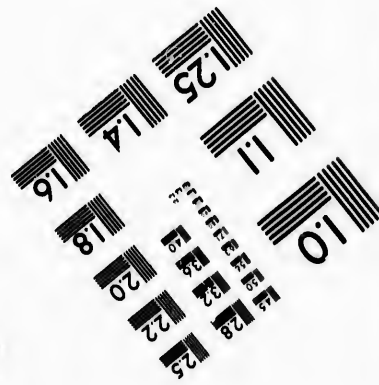
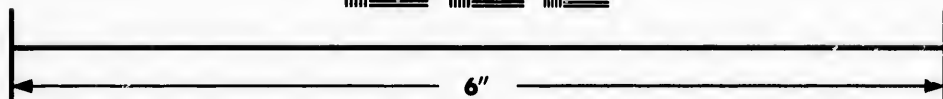
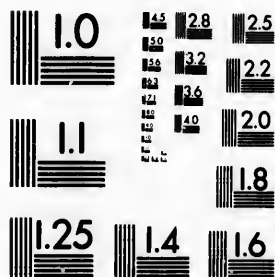


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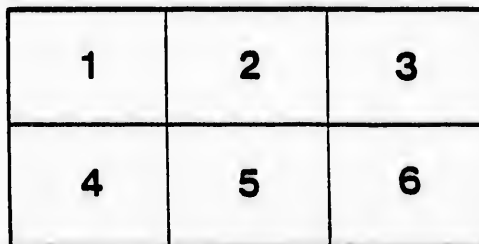
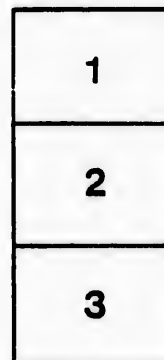
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THE BOODLE BRIGADE

WHY THE DOMINION IS LOSING POPULATION.

SPEECH OF M. C. CAMERON, M.P.

ON THE

Census Returns for the Year 1891.

STARTLING FACTS AND FIGURES

For the Consideration of Canadian Taxpayers.

1913

Speaking in the House of Commons on Wednesday, the 2nd September, 1891, Mr. M. C. Cameron, M. P. for West Huron, said :

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) will pardon me if I do not follow him in his long speech. The hon. gentleman said in concluding his speech that if he spoke for an hour longer he could advance arguments just as strong as the arguments he had advanced. I agree with the hon. gentleman. I believe if he spoke for twenty-four hours one argument would be just as strong as another argument. The hon. gentleman in order to show that the census returns and the deplorable exhibition they make is attributable to the Liberals and the Liberal speeches and the conduct of Liberal members of Parliament, pointed out a number of counties represented by Liberals in which the population has decreased, and a number of counties represented by Conservatives in which the population has increased, and he attributed the decrease in the populations of these counties to the speeches made by Liberals to their constituencies, in Parliament and in the country, on the trade policy and kindred questions. I am not prepared to say why it is that some constituencies that have returned Conservatives to Parliament have increased in population. It may have been because they do not read the newspapers. It may have been because there is not the general intelligence in constituencies of that kind, that there is in constituencies represented by members of the Opposition, (Hear, hear) but the hon gentleman

Was a Little Unfortunate

in one or two of his references. The riding of East Huron was not represented for years by a Liberal until 1887. For seven years of the past decade that county continued to be repre-

sented by a Tory, and I believe, if it had been represented by a Tory, as that is an intelligent constituency, there would not have been as large a population there as there is now. West Huron was represented by a Conservative prior to 1882 and subsequent to 1887, for at least six years of the present decade, and, if the population has decreased in that county, it is certainly not because the constituency was represented by a Liberal. I would like to know what the Minister of Finance thinks of the hon. gentleman's argument; I would like to know what the Minister of Marine and Fisheries thinks of the hon. gentleman's argument; I would like to know what the Minister of Justice thinks of the hon. gentleman's argument. If the decrease in the population is attributable to disloyal speeches of members representing these counties, how is the hon. gentleman from East Grey (Mr. Sproule) going to satisfy the Minister of Finance? Why, the very moment the hon. gentleman uttered that sentiment, the Minister of Finance escaped from the chamber. He was afraid to remain, and the hon. gentleman frightened him from his seat. I find that the county represented by the Minister of Finance has decreased from a population of 25,617 to a population of 23,000, a falling off of 2,617. (Applause and laughter.) Now, the Minister of Finance must have been uttering some thoroughly disloyal sentiments in

