

the old flag. A hundred years ago many of our forefathers left their comfortable farms to the south of us, left the American flag, left Mohawk Valley and the valley of the Hudson and other choice places in the United States and came north to a wilderness. They did not want for anything; they had all that. The descendants of the United Empire Loyalists are abreast of any people in the world. Then, why was it that this terrible despair went all over the land, and people fled from the most attractive sections of Canada? There must be some cause for it. Is it not our duty to find that cause, to ascertain the root of it? It cannot be accidental; it did not exist in Welland alone. In almost every other portion of Canada we find the same state of affairs. Surely this is a grand country, and the hon. gentleman has not painted the colours half brilliant enough; from my stand-point there is no place on the globe that is superior, few are even the equal of Canada. There are few countries that have its broad acres where we could feed the whole of Europe, there are few countries that have had such wealth and still have such wealth in their forest lands. Year by year you will see that our exports of products of the forest through good and bad seasons increased until they reached between twenty and thirty millions of dollars. Is there a country on the face of the globe that can compare with Canada in its fisheries, both of the Atlantic and Pacific, and not alone those two great oceans but of its huge inland waters—Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Erie? And the fisheries of the great rivers of Canada; I could not enumerate them—it would take too long to do so. Our fisheries, our forests, our farms are not to be exceeded in any part of the globe, and I may also say to you, hon. gentlemen, that our mines are second to none on this continent—the mines not alone of the east, but of the west more particularly. Recent developments show that in British Columbia the mines are quite equal to any that have been discovered either in the United States or in Mexico. Now, with all that in view, hon. gentlemen must see that there is something affecting this country, something appalling, when the population flee from it. Why do the people go away from here? Let me speak to the hon. gentlemen from the Maritime Provinces. Has their population increased more than one

per cent in the last ten years? One Maritime Province has fallen back, and lost population rather than gained. Look at the two great provinces of Ontario and Quebec, whose increase of population has been but a little over nine per cent. Look at the increase of other countries where there is a natural migration also. Take England and Wales for example. We find there a population that cannot be supported on the products of those countries. They are beehives of industry that send forth the products of their labour all over the world. They necessarily lose by migration, yet England and Wales have increased in population, (taking into account the natural migration) over eleven per cent—two per cent more than the great provinces of Ontario and Quebec. I think that when that single fact is demonstrated, when those figures are given, we cannot deny that it is the duty of this House, and the duty of Parliament, to inquire honestly and fairly into the causes that lead to such extraordinary consequences. Here is a land flowing with milk and honey, that can afford homes to millions, nay hundreds of millions of people, and yet it is unable to retain its population. The people flee from it as if it were swept by a plague. What is the cause? We have not far to look to see the cause. Hon. gentlemen have alluded to the times of depression in Canada, going back to the years between 1874 and 1879, yet we find the population increased during those years seventeen per cent. The census returns show that the population increased seventeen per cent during those years of so-called depression. I say the cause is not far to discover. It is this unfortunate policy of the Government.

Hon. Mr. READ—They go to a country where the taxation is double.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I am speaking of the fact that they leave Canada.

Hon. Mr. MASSON—Will the hon. gentleman make a comparison between the increase of population in our provinces and in the adjoining states?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—You ask me to give you a comparison of the increase of population between the United States and Canada. Let us compare them together and we will see. Now, I will take the province of Ontario