

found here, are found at the expense, and by the displacement of those who were our own citizens, and that we are still 138,153 people less than we ought to be. The hon. Finance Minister and other hon. members of the Government told us during the *regime* of the hon. member for East York that they knew this state of things existed, that they knew that citizens of this country were leaving it and they declared it—well I give them credit for having honestly declared it—and they came forward and said they had a remedy whereby they would stop this state of things, and Parliament was asked to sanction the remedy and it was put into force. I ask now has it had the promised effect? I wish I could honestly say that we had, at any rate, kept our own people at home; but the figures I have given prove that we have not succeeded even in doing this. But I may be told by the hon. Finance Minister or other hon. gentlemen that the Census of 1881 show but the operation of two years of the new Tariff, show but two years' operation of the plans they devised, the machinery they made use of, in order to keep our own people. But I would remind the hon. gentleman that they claimed that we had a vast access to our population under their new system. I want to examine into this pretension. There are other figures given, from which we may form some conclusion as to the operation of the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite in this respect. I am driven to look at figures that I have to find from American sources, and figures that I will compare with figures furnished by our own Department of Agriculture. I am free to confess that I think that the system of statistics in the United States and the results shown by them are not, I would fain believe, strictly accurate, and may not be strictly relied upon; but I will say this, that, while that is the case, I have equal doubts as to the reliability of the statistics that are gathered by our own Department. I think I may say that, without endeavouring to censure hon. gentlemen opposite too much. I suppose it is a difficult matter to get anything like accurate statistics in reference to this subject, but there are certain things, when taken together, and figures compared, one with another, that do lead up to this result, that the American figures, when taken in connection with the facts revealed by our own Census and with the facts revealed by statistics obtained from other sources altogether, are not as far from being accurate as I, from my heart, would desire they were. Now, in order to ascertain this point, let me call your attention to this fact. I find, from the American statistics, that from the year 1873 to the year 1883, those two years inclusive, the American statistics show that they received as immigrants from our Dominion 585,893 souls, and the figures of the Department of Agriculture for the Dominion show that, in the same ten years, we received a total immigration from foreign countries of 571,773 souls, or in the ten years we absolutely lost the whole 571,773 souls that, by a vast expenditure of money, we brought to this country, and 14,125 people besides. Well, Sir, for purposes of comparison, and in order to enable us to determine as to whether we had found the remedy for this, that everyone will admit is a matter to be deplored, I have divided it into two periods of five years each, in order that we might ascertain whether, under the working of the Tariff which was to produce such beneficial changes, we have stemmed the current and improved matters. And what do I find? Take from the year 1874 to the year 1878 inclusive, the years in which the hon. member for East York (Mr. Mackenzie) was leading this Government, when the cries and the wails of hon. gentlemen opposite were oft repeated as to the terrible fact that our country was being depleted, when the American statistics, those which I use now, were used in this House as figures to be relied upon authoritatively. When gentlemen remember that they relied, in making their charges against the Mackenzie Administration, upon the figures given by

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the American statistics, they are estopped from objecting to these same statistics when they are applied in their case. I might mention that when a person was being examined at a certain place, the other day, whose testimony has been brought in on a previous debate on the floor of the House, in reference to this matter, when it was thought a point was made against the late Mackenzie Administration, the testimony of that individual was, that, with reference to that one port of Port Huron, about which there was a doubt as to the accuracy of the figures, the officer there declared that from 1874 to 1878 the figures were systematically added to, that they were systematically increased at that port, but that from the year 1879, in which he was dismissed, when, through Mr. Lowe making enquiries at that point, Mr. Nimmo, the Chief of Statistics, came to Port Huron, and a new order of things was instituted, the figures were—he had no means of positively knowing, but he does know that an attempt was made that they should be—gathered more accurately, and the impression—I believe I am giving him right—was that the figures from 1879 down to the present time might be accepted as more reliable than the figures made use of from 1874 to 1878 by hon. gentlemen opposite. Now, the American statistics show that they received in the United States from Canada during the five years that my hon. friend from East York was in power, 125,619 souls, and the statistics furnished by our own Department of Agriculture show that we had brought into this country from foreign countries during the same five years, 149,277, or we did gain in population in those five years 23,658 souls—we brought in that many and kept that many more than went out. But take from the year 1879 to 1883, the period that is covered by the reign of hon. gentlemen opposite, the period that is covered by the operations of that which was designed as a means of stopping this exodus of our own people and giving employment to them within our own land, and what are the figures, and how do they compare? In those five years, American statistics showed that they received from Canada 422,720 souls, and during the same period our Department of Agriculture shows that we brought into the country, if I may take 133,000 as the figures for 1883—I take that from the speech of the hon. gentleman who moved the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, who, I suppose, had information with reference to it; the Report of the Minister not having been laid on the Table till to-day, I have not had an opportunity of examining it—taking that 133,000, which are extraordinarily large figures, in the five years we had brought in 372,446 souls; or, in the five years covered by the reign of hon. gentlemen opposite, during which their remedial measure was in full operation, the loss in population is 50,274. That is, that all the immigrants that have been brought into this country from every other country have either disappeared themselves to the United States, or have displaced an equal number of our own people, and 50,274 more. I say these figures call for serious consideration on our part. It is time that this whole subject of immigration and the expenditure that is going on in reference to it should have our most serious consideration. But I have some other statistics here, and I am sorry to say again that they bear out the inference that we have to draw from the figures I have already given, and I am the more sorry because they are taken from an altogether different source, compiled for an altogether different purpose, prepared by an altogether different Government—the Local Governments of two of our own Provinces. The hon. member for South Huron (Sir Richard Cartwright), in his speech in reply to the hon. the Finance Minister's speech on the Budget, gave to us the figures of the school attendance in the Province of Ontario. I will not trouble the House with going over those again. I regret that I have not been able to ascertain the figures of the attendance of children in the Province of Quebec, but I