The County of Kings, N. B.,

or the population would not have fallen off. He has been decrying the country, and he has been preaching blue ruin; (Cheers.) How is the member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) going to reconcile himself with his hon. friend who sits right behind him (Mr. Tupper). He had better go over to the adjoining seat and make up friends with the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries. He must also

have been preaching blue ruin to the County of Pictou for the last ten years, and the result is that the County of Pictou has decreased from 35,000 to 34,000. (Applause.) The Minister of Marine and Fisheries ought to have been brought to account, because if the argument of the member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) is correct, he has by his disloyal utterances in the County of Pictou preached 1,000 people into the United States. (Laughter.) What has his friend the Minister of Justice done? Is he as great a sinner? (Hear, hear.) He has got the reputation of being a little more eloquent and, perhaps, of having a little more influence in the Province of Nova Scotia than his colleague; his speeches have the reputation of being a little more telling, and his disloyal utterances for the last ten years have actually driven into the United States of America 2,000 Canadians from his own County of Antigonish. (Hear, hear.) If the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) went on for another hour and gave us just such admirable logical arguments as these, we would not all be disposed to listen to him for long. Now, here is a thoroughly disloyal man sitting right in front of me (Mr. Mills, Bothwell,) who has been

Preaching these Disloyal Doctrines

for twenty-five years, who has been preaching blue ruin according to the theory of the member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), and yet his county has increased in population by 4,000. (Cheers.) The hon. member for East Grey must see how potent and how logical his argument is. Everybody with an ounce of brains knows that it does not signify what county you represent, the people read in every county. I know the Conservatives as well, I dare say, as the hon. gentleman; I know that a great many of them are reading men, and if disloyal sentiments

are uttered in Parliament, or out of Parliament, or blue ruin is preached in Parliament or out of Parliament, it is read by them; and because one county represented by a Liberal happens to lose population and because another county represented by a Conservative happens to gain a few hundred, that is about the weakest kind of argument I ever heard in Parliament against the present amendment, but it is worthy of the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule). Now, is it really possible in the Parliament of Canada and on the Treasury benches, where there are some able men, that there was

Not a Single Minister of the Crown

able to rise to his feet for the purpose of defending the Minister of Finance, and that the duty had to fall upon a prospective Minister of Agriculture? (Hear, Hear.) Is it possible that in the Parliament of Canada, upon the other side of the House, there is not a single member of the Conservative party who had the courage to get to his feet to relieve, or to attempt to relieve, the Minister of Finance from the difficulties in which he was placed? Is it possible that there is not to-night a single member of the Conservative party in this House who has the courage of his convictions, and who will tell the Minister of Finance to his face that the deplorable results presented by the census returns are attributable to two causes, namely, the vicious commercial policy of the Government, and the still more vicious administration of our public affairs for the last ten years? (Applause.) Is it possible that there is not a member of Parliament on the other side of the House who could suggest a remedy for the deplorable state in which the country is now placed. Is it true that the Minister of Finance attempted to shirk responsibility for the deplorable condi-

tion in which the country now is, as shown by the census returns, by preaching somewhat the same doctrine as his follower from East Grey, (Mr. Sproule), and declaring that the speeches of blue ruin which have been made in Parliament and out of Parliament have everything to do with the loss of population? It is true, he told us that the speech of the late leader of the Liberal party in Parliament and out of Parliament, especially in connection with the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, had something to do with it. I challenge the Minister of Finance or any other member of the Government to lay his finger upon a sentence that ever the Hon. Edward Blake uttered in condemnation of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. (Cheers.) It is true, he condemned the mode of construction; it is true, he condemned the

Outrageous and Absurd Conditions

that the company exacted from the Government of Canada; it is true, he condemned the conditions that were imposed by the company upon the Government of Canada with relation to the North-West Territories; it is true, he predicted that if those conditions formed part of the charter of incorporation, they would strike a deadly blow at the growth and prosperity of the North-West Territories, and the Hon. Edward Blake never uttered a truer sentence than that. (Cheers.) It is true, the hon. gentleman referred to disclosures being made in the Province of Quebec. I know nothing about those disclosures; I care nothing about them, except as a Canadian desirous that his country shall be pure and honest. (Hear, hear.) We have enough to do at home, and the Minister of Finance will do well, before he makes observations with regard to charges pending elsewhere,

to look about him and behind him, to the right of him, and to the left of him. (Great cheers.)

(A VOICE—Look at Chapleau and Haggart.)

Now, Sir, there is no thoughtful man in the Parliament of Canada to-day, there is no thoughtful man out of Parliament to-day, but

Must Deplore the Results

as they are represented by the census returns laid on the table of the House not very long ago. There is no thoughtful Canadian in Parliament or out of Parliament that will not do more than the Minister of Finance did or than his follower from East Grey (Mr. Sproule) did—pause and consider with care and deliberation what the causes of this deplorable condition are. (Hear, hear.) There is not a thoughtful, honest, upright Canadian to-night who will not only feel disposed to pause and consider what the causes are, but whether there are remedies for that condition. Sir, it is well for us that the facts are plain, and that the Minister of Finance admitted the facts; he could not do otherwise. He deplored the results; he could not well do otherwise. But admitting the facts, it is well for thoughtful Canadians, desirous for the progress, prosperity and welfare of the country, to pause for a moment and consider the reasons why Canada has not made the strides forward that Canada ought to have made, and if possible to suggest

Remedies for the Admitted Evils.

