

less than 20,000,000. In 1860, it was no less than 24,830,000. This shows that, notwithstanding the extent to which the population of the east migrated to the west, the population of the former was maintained and advanced, by virtue of the foreign immigration and natural increase. The total number of immigrants to the United States, in the decade from 1851 to 1860, was 2,600,000; from 1861 to 1870, 2,500,000, and from 1871 to 1880, making an estimate for the last eighteen months, 2,700,000. I repeat then, for we cannot dwell on it too much the three factors which produced this enormous increase of population in these splendid Western States. The first, a very rapid increase of their native population; the second, a large home migration from other States; and third and last, the foreign immigration, operating directly by the immediate advance into the west of immigrants, and indirectly by displacing a certain number of the native population who were so enabled to go west. It is said that the domestic transference of population has been even more rapid, and has, therefore, played a still more important part in the present decade than in former decades. Let us compare our circumstances with theirs in these particulars: First of all, we have at present no nucleus of population in the North-West worth mentioning. It is towards the end of the decade for which we are calculating that this factor will begin to exert an appreciable influence. Next, look at that native recruiting ground, that constantly increasing population, first 20,000,000, running up to I know not how many millions from which I have shown the Western States draw their main supply. How do we stand as to that? We stand 4,000,000 against their 30,000,000 or 40,000,000. We stand with only a tenth of their population, with a relatively insignificant number, of whom we know it to be a fact, a deeply to be regretted fact, but a fact which exists, and which there is no use trying to conceal, that many go to the United States—that out of our 4,000,000, in the best times, hundreds of thousands leave us—I think the hon. member for Cardwell, (Mr. White), gave us at over half a million, the number of those who went over during the last decade, in which prosperity was the rule, in

which there was no depression, in which every Canadian had a home and good work, but still in which something occurred to allure them to the settlements in the Western States, largely by direct removal there of those who preferred a more southern climate, but also to a very great extent by removal to the manufacturing towns in the Eastern States, thus freeing the citizens of those states and enabling them to go West. Now, from our 4,000,000 there cannot without most serious consequences to the older Provinces be a very large number of emigrants altogether; and of that number a considerable proportion will continue to go to the manufacturing communities of the States—there are persons who prefer the latter to the rural and remote settlements—and others will go still to the Western States in spite of the advantages we offer them in our own North-West. We may hope—I do, I am sure, as earnestly as any man can hope—that those residents of the older Provinces who decide to remove will simply transfer their residences to some other part of this Dominion. I hope that the emigration from Canada to the United States may be seriously checked and replaced by migration to the North-West. I hope that many of those who are actuated by an adventurous spirit, or a desire for change, will seek the North-West. But my hopes will not change the facts, and, whatever we may hope and wish, it is only prudent, it is only wise, that before incurring vast obligations which, whatever the result of your speculations, you have got to meet, you should count the cost and carefully consider the risks, and weigh the probabilities. We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that a considerable number of our surplus population will still go to the manufacturing centres of the Eastern States; that some of our agricultural population will do what some have done before, and are doing now, prefer Dakota and some of the Western Territories. But suppose I am wrong—suppose that, moved by some sudden flush of patriotism changing the desires and inclinations on which they have acted hitherto, our whole migratory population should, without exception, resolve to remain within the borders of the Dominion, and to that end move to our North-West in preference to