had criticised and condemned the expenditure of the previous administration. When the change of government took place, this government felt that the conditions had altered very materially under which Canada had existed in former years.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Why did you make promises?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—We made promises assuming the conditions were to remain the same as at the time those promises were made (cries of hear, hear). Year by year we have been having deficits. For 1893, 1894 and 1895 there were deficits. With the change of government, we brought about an absolute change of policy in the government of the country, and the effect was to bring in wealth to the people of Canada.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—You made those promises when there were no deficits.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Hon. gentlemen have talked a great deal about our extravagance, and said that we are loading down the country with debt. One would suppose, from the graphic pictures they drew, that we were seizing the last bed of the last inhabitant. I can only quote a few figures to show how absolutely untrue statements of that kind are. Take the public debt which we have been piling up, according to the extravagant language of the hon. gentleman. Take the two last years of the old administration, the increase in the public debt for the two years was about $12,000,000. In 1897 we added $3,000,000; in 1898 $2,400,000—that is $5,400,000. We added less than fifty per cent to the debt compared with the last two years of the preceding administration. It is too early to speak of what the accounts will show for the past year, but I venture to say there will be a very considerable reduction in what may be called the increase of the national debt. Hon. gentlemen have deplored the falling off in the exports since the change of government took place. I have here the exports for a year or two which I can give to the hon. gentleman. The last year of the late administration, 1896, the exports were $109,000,000, and for 1898 they were $144,000,000. I should like to call the attention of the hon. gentleman from Prince Edward Island, who dilated so eloquently on the failure of the export trade of this country, to these figures.

Hon. Mr. McMILLAN—How much of that was bullion?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—None at all. I have taken the exports of the produce of Canada, and our trade for 1898 was $303,000,000, and for 1896 it was $221,000,000. We added $81,000,000 to the trade of this country in that short time.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—We added!

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Will the hon. gentleman say that the policy that produced such a result was not worthy of introduction?

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—What policy?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The policy of reducing the taxation; the policy of allowing people to buy cheaper. The hon. gentleman smiles. I will give hon. gentlemen two sets of figures. I will take the imports for the year 1888 and the imports for the year 1898. In 1888 we imported $102,000,000, in round numbers, on which the duty was $22,000,000. In 1898 we imported $130,000,000, and the duty was $22,000,000. There were $28,000,000 of goods came into this country, either as free goods or paying lower rates of duty. No language can controvert a statement of that kind; it is plain, and speaks for itself. In those two years the duty happened to be exactly the same, but in the last year we imported $28,000,000 more than in the year to which I have called attention.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Is that an official document?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It is from an official document. It will stand the closest scrutiny, and that bears out the argument I used when I said that we had improved the conditions in this country by reducing the debt of the people. The people got richer. They were able to buy more and that was the reason. One evidence to which I might call attention is the fact that in the banks of the country, some amounts bearing interest, other amounts not bearing interest, there is a sum now of between $250,000,000 and $260,000,000 waiting for investment, and at the same time we know