Has our expenditure anything to do with the matter? Has the increase of our annual expenditure from \$15,000,000 in 1871 to \$37,000,000 or thereabouts in

1891 had anything to do with it? Has the increase of our national debt from \$78,000,000 in 1871, to \$237,000,000 or thereabouts in 1891 had anything to do with it? (Hear, hear.) Has our expenditure which is now out of all proportion to the wants and necessities of the country, anything to do with it? Has our national debt, which is out of all proportion to the necessities of a new country like Canada, anything to do with it? (Applause.) From the observations of the Finance Minister one would conclude that he is of opinion that the increase of the national debt and the increase of the annual expenditure being good things, are in no way accountable for the deplorable results revealed by the census returns. Sir, not only has our national debt and our annual expenditure increased out of all proportion to the wants and necessities of the country, but if the national debt and the annual expenditure had been devoted to proper and legitimate purposes, one would have little ground of complaint. But, Sir, there is something more than a national debt and an annual expenditure. There has been mismanagement and maladministration, there has been speculation, there has been jobbery, there has been contract broking, there has been plundering, there has been

Stealing from the Public Treasury,

and hon. gentlemen know it. (Great cheers.) It is useless for them to attempt to stop their ears and close their eyes. Nobody knows better than the Minister of Justice that the history of Canada for the last ten years is a history of Government by corruption, a history of fraud, a history of speculation, a history of stealing, a history of contract broking and contract jobbing. (Applause.) The record is a long record, it is a black record; but as I believe, it is one

of the main causes of the deplorable results shown by the census returns. I shall venture to submit to Parliament, long and black as the list is, some facts which I think ought to convince even members of the Conservative party, that the present condition of the country, and the decrease in the population of the country, are more attributable to the misgovernment and the mismanagement of our public affairs, and to the rank corruption which has permeated every branch of the public service, than anything else during the last ten years. (Cheers.) Will the Minister of Finance or any other member of the Government deny that in the construction of the Esquimalt graving dock and the Quebec harbor improvement works, there was a clear steal from the public purse of this Dominion, of well on to one million of money, a large portion of which was

Grabbed by a Member of Parliament,

and some it is alleged by a Minister of the Crown. (Loud cheers.) Will anybody deny that it has been proven before the Parliament of Canada, and before the Committee of the Parliament of Canada, that in connection with the construction of the graving dock at Kingston there was a steal from the public purse of this Dominion of \$190,000? (Cheers.)

Mr. TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of order. The hon. gentleman has now proceeded to discuss the evidence given before a Committee of this House previous to the reception of the report. I have no doubt that the subject will be discussed when the report is received, but until then it is out of order.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Sit still and take your medicine like a man.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). The hon. gentleman knows that I am not discussing what took place in the Committee. I

do not propose to touch what took place in the Committee.

Mr. AMYOT. On the question of order, I will say this, and it is very simple. We had a discussion this afternoon on evidence received in the Senate which has not yet been reported to this House; and if I rise on the question of order, it is because I intend answering the allusions made to that enquete by the Minister of Finance. I suppose the principle laid down by the Government in this discussion will not be changed during the very discussion itself, when it is used by hon. gentlemen on this side. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. TUPPER. That does not make the case any better. The hon. gentleman may say that he proposes to violate the rule of order, but that does not put the hon. member for Huron in order. I raised the question, and it is for the Speaker to decide. (Groans.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I hope the hon. gentleman will not allude to anything which has passed in a Committee, but will try to confine himself as much as possible to the question before the House.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). I think I know the rules of the House as well as the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Tupper), and when I transgress the rules I am willing to be called to order. I have a right to refer to a matter discussed on the floor of Parliament and in the public press. I pointed out, in connection with the Kingston graving dock, that it was proved there was a clear steal in that matter from the public treasury of \$190,000. (Applause.) I believe it will be proved, when the proper time comes, that, in connection with the construction of the Langevin block in this city, we have already paid \$385,000 more than the contract price, and that before the end is reached we shall have paid \$657,000 more than the contract price. (Hear, hear.) I know these are

delicate subjects with hon. gentlemen opposite. I know they touch them on the raw, but they furnish the true reason why the population of this country has not grown. (Hear, hear.) Am I out of order in drawing the attention of Parliament to the fact that, in the construction of the Tay Canal, constructed, as I believe it was, for the

