

I think the Government would be doing wisely to publish the opinions of those intelligent observers from the old world, and if they are hostile to their own views, and will not bear examination, then let them be met in the press and in Parliament with such refutations as will show that they have been misled and deceived by what they saw during their visit. I trust that the implied promise of the hon. Minister of Justice will be fulfilled; and that long enough before the close of this session to enable the members from the Maritime Provinces to make a careful, candid and critical study of the opinions of those delegates, we may have that report published and placed in the hands of the members of this House. I trust that whatever may have been the adverse opinions expressed by those gentlemen, they may be brought here for consideration and discussion, and if there is in them anything which shows that they have misapprehended the condition of life in those provinces, their errors can easily be pointed out. It is the most foolish and indefensible policy that can possibly be imagined to attempt to suppress their report altogether; and I have no doubt in my own mind that if it were not for the discussion which has taken place in committee, and the determined effort on the part of the Opposition that this report should be placed before the people, we should have heard nothing of it from the Ministers of the Crown. There can be only one reason given why a public document of this nature should not be placed in the hands of the people; but that one reason, I am certain, the Ministry will never allege; that is, that the safety and welfare of the state preclude it. This may frequently occur in regard to diplomatic documents, in regard to correspondence with the Government of the mother country, or in regard to information as to our relations with foreign countries. It may be advisable, at any rate during the continuance of the negotiations, that correspondence, reports and opinions should be temporarily suppressed; but this report does not come within the scope of this idea, and cannot be considered in any light as belonging to that class of public documents. The duty of the Government is plain, and I trust that the promise made by the Minister will be fulfilled, that the information given by these delegates and the opinions formed by them, will be placed before us, in order that we may form an estimate as to the correctness of the course they have pursued, and as to the wisdom they have displayed in carrying out the instructions given them by the Government.

Mr. WATSON. It is not my intention to take up much of the time of the House. As stated by the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat, these delegates have freely expressed their opinions as to what they saw in this country during their visit. I have received a letter from a gentleman, a prominent citizen of Winnipeg, who has just made a trip to the old country, and who tells me that while there he attended a banquet at Selkirk, Scotland, at which Mr. McQueen read a paper. In that paper Mr. McQueen stated that he was one of the farm delegates who visited Canada during the past year, and made reference to some pretty strong statements which the delegates had made in their report to the Dominion Government on the effect of the Canadian tariff, and he declared that he would be very much surprised if the Dominion Government would ever publish the delegates' report. This

gentleman said further: "I learn from Mr. McQueen that he had a pretty lively row with Sir Charles Tupper over this matter." That shows that whatever may have been the report of the delegates with regard to the natural advantages of the country, certainly they must have reported against the fiscal policy of hon. gentlemen opposite. I would commend the hon. Minister of Agriculture in not publishing any report that might have the effect of keeping people away from this country, because we are spending large sums annually for the purpose of inducing immigrants to come to this country; but if the Government pay delegates to visit Canada and report upon it for the promotion of immigration—and these delegates were, no doubt, carefully selected, being wide-awake, representative men in their districts, whose opinion will have a great influence with the people with whom they are acquainted in the old country—and they find that notwithstanding all the natural advantages we have to offer, they cannot conscientiously advise their fellow countrymen to come to Canada on account of the trade policy of the Government, then I think it is time for the Government, if they will not be persuaded by the people of this country who oppose their policy, to have some regard for the views expressed by men who visit this country from abroad, and who have the power to advise large numbers of people to come or to stay away. If we cannot induce people to come to Canada, notwithstanding its natural advantages, there must be something wrong, and evidently Mr. McQueen and Mr. Davey have come to the same conclusion as some of us in Canada, that while we maintain a protective policy this country cannot progress. I hope that the promise made by the Minister of Justice will be carried out, and this report laid on the Table, and if we cannot convince hon. gentlemen opposite that their trade policy is not in the interest of the country, I hope that the report of these delegates may at least cause them to consider whether it is better to persist in that policy or to bring about some change which will make the people living here more prosperous, and thereby induce others to come to the country. We must have population in Canada; the country cannot progress without it; and if immigration is going to be retarded by reports from these delegates against our trade policy, then I think it is time that policy should be reversed.

Mr. McMULLEN. If it is in place, I would like to call the attention of the Minister in charge of immigration, to a report, which he has perhaps noticed, in the *North American Review* of April, made by a committee that was appointed by the United States Government for the purpose of investigating and reporting upon the influx of immigration to the United States, with a view of purging it of those elements who are not desirable as settlers, such as pauper immigrants. If he will read that report he will see that the committee reported that until better regulations were established between the northern portions of the United States and Canada, they might expect a continuation of the flow of objectionable immigrants. They come to Canada, are received here, and eventually they find their way across the border to the United States. Now, this is a very important statement, in the face of the announcement the Minister has