

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD : Yes, he is still in the service. The hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Mackenzie) has denied that there has been a large emigration into that country. He has said that Canada has been depleted by an emigration to the United States, and has pooh-pooed the idea, that there has been a considerable influx from the United States into that country. I can assure the hon. gentleman that he is mistaken, that there is a real and substantial flow of population towards the North from the United States. I can assure the hon. gentleman that there has also been a large flow of emigrants from England, Ireland, and Scotland. The hon. gentleman says it is not a matter of congratulation at all, that there is an emigration from the older Provinces of the Dominion. I do not agree with him. Every step taken by a farmer from Ontario or from Quebec, or any of the other Provinces which is at all likely to improve his condition is a matter of congratulation. Those men who have gone from Ontario, principally to the North-West, are the best settlers that can be found for a new country. They are accustomed to the system of farming in Ontario. They do not come from the old country, quite inexperienced and unused to our mode of agriculture. They go there ready at once to prosper, bringing all their skill and all their experience with them that they have learned in Ontario. And their places can be well filled. Their improved farms and buildings can be sold, and will be sold, and will be eagerly sought for by emigrants coming from the old country, who are not so capable of encountering the hardships of a prairie life as the people from Ontario, and who find in a cleared and improved farm a state of things very nearly like that of agriculture in the country which they left. I think that the whole movement of population into that country, from whatever source it comes, is a matter upon which to congratulate ourselves. The hon. gentleman charges us with having passed land laws which have been the means of stopping the flow of emigrants into that country. When the question comes up for discussion in this House, I shall be only too glad to enter fully into that subject, and the hon. gentleman will

find that, whether it be with reference to the original regulations or to any amendments of the regulations, they were prepared and acted upon with every desire to improve the position of the country and at the same time to generate the fund which would enable the Government of Canada to build the Pacific Railway and to carry out its engagements, without laying undue burdens upon the shoulders of the people. The hon. gentleman says he has always opposed the idea of building the railway or settling the country by means of putting a price upon the land. But, if I remember aright, in days of old, a gentleman not now in this House, Mr. Young, moved that the railway should be built out of the proceeds of the sales of land in that country, and the hon. member for Lambton supported and voted for that motion. And, if I am not very much mistaken, the hon. gentleman, when he laid out the line of the railway running from Selkirk by the northern route specially reserved tracts of land on both sides of the line and withdrew them from settlement for the purpose of furnishing the means to build the railway. The hon. gentleman has declared that the country is still suffering and is in a state of distress. He quotes the number of failures that occurred last year as compared with previous years. The action of this House and the general opinion in the country was pronounced against the continuance of the Insolvency Law, so that every man who was aware that he could not pay twenty shillings in the pound, every man who was aware that during the five or six years of depression that have unfortunately existed he was unable to meet his engagements in full, has taken advantage of the law before it was repealed in order to make a new start. If that had not been the conviction in the country, I think that the large proportion of bankruptcies would not have existed. The hon. gentleman rather objects to the appointment of Sir Alexander Galt as our representative in England. Well, I think the objection is not well founded. This country, as the Speech says, is rapidly developing. We know that negotiations are about to go on between Great Britain and various European countries, especially France and Spain, and perhaps Austria, and it is of great importance that we should have someone