Benefit of the Postmaster General,

there was a steal of at least a quarter of a million. Is it any wonder that, in the face of these things, we cannot retain our population, and that any immigrants we do receive flee from our country as if it were a plague-stricken spot? (Applause.) Am I out of order in drawing the attention of Parliament to the fact that you will find in the public press of this country the statement that a Minister of the Crown secured from a public contractor \$25,000 to bonus a newspaper, his own organ? (Cheers.) Am I out of order in saying that it is stated in the public press that the Minister's son-in-law received \$3,000 for a newspaper he controlled? The evidence taken and submitted to Parliament, and now in my desk, shows that the Department of the Interior is reeking with corruption. (Hear, hear.) The evidence taken before a Committee of this House, portions of which are submitted to Parliament, all of which is published in the public press, shows that the Department of the Secretary of State, is

A Sink of the Vilest Fraud.

(A VOICE—That's Chapleau's Department.)

We have one of the trusted employes of a Minister of the Crown peculating nearly \$50,000; we have another employé stealing, for it is nothing else but stealing, from the plundered treasury, sums varying from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Where is Mr. Bronskill? Will the Minister tell us? Will he tell us the whereabouts of Mr. Senecal? (Hear, hear.) Will he tell us the whereabouts of Uncle Thomas? Will he tell us the whereabouts of these men who have left their country for their country's good. (Great cheers.) These things are matters of notoriety; they have been matters of notoriety for years. Rumours were abroad in Canada, rumours of them were abroad across the international boundary line, rumours of them were abroad in the mother country. Is it any wonder that with these extraordinary facts published abroad the tide of immigration should be very narrow and should remain here but a very short time? Everybody knows that the Department of the Postmaster General is notorious from one end of Canada to the other—so notorious that it has been the subject of discussion in the public press. (Great applause.) So notorious that it has been the object of denunciation from almost

Every Pulpit in the Land.

(Great applause.) The Postmaster General, a Minister of the Crown, charged with these offences, remains silent and dumb. If these Ministers of the Crown had the instincts of men and statesmen, they would bring their slanderers, if slanderers they are, before the tribunals of the country. They would

There meet their Actusers

face to face and make them prove that the charges are true, or otherwise stand convicted of uttering vile slanders in the public press. So far, the first step has not been taken; so far these hon. gentlemen have done nothing to vindicate their characters, if their characters can be vindicated. (Hear, hear.) Is it not notorious? Am I out of order in drawing the attention of Parliament to it? Am I out of

order in drawing attention to the fact that the Department of Public Works is noted, throughout the length and breadth of the country, as the very sink, the very cesspool, from the highest to the lowest, of gross jobbery? (True.) While the master takes his share of loot in solid silver plate, garnished with \$22,000 current coin of the realm, the understrappers of the department get their share of the loot in pleasure yachts, brass dogs and diamonds, and their

Family Groceries and Linen

through one of the public departments, paid for out of the public purse. Is it any wonder that in this condition of affairs, known and notorious everywhere, we cannot retain in the country the immigrants we do receive, or even the natural increase in our own population? (Loud cheers.) Is it not known, was it not charged in Parliament years ago, that a member of this House received from the Government he was supporting a bonus for a railway which was practically an insolvent concern, on the strength of which there was borrowed on the English market ninety thousand pounds sterling, not a farthing of which will ever be seen by the lenders? (Cheers.) That was notorious in the Canadian and the English press. Is it not notorious that a year and a half ago Parliament substantially expelled a Conservative member of Parliament for public plunder? (Cries of "Rykert.") Is it not known that another Conservative member of Parliament was practically expelled this session for having been engaged in contract jobbing, and that, charged with public stealing, he is

Now a Fugitive from Justice?

(Applause.) Is it not known that this Government pledged itself to a wild-cat scheme called the Chignecto Ship Rail-

way, involving an expenditure of \$3,000,000 or \$4,000,000, pronounced by experts to be useless if not almost impracticable? Is it not known by everybody that the Minister of Finance, aye, the hon. member for Grey (Mr. Sproule), the future Minister of Agriculture, (laughter) has driven the Minister of Finance out of Parliament by his speech, and he has not been here for half an hour? Is it not known that the Minister of Finance has been spending some \$60,000 a year in bonusing vessels with the view of developing trade with the British West India Islands and the Spanish West India Islands, knowing all the time that the export trade of those Islands had fallen off \$337,000 from 1878 to 1889? I expect next to hear of the Minister of Finance gathering up his travelling traps, taking in hand his grip sack and rushing off to the great republic of Liberia with the object of opening up trade relations with that important country. I commend the mission to him. I find that last year that republic exported to the United States 100 parrots, 25 snakes and 150 monkeys. (Great laughter.) Why does not the Minister of Finance set to work to secure that important trade? He may acquire in that way the distinction which he has long had in view, the Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George, and I recommend him to take with him one of his colleagues who has for some years had his longing eyes cast in that direction, the Secretary of State. That hon. gentleman has earned it now. (Hear, hear.) The disclosures of the department show that

