

way 25,000 people would go into that country during the past season? Instead of the immigration rising to that figure he regretted to say that, including everything in the shape of land transactions, only 682,000 acres of sales, homesteads and pre-emptions, had been taken up, and the homestead fees had shrunk from \$34,000 to a small fraction over \$17,000 clearly showing a decreased immigration. That was convincing proof that there must be a screw loose somewhere in our land regulations in the North-West, and there must be a strong reason why there had been such an enormous shrinkage. People had been leaving the older Provinces, not for the North-West, but they had dropped off on the way and found locations on the other side of the border. But we had been told that the National Policy had created a great improvement in our condition, and one hon. gentleman had the coolness to tell us that, so far as breadstuffs and coal were concerned, we were not a taxed people at all. That hon. gentleman must have been exceedingly oblivious of the official returns laid on the Table by the Minister of Customs only a short week ago. They showed that half a million dollars were collected as a coal tax alone in the Dominion for the last fiscal year, and that nearly \$350,000 was collected on breadstuffs. On the single article of cornmeal, which was largely imported into the Maritime Provinces, nearly \$70,000 was collected last year. But had the National Policy given the agriculturists of this Dominion an increased price for their products? He found that their exports had risen very largely, from the fact that they had been favored by Providence with a bountiful grain crop. There had been a large increase of the exports of agricultural produce, animals, and their produce, to the extent of from \$14,700,000 in 1879, to \$18,500,000 in 1880, an increase of \$3,800,000; and the cash derived from the increased sale of produce had gone into the pockets of the farmers. They found that the exports of their grain had risen from \$25,900,000 to \$32,300,000, an increase of \$6,400,000 in one year. When this money was put into circulation increased prosperity followed, because he need not tell hon. gentlemen that when the farmer got increased crops he gets more money which, being put into circulation, paid debts, gave employment, and added materially to the substantial wealth of the country. But this could not be claimed as the result of the National Policy. It was the result of a bountiful Providence, notwithstanding the exodus of our population, which he regretted to see, and which he thought was the best proof that the National Policy had not been the panacea it was claimed to be. They had thriven in spite of the National Policy, and not in consequence of anything it had done for them. The hon. gentlemen now occupying the Ministerial benches when in Opposition said that if they got into power the prices of everything would be increased; the farmer was told that oats would be five to ten cents per bushel higher, and that everything would immediately receive a stimulus. But when they crept into office, and the expectations of the farmers and the people generally were not realized, they said: "Wait a little longer; everything will revive after awhile." He thought that those gentlemen ought to have come squarely down to business and admitted that they had crept into office under false pretences; but they meant to hold on as long as Providence favored the country with good crops. He regretted as much as any gentleman could the large exodus to the United States, and he commended to the careful consideration of the supporters of the Government that they were losing people from the older Provinces while it was patent from our diminished lands sales that these people were not taking up lands in the North-West. He asked hon. gentlemen to consider these facts aside from party issues, and he could assure the House that any efforts made by the Government in the direction of stopping the exodus that undoubtedly existed, and of attracting settlers to our North-West, would meet with his hearty support. He did not like to impute motives, but it

seemed to him that if the hon. member for Cardwell had been anxious to elicit all the facts he would not have been so anxious to confine his motion to this one particular point. He hoped before the Session was over we would have all the facts.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell) said, as far as regarded this motion, it was a matter of indifference to him what effect the National Policy had on the country; but if the country was more prosperous than it had been, there must necessarily be more opportunity for the employment of labor; and we might ask these hon. gentlemen how they were going to account for the fact that there was greater emigration at a time when employment was more abundant and the country more prosperous than when it was less prosperous. The statement made by the hon. gentleman who had just sat down that this motion ought to have been more general in its character, was answered by the circumstances which gave rise to it. What caused the motion to be made was the statement to the effect that, at a particular point in this Dominion, a certain number of emigrants had passed into the United States during the year. If true that would mean practically the depopulation of this country, because it could not be supposed that all the emigrants from this country went out of it by that particular route. If we could establish that at the particular point selected as an illustration to prove the great emigration that had taken place from this country, the emigration was so much less than the extent stated that it proved the statement to be grossly incorrect, then the conclusion might be fairly drawn that the general statements as to the rest of the country were equally unreliable. For that reason this motion was proposed. It was impossible the hon. Minister could obtain information on general statements, so as to establish their accuracy or inaccuracy; but he could ascertain whether any particular statement advanced was correct or not, by sending officers to enquire into the matter. They had the hon. Minister's statement that, from the enquiries made, so far from its being possible that number of emigrants had gone out at that port, it was larger than the entire number of passengers that passed through that port altogether; while the difference between the number coming and going was not very much more than one-tenth of the number who were alleged to have gone out of the country to settle in the United States. He thought it would have been much better if the motion had been allowed to go to-night, that full reports should have been obtained, that these reports should be referred to the Committee on Immigration and Colonization, so that all the information should have been before the House before further discussion took place. It had been charged by way of *tu quoque* that during the five years that hon. gentlemen opposite occupied seats on this side of the House, the Conservative party, then in Opposition, were constantly exaggerating or, at least, certainly magnifying the emigration from this country, and that they were doing it as an element or a weapon in party warfare against the hon. gentlemen who were then on this side of the House. The supporters of the Government were told that hon. gentlemen opposite were now doing no more than had been done by hon. gentlemen now sitting on this side of the House when they sat on the other. But there was a very remarkable distinction between the two cases. In the first place, according to the statements made by the hon. gentlemen opposite, the number of alleged emigrants who left the country during the five years the hon. gentlemen were in office, only amounted to 25,000 a year, distributed over the whole country. There were no allegations that such numbers were going out at particular ports as to make it a physical impossibility that the statement could be true. There was a general statement that a large number of emigrants were going out of the country. That was the statement of the Conservative party while in Opposition. It was true that a large emigration was taking