

him—not even the prosperity which he sees about him, prosperity never before equalled in this country, prosperity unsurpassed in any other country; not even the almost miraculous crop we have had in the North-west; not even the everbuoyant revenue, not even the ever-increasing trade and commerce. Now, I firmly believe that if, instead of the prosperity which my hon. friend sees everywhere, he had seen returning that grim visitant, the companion of the Conservative administrations, the hard times, and if he had had to tell a tale of woe, he would have had a congenial subject to speak about. Nay more, if there had been destitution and famine in the country, I believe my hon. friend's happiness would have been complete.

In fact—I appeal to those who had the pleasure of listening to my hon. friend—the only ray of something like joy which was apparent in his speech was when he came to speak of the census. We are all disappointed in the census, and the very disappointment of the country was my hon. friend's comfort. If, instead of the beggarly increase of 10 per cent in the population there had been a good increase, such as we had reason to expect, my hon. friend would have been extremely doleful. If he had had a doleful speech to make, he would have been happy and cheerful; but as he had the material for a cheerful speech, he was doleful and unhappy. So far as the census is concerned, I am grievously disappointed at the result; but the figures only show the extreme gravity of the exodus in former decades. There is a reason for this perhaps not peculiar to Canada alone. Looking back at the history of the past one hundred years, we see that the young American republic in a halo of glory sprang into existence in a way which fairly took all the civilized nations by storm. A new star had arisen in the western sky, and attracted like a magnet the young of all nations of the world to its doors. From every country those who were dissatisfied with their lot—the young, the ardent, the enthusiastic, the enterprising—flocked to the new country in a copious and never-ending stream. The new nation displayed more unbounded energy and activity during a hundred years than perhaps any other nation in the world's history. As Canada was the nearest country to the United States, she was perhaps the most attracted by it, and it is unfortunately too true that generation after generation almost the whole of our natural increase had crossed the border. It was the boast of the Conservative party, when they adopted the National Policy, that it would put an end to the exodus, and turn a new page in the history of this country. What a delusion that hope was we now know, because the records are there to show that the period of the National Policy was perhaps the worst, so far as the migration from Canada was concerned. But there is no doubt whatever that at the present time Canada is en-

tering upon a new era; we have turned a new page in the history of the country. My hon. friend a moment ago disputed the fact that the exodus was a thing of the past. I do not say that at the present time the exodus has absolutely ceased; but it is within every man's knowledge that it is not what it was ten years ago, nor five years ago.

And, sir, there is something more. It may be possible that there is a continued migration from north to south; but it is a fact within the knowledge of everybody that there is now a new current of migration from south to north, from American to Canadian territory. There is, if I may so speak, a migration of American capital in the east and a migration of American settlers in the west. I know there are some in this country—I see one, at all events, in my eye at the very moment—who pretends to be rather disturbed by this condition of things. What will become of the country, it is said, if it is invaded—that is the word used—by American capital and American citizens? So far as American citizens are concerned, our experience has shown that those who come to settle in the Canadian North-west—and they are coming in thousands—come with the notion which has been implanted from youth in the bosom of every American, that the American constitution is the cream of perfection—the most perfect institution devised by man. But after being some time in Canada, they realize that the British constitution as applied in Canada is more elastic, more democratic, more amenable to the people, than the much-vaunted American constitution. They realize that in Canada the laws are better administered, and that there is better protection for property and life than in the United States; and they have no hesitation in becoming Canadian citizens and taking the oath of allegiance to the King. In the Yukon territory thousands of Americans have taken the oath of allegiance and assumed the responsibilities and privileges of Canadian citizenship.

There is another kind of colonization in the eastern part of Canada, and for my part I see no danger in it. On the contrary, I welcome the influx of capital into Canada. Whether it comes from Great Britain or from the United States, it is the very thing we want. If Americans come here and put their capital into our industries, what is it for? It is to develop those industries and make them fruitful. My hon. friend referred a moment ago to the fact that the population of the county of Cape Breton had increased some fifteen thousand during the last decade; and if he had told the whole story, he would have stated that this increase was largely due to an American citizen who had come to Canada to better his fortune and to develop our industries. If some American capitalists invest their capital in our railways, what is it for? To so develop those railways as to enable them to carry the trade not only of Canada but of