He is Eminently Qualified

for that distinguished honor. (Applause.) Is it not known—was it not charged in Parliament six years ago—that three Ministers of the Crown, two of whom are still Ministers of the Crown, had secured from the Government enormous bonuses

for railways in which they had, if not a controlling, at all events a large pecuniary interest? That statement was scattered abroad from one end of the country to the other. Is it not known that two other Ministers have been charged with dabbling in the public domain, and one of them charged by a Conservative member of Parliament? Is it not known—I know it and everyone knows it—that by the criminal negligence, carelessness, and indifference of an incompetent and imbecile Government, the people in the North-West Territories were forced into rebellion at a cost to this country of eight millions of money, the loss of two hundred precious lives, the entailment upon the people of a long pension list, and the

Decimation of the Homes

of the Half-breeds in the North-West Territories; and all that Canada got for it was the honour of having the Minister of War of this Dominion made a Knight of St. Michael and St. George, and the commander of the expedition also made a knight of the same order, with a bonus of \$20,000 and the capture of Bremner's furs. (Great cheering.) Sir, is anyone surprised that this condition of things, existing and known to exist for the last ten years, known here and known elsewhere, known in Canada, known in the United States, known in England, notwithstanding what the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Finance say, the name of Canada should be to-day a byword and a reproach, and that the tide of immigration from the mother country and the continent should have passed by Canada, and that we could not hold our own natural increase in this Dominion? (Applause.) The public accounts will show you, and the report of the Auditor-General will show you that we have been spending, year in and year out, over \$250,000 for contingencies, that we have

been spending \$16,000 for telegrams, that we have been spending \$50,000 for extra clerks, that we spent last year \$219

For Luncheons for Ministers

of the Crown Let them pay for their own luncheons. They are well enough paid for what they do. (Cheers.) Is it not known that we have been spending sums ranging from \$180,000 to \$200,000 to fee and

Keep Alive the Subsidized Press

of hon. gentlemen opposite? They live, they move and they have their being almost entirely from these subsidies of the Government. (Hear, hear.) Will anyone tell me that without the enormous subvention that this Government hands over to the little daily published in Moncton it would live for 24 hours? No one who knows anything about the paper, its proprietorship and its necessities would venture to say that it would. We have been paying over \$100,000 to fee Conservative lawyers to do Conservative work for a Conservative Government, and yet we have a Minister of Justice at our doors with a staff of employés who ought to be able to do this work. This condition of things is known to have existed for ten years, and I believe that the shocking way in which our affairs have been managed during that time has done as much if not more to deprive us of our population than almost anything else that has happened. We now see the effect of the policy of hon. gentlemen. We feel it to-day, and we see it in the census returns which have been submitted to Parliament. Under these circumstances, would anyone be surprised that the vigorous, young, hale, hearty, intelligent, shrewd, level-headed Canadians will not live in a country which has

Been Cursed for Twelve Years

with such a Government as this is, and with which, judging by the vote of the electors at the last election, they may be cursed for four years more. (Applause.) To a thoughtful man, to an honest Canadian desirous of the progress, the well-being and the prosperity of his country, the condition of affairs is serious and grave. It is practically admitted that in every department of the public service we have corruption the most appalling, we have waste the most shocking, and we have extravagance the most startling that ever marked the pages of the history of any country in the known world. I have said that to thoughtful Canadians it is a matter of regret, but it is also a matter for reflection. To patriotic Canadians it is

A Matter of Serious Enquiry

whether or not there is a remedy for all these grievances and all these wrongs. There is one thing which is proved in my judgment beyond a peradventure, and that is that the trade policy which hon. gentlemen have kept on the Statute-book for twelve years has proved a complete and thorough failure. (Great cheers.) The census returns show that your policy is one which has not brought peace and prosperity to this great country of ours. It shows further, and it shows so plainly that he who runs may read, that you cannot, at the end of the nineteenth century, successfully adopt and carry out a [trade policy] obsolete in the mother country 50 years ago; it shows that you cannot keep successfully in commercial and political slavery, free Canadians living in a free land; (applause). It shows further that every pledge, that every promise that you made to the people of Canada, when you introduced the National Policy, and every assurance you gave them subsequently to the introduction of

the National Policy, have been violated, grossly violated, by you. (Hear, hear.) Your late chief promised, on the introduction of the National Policy, that by putting on a substantial tariff we

Could Encourage Every Industry,

whether agricultural, mining or manufacturing. Your encouragement to the agriculturists of Canada, and especially of the Province of Ontario, is shown by the fact that your policy has had the effect of depreciating the value of farm lands by at least 25 per cent.; your encouragement to the agriculturists of the Dominion of Canada, and notably in the Province of Ontario, is shown by the fact that of farms in that province, 75 per cent. are mortgaged. I know this statement was made in Parliament before, I know it was denied upon the floor of Parliament before, and I propose to put the question beyond doubt by giving official information upon the subject. I hold in my hand a certificate from the registrar of one of the best counties in Western Ontario.

