

[The following is the concluding portion of Friday evening's proceedings, the Order of the Day being the debate on the Address :—

Mr. BRODER said the country was beginning to feel that the great fault about our legislation was that there was too much of it. There was too much machinery, and the great desire of the people was for simplification and less expense in the administration of the affairs of the Province. It was pleasing to that side of the House to hear the Minister of Education state, as an excuse, when any fault was found with the educational system, that the grievance existed before the present administration of the Department. This Minister, he contended, was appointed to properly administer our school system, and he should be held responsible for all defects therein. There had been a disposition to elevate the system above the people, and he sincerely hoped that in future more attention would be given to the wants and desires of the public. With regard to the qualifications of magistrates, which had been brought up during the debate, he was not disposed to find a great deal of fault with recent appointments. While some of them reflected credit on the Government, others undoubtedly were very discreditable. If we were to have a magistracy which should be a credit to any Government, he contended that there should be some qualification for the office. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. MILLER referred to the subject of immigration, and expressed the opinion that the best men to induce to settle on the free grants were Canadian farmers' sons. (Hear, hear.) All that could be done to prevent our native population from leaving for the United States should be done, and the more colonization roads and colonization railroads that could be built the better. Unless there were roads by which to give settlers employment for the first year or two of their settlement, there would either have to be a direct appeal to this House for assistance or else immigration to the new districts would be very thin. He had some statistics with regard to the condition of the lumber trade, and after studying the subject for the last forty-eight hours, he felt his Honour was more than justified in what he said, the lumber trade having improved during the past year both at home and abroad. In the United States in 1863 there was about 4,000,000 superficial feet of lumber consumed. From 1863 to 1873 the increase was about ten per cent. per annum, so that in 1873, the year of the depression, there was between seven and eight thousand million feet consumed in the United States. From that time to the present, the amount had been somewhat smaller. If there had been an increase to 1877 in the same ratio as before 1873, there would have been about 9,200,000,000 feet of lumber consumed in the Republic during that year. Although the trade had constantly diminished from 1873 to 1876, the consumption in the United States during 1877 was in excess of that of 1873. The trade had increased particularly in the Saginaw Valley and Chicago. In the Saginaw Valley in 1873 there was produced 133,500,000 feet, in 1866 349,767,884 feet, in 1869 523,500,830 feet, in 1873 619,869,000 feet, in 1875 581,558,000 feet, while in 1873 there was 639,166,000 feet produced there. In 1872 there was imported into Chicago 1,200,000,000 feet, and in 1873 900,000,000, while in 1877 there was 1,150,000,000 imported. Half of this amount only was consumed in Chicago, the other half being distributed throughout the prairie country, of which that city was the great distributing point, and the stocks there were now very low. To say that the banks had assisted the lumber trade was a fallacy, for the banks in Canada had not money enough to be of service to that extensive trade. There had been more lumber shipped from New York to the West Indies and South America during the past year than in any previous year, and there had been more consumed in the making of boxes, a use to which lumber was very extensively put. He noticed in a newspaper that Col. Shaw, the American consul here, had reported to Washington that Canada had exported 2,600,000,000 feet of lumber to the United States, the fact being that there was only about ten per cent. of that amount sent there. This statement, if left uncontradicted, would create an effect at Washington very injurious to Canada in the event of any reciprocity negotiations being entered into.

Mr. PARDEE said he had officially called the attention of the American consul to the error, and it was immediately set right.