

made last year were altogether inconsistent with facts. I regret very much to say, Mr. Speaker, the estimate which was formed by officers of the Government, under the best evidence that could be well obtained at that time, has not been realised. I regret to say the extent of the immigration has not been so large as we had every reason to suppose would be the case. There are some reasons for it; but, in the first place, I may say that the hon. gentleman has, in his statement, far underrated, I believe, the amount of the immigration into the country this year. The hon. gentleman said that instead of 25,000, not one third of this number had arrived; but I believe the hon. gentleman is entirely wrong.

Mr. MACKENZIE. No.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The hon. gentleman says "No." One of the disadvantages connected with a discussion of this kind with reference to the Speech from the Throne is, that a rumor or statement is made, and documents are not yet before the House to show the utter fallacy and erroneousness of the statement so recklessly made—so recklessly made, I repeat, I have no hesitation in using that word. The hon. gentleman spoke with a degree of glee and enthusiasm, and of enthusiastic joy, regarding the fact that the country was disappointed in its reasonable expectations that there would be a large addition last year to the immigration. The hon. gentleman said that he remembered how, when we were in Opposition, we used to weep at the depletion of the country owing to the malign influences of the late Government and of free trade. Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether we dropped any briny tears in Opposition, but I am quite certain, we regretted it. We saw the consequences, the continuing, the inevitable consequences attending the continued depletion of the country, if this country had remained under their guidance. We regretted it, Mr. Speaker, but certainly did not rejoice on account of it at the time. On the other hand, my hon. friend seems to think he has made a great point in being able to state that this country was not so prosperous as we hoped it might be. He is one of those men who, rather than have his own opinion controverted would submit to any sacrifice. The hon. gentleman has stated, and has elaborated the statement with great ability and zeal, that by no possibility could this country progress in the manner we had hoped and stated was within the range of our expectations; and the hon. gentleman would have been graver had his calculations been overborne by contrary facts. There was a very good sketch of one of the gentlemen who acted with my hon. friend, in a late number of *Grip*, in which the gentleman is represented as weeping, and when he was asked what he was weeping for said: "Oh, have you not heard the bad news: that barley has risen?" The hon. gentleman gloats over the fact that the immigration into the country has not come up to our expectations, and though he may suffer from it himself as an owner of property, and though the country may suffer by its more tardy prosperity, yet he would make a sacrifice of himself and the prosperity of the country for the sake of verifying his predictions. He is in the position of the man who laid a bet with his co-laborer that he could not carry him to the top of the house in his hod. The bet was made and the man jumped into the hod. By slow degrees the better was landed on the roof. "Now," he said, "you have landed me safely." "Well," said the other, "I have got to pay you, but I am sorry. You nearly made a stumble once."

Mr. BLAKE. I thought I had a chance about the third storey.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. With regard to the immigration, it has not, as we have been obliged to admit, been equal to our expectations, but it has been composed of a very respectable and a very wealthy class. The exact numbers I could not state until we lay the return before the House, but I may say that the hon. gentleman has greatly underestimated the amount of emigration into this country. I

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD.

can state this, that during my late visit to England with my two hon. friends—who will corroborate what I say—I found that Canada is creating great attention in England. There was a rush of people of means and fortune wishing to change their destiny by leaving the Mother Country for Manitoba and the North-West. The hon. gentleman will say we have no right to predict, because my predictions were not carried out last year; but I will venture to say that he will find that in 1881—unless it is dwarfed to some degree by the unpatriotic exertions of some hon. gentlemen in Canada—we will have a very large and a very satisfactory emigration from the Mother Country. I hope also that the additional aid of this railway company, which, like all other railway companies having a grant of land has a distinct and great immediate object and advantage in helping forward immigration, will have a very decided effect in that direction, and that unless something unforeseen occurs, unless hon. gentlemen opposite redouble their exertions to keep people out, we will have a very large immigration into this country from this time forward. There is no doubt that the speeches of the hon. gentlemen opposite have been quoted in England against this country. They were thrown up in our faces and quoted as reasons why we could not ask Englishmen to enter into Canadian enterprises. I refer to the speeches of the hon. member for West Durham and of the hon. member for Lambton last year, but we have, besides the silent speech, the likeness of the former hon. gentlemen which appears in the pamphlet I hold in my hand. We have here the expressive face of my hon. friend—a very good likeness, but not quite so handsome as the original. And we have too, "Extracts from the Hon. Edward Blake's famous speech delivered in the Canadian House of Commons." When, in addition to the hon. gentleman's speeches, in addition to his vast influence, we have the handsome, intellectual and expressive countenance of my hon. friend along with these speeches going among people who do not know him so well as we do—and we can scarcely resist him—I say is it any wonder that some should be found who are not proof against his wiles, and who believe his statement that Canada is the great recruiting ground for the United States, that some have been led away by the exertions of the hon. gentleman and his friends, who otherwise would have made their homes in our own territories. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Blake) alluded to the Civil Service Commission mentioned in the Speech. Well, the Government, as the hon. gentleman truly states, was prepared to bring down a measure on the subject last Session, and the more we looked at the question the larger it appeared, and the point the Government wished to arrive at more satisfactorily than any other connected with the Civil Service was that respecting the outside service, which has never been really studied in any systematic way with a view or desire to arrive at any organic change or improvement. This, I need not say, is not a party question. It is a question in which hon. gentlemen opposite are equally interested with the Government of the day. Should the time ever come—I am sorry to say, for the future of this country that their time may come some day—that they will be on this side of the House, I have no doubt they will gladly profit by any changes this Commission may suggest, if they be amendments; and I think they will assist the Government in carrying out such changes. This is a matter, as has been said, in which there is no immediate, earnest, burning necessity, and this question can, therefore, be fairly and fully examined, and the result of this examination, which, I think, will be thorough and exhaustive, will be laid before the House. While the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blake) rather taunted us with our want of energy and zeal in this matter, I am not aware that hon. gentlemen opposite took up the subject with any energy. I think it was left to the solitary exertions of my hon. friend opposite, from West Elgin, (Mr. Casey), who has followed it up zealously, eagerly and with a sincere desire to effect what