The Mortgage Record.

He selected three of the best townships in the county of which he is registrar, and at the beginning of this year he wrote the following letter:—

BARRIE, 25th Feb., 1891.

"DEAR SIR,—It would not be possible for me to give you an exact or very reliable statement of the amount of mortgage indebtedness against lands in this county from the books of this office, as I have no means of knowing what has been paid on the mortgages.

"I have, therefore, not attempted such a statement, but merely send you a statement of the number of farm lots or parcels into which the townships are divided (exclusive of towns or villages), together with the number and percentage that appear to be held under mortgage.

"The mortgages range from \$300 to \$7,000

or \$8,000; the probable average would be \$1,000.

The three townships you have selected are the richest and most prosperous in the three ridings of the county, and are almost wholly settled and owned by resident farmers.

"Yours truly,
(Signed) "SAM. LOUNT.

"COUNTY OF SIMCOE REGISTRY OFFICE,
"BARRIE, 25th Feb. 1891.

"The books of this office show:

"(1) That the Township of Tecumseh is divided into about 647 parcels or lots, as held under patents from the Crown. Of these 647 lots 432 are mortgaged and 215 are unencumbered, or 67 per cent. mortgaged.

"(2) That the Township of Nottawasaga is divided into about 623 patented parcels. Of these 490 are mortgaged and 133 are not mortgaged, or 78 per cent. mortgaged.

"(3) That the Township of Oro is divided into about 569 patented lots. Of these 399 are mortgaged and 170 are not mortgaged, or 70 per cent. under mortgage.

(Signed) SAM. LOUNT,
"Registrar."

I think that certificate, from an official, showing the condition of the farm lands in the Province of Ontario, ought to satisfy hon. gentlemen opposite,—I know it does the people of this country—that not a single promise, not a single pledge made to the people of Canada by the Government on the introduction of the National Policy, so far as the farmers are concerned, have been redeemed. Is it any wonder, then, that men should desire to get rid of their encumbered farms, and leave their old homesteads and seek other homes elsewhere? You did more than that; you deceived the people of this country in many ways, and I propose to prove that you deceived them in two or three ways. (Applause.) Your late chief said the moment that policy was adopted, the effect of which was to keep Canada for the Canadians, prosperity would return. How did you keep that promise to the Canadian people? Do prosperity and progress reign in this country now? No, Sir. The farmers of Canada, in their despair appealed not long ago to hon. gentlemen

opposite. Their appeals were unheeded; hon. gentlemen who pledged themselves to do wonders for the Canadian farmer and the Canadian producer, turned a deaf ear to the appeals of the farmer.

What the Farmers Say.

The Central Farmers' Institute of Ontario passed the following resolution and memorialized the Dominion Government to this effect:—

"Whereas we consider the present high tariff is very injurious to the agricultural interests, making what we buy proportionately dearer than the products we sell; and whereas the present high tariff has given us to the combine system, by which competition is to a great extent prevented; and whereas the agricultural interest is suffering under serious depression and unable to bear the strain occasioned by the tariff and the combine system aforesaid, and as the agricultural interests represent the large majority of the population; that,

"Therefore, this, the Central Institute, do respectfully ask the Government to reduce the tariff on articles of prime necessity to the farmer, such as iron, steel, coal, cottons, woollens, rubbers, sugars, corn and salt, to such an extent as to relieve the agriculturist of the unequal burden under which he is now laboring."

Your friendship, your generosity, and your liberality to the farmers were shown in the reduction in the sugar duties, still leaving the farmer handicapped even in that respect. You kept your promise to the business men of this country, to the traders, when you promised them that the moment that policy was adopted prosperity would return, by driving into bankruptcy more men during the eleven years of your policy than became insolvent during the preceding twenty-two years. I have in my hand, certified as correct, the report of Dunn, Wiman & Co., giving the number of insolvents, together with the amount involved in every case for the last eleven years. It is important reading for the House, and although figures are tiresome, I shall venture to read the statement that has been

placed in my hands to the Parliament of my country:

Years.	Number.	Amount.
1880.....	902	\$7,449,063
1881.....	631	5,675,807
1882.....	787	8,537,000
1883.....	1,384	15,372,000
1884.....	1,308	18,939,770
1885.....	1,247	8,743,049
1886.....	1,233	10,171,384
1887.....	1,366	16,070,595
1888.....	1,667	13,974,787
1889.....	1,747	14,528,884
1890.....	1,828	17,856,017
1891 (3 months) .	575	6,048,234
	<u>14,875</u>	<u>\$143,916,590</u>

