my time to the Minister of Agriculture—oh, I see he is not present—or to any of his colleagues to point out any inaccuracies in my statement. If the statements of the Department of Agriculture are correct, it inevitably follows that we have lost more than 700,000 people from 1880 up to the month of April, 1888. That is their own statement. That is the result which must inevitably be deduced from their own declaration. I am going to come to the rescue. I do not think the case is half as bad as these hon. gentlemen have depicted it. In the first place I do not believe that the statements of the Department of Agriculture are worth the paper they are written on, I do not believe they are worth one cent of the \$3,500,000 which we have spent during those seven years in order to bring immigrants here; nor do I believe that their elaborate logarithmical calculations are worth anything. I doubt extremely whether there is in Canada at present a population of 4,946,000. We know that the Ontario statistics are the only reliable ones we have.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Hon. gentlemen say "hear, hear." Probably those hon. gentlemen have not paid much attention to these matters, but, if they wait until I get through, they can contradict me if they are able. I say that these Ontario statistics are the only reliable ones we have. I do not say that they are absolutely reliable, but that they are the only ones which approach to reliability. During the decade from 1871 to 1881, they showed very accurately the increase of population which took place then, and I think that it is more than probable that they will show accurately what increase has taken place since. They show an increase of 180,000 in those seven years. I believe it will be found that the actual increase in the Dominion is a little more than double that—perhaps about 400,000—but I do not believe that, of the 630,000 immigrants, there are more than one-sixth and perhaps not one-tenth part remaining in Canada. We have been bringing these men here and paying their passages to enable them to drift to the southward, and indeed to act as anti-immigration agents to the detriment of the people of Canada. Let me remind the House of two things. We had numerous disputes three or four years ago as to the population of the North-West Territories and Manitoba. In 1885 and 1886 censuses were taken of those territories, and the result was to show, without any possibility of contradiction, that the Opposition were right in all points but one. They had estimated the population of Manitoba and the North-West too highly. They had gone beyond the mark in their fear to err, while the reports of the Department of Agriculture gave this most remarkable result: They showed by most positive statements for the years 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885 and 1886, that 166,803 settlers had gone to Manitoba and the North-West, though, when the census was taken, there were only 118,000 whites found in all that country. According to the census of 1881, and allowing for natural increase, we should have had 74,000 in 1886 without one single immigrant. Deduct that from 118,000, and you have this remarkable result: The department asserted that 166,803 had settled in that country in seven years, and they gave the figures: 1881, 22,001; 1882, 53,751; 1883, 42,772; 1884, 24,240; 1885, 7,240; 1886, 11,599; total, 166,803. Well, of these 166,803 who they said had gone there, who they stated in public documents were there, we find only 41,095, and the remaining 122,708 had vanished into thinnest air, and in this way was con-

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

firmed the remarkable accuracy of the statements of hon. gentlemen on this side. Then, again, when hon. gentlemen opposite took upon them to contradict men who had carefully studied the questions relating to the population of this country, I challenged them, as I challenge them now, to go to the Catholic clergy in the Province of Quebec, who possess good statistics in regard to the movement of the Catholic population there, and to ask them as to the exodus of their people, and to judge by that how far the statements which I and others have made are correct. That challenge was thrown out three years ago. I repeat it now, and I ask the hon. gentlemen, if they venture to dispute my statements, to take the means which present themselves readily and naturally to find out the truth, so that we may discover who is right and who is wrong in regard to this most important question as to the rate at which the population of Canada is increasing. In the meantime, however, I call attention to this fact that, on the authority of the statement made by hon. gentlemen on the floor of Parliament and of those made in the returns of the Department of Agriculture, there has been an exodus of 700,000 of the people of Canada in the last seven years. Now, a word or two as to the question of the volume of trade. The hon. gentleman was not able to deny the fact that, whereas, with a population of three millions and three-quarters in 1874, we had a volume of trade of \$217,000,000, we have now, with a population which he calls five millions, a volume of trade of \$193,000,000, taking goods entered for consumption; and that amounted, in round numbers, to \$58 per head in 1874 and to \$40 a head in 1888. It is true that it is right, as he said, to estimate value as well as quantity. He was right in saying that no one knew better than I did that there were often great fluctuations in value. I pointed that out time and again in this House ten and eleven years ago, but it is not fair to say that in a country which should be growing and advancing as Canada should be, we should be content, forsooth, with such a showing, even if the hon. gentleman could establish what he did not establish at all, that there has been a considerable droop in the value of our exports and imports. He referred to the droop which had taken place in the value of exports and imports into England, but it does not follow that the value of our imports and exports should droop in the same ratio. I believe myself that there has been a droop. I believe that prices are considerably lower to-day than they were in the time when we were in office, and I call the attention of the House, and of the hon. gentleman, and of my friends here to the fact that, when the Mackenzie Government was in power, the prices of farmers' produce were far better than they are under the National Policy, and further, though we did not promise to make prices good, or to keep prices up to abnormal rates, the hon. gentleman and his friends got into office by the most audacious and impudent declarations that they, under the National Policy, had power to make markets for the farmers, had power to raise the prices of all the things the farmers had to sell. The hon. gentleman likes to compare Canada and Australia. Well, Sir, I will give him a comparison which will do him, perhaps, some good. I find that in 1874 New South Wales, which has, by-the-by, something very like a revenue tariff and a free trade system, had a total volume of exports and imports of 90 millions. Now the prices of their productions were much higher in 1874, as I suppose he knows, than in 1887; but in 1887 New South Wales had a volume of exports and imports of 175 millions, that is, it has grown from 90 to 175 millions, nearly doubled; while Canada has crept down from 217 to 200 millions. I suppose that he will admit that the same causes were at work in New South Wales, lowering or altering the prices of exports and imports, as in Canada, and if he does not know it, proof can easily be advanced. But my contention is that we ought to go on, we are a young country, we are a growing country, we are increasing in population, even under