Thus we see that in the last year, just before the general elections, and when hon. gentlemen opposite were telling us from the stump, the platform, and the school house, that prosperity and progress followed the introduction of the National Policy, the number of insolvents had gone up to 1,828, and the capital involved to \$17,856,000. For the first three months of this year the number had gone up to 575 and the capital invested to \$6,048,234, and taking the same ratio for the remaining portion of the year the amount would have been \$24,000,000. (Cheers.) Is it any wonder that in the face of these startling and extraordinary facts,

Culled from Official Documents

and placed in my hands by the authorities already mentioned, that the tide of immigration is not directed towards Canada and we have not been able to maintain our own natural growth? Sir, the disclosure is shocking, it is startling, it is enough to make thoughtful men pause and consider. It shows clearly to hon. gentlemen opposite that the National Policy has been a complete failure, that it has no friends in this country except the protected manufacturers, that they have not been able to

bring about prosperity by the introduction of the National Policy. If you want to retain Canada for the Canadians, if you want to encourage and increase the population, the tide of immigration, abolish your National Policy altogether, and carry out a broader, more liberal, and more comprehensive Commercial Policy than you have had in force for the last twelve years. For five years you have been hoping against hope. The Minister of Finance, as anybody could see, has been whistling to keep his courage up. For five years you have been playing the part of the political bully and braggart, endeavoring to inspire your followers with the courage you did not feel yourselves. The census returns placed on the Table the other night

Leave You in a Hopeless Muddle.

leave you in the mud, unable to extricate yourself. (Cheers.) Your late chief told us not long before his death that "this policy of protection has been so successful that former hamlets were now large villages, villages towns, and towns were claiming to be cities." The moment the National Policy was introduced, you knew it then and you know now, people fled from the land. You know it now, you knew it then, that when the National Policy had been on the Statute-book for three years, people in the far east and distant west were leaving Canada as if it were a plague-stricken country. The *Port Huron Times*, three years after the National Policy was introduced, published the following :

"Some idea may be gained of the manner in which immigration to this country is increasing, by the fact that for the quarter ending 31st December, 1879, the total number of immigrants entering this port was 22,600, an increase of 15,284 over a corresponding period in 1897. Of this number 14,937 were males, and 7,633 were females. The number of children under five years of age was 1,808 females. The nativity of these immigrants was as follows :

England.....	480
Ireland.....	81
Scotland.....	58
Germany.....	163
Sweden.....	30
Norway.....	64
Denmark.....	60
France.....	102
Russia.....	17
Quebec and Ontario.....	21,336
Nova Scotia.....	157
New Brunswick.....	52

Of this number 176 were cabinet makers, 741 carpenters, 2,804 farmers, 482 farm labourers, 7,505 labourers and 134 shoemakers. Nearly all of these immigrants brought with them enough money to give them a start in the new world to which they have come."

A Michigan paper published in Detroit said :

"The new tariff is discouraging the Canadians with their country, and they are flocking by thousands to this."

A paper in Liverpool, N.S., said :

"It is estimated that 260 farmers with their families left Liverpool a few days ago to take up land in Texas. Most of them were fairly provided with means."

A newspaper published in Prince Edward Island said :

"It is estimated that over 300 people have left Summerside within the last eight months, and only 7 new immigrants have come to it. The National Policy has not helped Prince Edward Island or Summerside so far."

The moment your policy was introduced that was the result. It had not been in force for more than three years until the people were flocking from the country. They have continued to leave since—annually—by thousands, as is shown by the returns placed on the Table of the House. I was glad to see some sign of feeling on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite when these returns reached the House. It is a sign of improvement, a satisfactory sign of the times to find hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches touched by the terrible disclosures made in their own census returns. The jaded and faded face of the Minister of Finance after the census returns were placed on

the Table the other night, I can assure hon. gentlemen, challenged the sympathy of every Liberal member on this side of the House. For the remainder of the session he could not maintain a perpendicular for five minutes. Questions showered across the House at the hon. gentleman were answered by him from his comfortable seat on the Treasury benches. Hamlets have grown into villages, villages into towns, towns into cities! Have the, really? Are these mere words used by Sir John A. Macdonald, or are they realities? Let us consult the record and see who is right, and whether the statement made by Sir John Macdonald to his followers is shown by the census to be true. I find the following villages and towns, some of them in Nova Scotia and some in my own province, show a falling off in population during the last ten years. The first of these is Pictou, the shire town of the county represented by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. Is it possible that there is a falling off in population there? Is that the town in whose interest the Government spent \$2,000,000 or \$3,000,000 to construct a railway to save a distance of 40 miles when it only saved 4? (Applause.) Yet the population of that town has fallen from 3,403 to 2,999. The list is as follows:

	1881.	1891.	Loss.
Pictou.....	3,403	2,999	404
Dundas.....	3,709	3,546	163
Lauzon.....	3,556	3,551	5
St. Mary's.....	3,415	3,416	..
Napanee.....	3,600	3,434	246
Strathroy.....	3,817	3,316	511
Paris.....	3,173	3,094	79
Whitby.....	3,140	2,705	355
Kincardine.....	2,876	2,631	245
Listowell.....	2,688	2,587	101
Thorold.....	2,456	2,273	183
Amherstburg....	2,672	2,279	393
Mitchell.....	2,284	2,101	183
Dunnville.....	1,808	1,776	32
Iberville.....	1,847	1,719	128
Port Perry.....	1,800	1,689	111
Harriston.....	1,772	1,689	83
Fergus.....	1,733	1,519	214

	1881.	1891.	Loss.
Berthier.....	2,156	1,537	619
Cobourg.....	4,957	4,829	128
Goderich.....	4,556	3,839	717
St. John City....	41,363	39,179	2,184
Charlottetown...	11,485	11,374	111
St. Catharines...	9,631	9,170	461
Three Rivers....	8,670	8,334	336
Lévis.....	7,597	7,301	296
Port Hope.....	5,581	5,042	539

In every one of these twenty-seven villages and towns there has been a falling off in population. The natural increase is gone, immigration is gone, as well as a considerable portion of the population that they held in the year 1881. What is the cause of all this? Will the hon. gentleman point me to a single cause except the vicious commercial policy of hon. gentlemen opposite, as well as the still more vicious administration of the public affairs of this country by the Government for the last ten years? If the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite, and the administration of our public affairs by hon. gentlemen opposite has been ruinous to the hamlets and the villages, and the towns, it has been

Disastrous to the Rural Constituencies.

(Applause.) I shall not trouble the House with a long list of rural constituencies. I shall refer to three counties, formerly united counties, and I venture to say without fear of successful contradiction, that they are three of the best counties agriculturally in the wide Dominion of Canada; three counties in which there is hardly a hundred acres of land that might be called waste land; three counties in which the population is intelligent, vigorous, active, thrifty, and industrious; and in these three counties the condition of affairs is astonishing. Bruce, in 1881, had a population of 65,218, and in 1891, 64,604, being a loss of 614; Perth, in 1881, had a population of 48,146, and in 1891, 46,311,

being a loss of 1,835; Huron, in 1881, had a population of 67,223 and in 1891, 58,172, being a loss of 9,051. This loss is a direct result, according to my humble judgment, of the commercial policy of the Administration and their vicious management of our public affairs. The loss in these three counties alone, besides the loss of the natural increase and the loss of immigration, amounts to 11,500. In other words the Counties of Huron, Perth and Bruce, taking the natural increase at only 7 per cent. in ten years instead of 14 per cent. loses 12,641, and taking the immigration at 5 per cent. instead of 10 per cent., the loss is 9,029. We lose in immigration and in natural increase 21,670, and we lose, of the old population, 11,500, making a total loss of 33,170 in these three counties. Such are the effects of your maladministration of the public affairs of this country, such are the results of twelve years of a vicious trade policy, such are the results of

Twelve Years of Contract Jobbing

stealing, peculation and robbery from the public treasury. (Great cheers.) Sir, there is a sovereign remedy for all this. That sovereign remedy does not consist of annexation to the United States of America. (Applause.) It does not consist of commercial union with the

United States of America. It does not consist of the independence of Canada. It is a much more speedy, a much more effectual, and a much more drastic remedy than any or all of these. The remedy I propose is: Remove the present incompetent Administration, dismiss the present thoroughly corrupt Government and replace it by men more pure and honest, and you will have an end to the days of boodling, corruption, fraud, contract jobbing, and forgery, and all the other crimes known to have been perpetrated by this Government. (Great cheers.) Sir, there is only one man in all Canada who can do this, and that one man is the leader of the Opposition. (Great Cheers.) A man strong and resolute in his convictions, honest and pure in his everyday life; a man who to-day is the idol of the Canadian people; a man who to-day is encouraged by the masses and rejected only by the classes; a man who in the country is supported by a powerful and unbroken army of prominent Liberals, and a man who in Parliament is aided in the good work by as devoted and as united a band of men as ever followed a leader. The hon. gentleman shall succeed, the hon. gentleman will succeed, the hon. gentleman must succeed, and to-night, the prayer of every honest Canadian is that success may soon crown his patriotic efforts. (Great Cheers.)

