

examine the matter fairly you will find it is about even, and that each and every part of the Dominion is receiving recognition in accordance with its needs.

My hon. friend and I threshed out these questions in Nova Scotia many years ago. I do not know whether he or I have the more painful recollection of it. He thinks I have a painful recollection. I do not know that either of us should be pained; but I am satisfied that if pain there is on the part of either one of us, my hon. friend will share as much of it as I do. At all events, we threshed these questions out year after year, we took the verdict of the people of Nova Scotia upon them, and that verdict never failed to be in accordance with the policy which I endeavored to pursue. My hon. friend has referred to the finances of the province. I tell him that at that time the government of which he was for a short time a member, left the financial affairs of that province in a condition which was viewed with considerable anxiety and distrust. But under the administration of the Liberal government the condition of the province was improved, order was brought out of chaos, the finances were improved, new projects were started, projects which the hon. gentleman's friends fought to the utmost, but projects which have been the means of restoring that province as to its financial affairs, until to-day it is one of the most prosperous provinces of the Dominion of Canada. Let me say that the Nova Scotia Liberals, having brought their own province into a better financial position, have been glad to have an opportunity, as my friends from that province will say, to come to Ottawa and assist their friends in the other provinces in bringing the Dominion out of the slough of despond in which it had been placed by the government of hon. gentlemen opposite.

The New Canada.

Last year I reminded my hon. friend, as I must do again, that he fails to realize the great change that has been brought about in this country. The Canada of to-day is not the Canada of 1896. The Canada of 1896 would hardly be recognized by people who look upon the new Canada that has grown up under a Liberal administration. Why, in 1896, in every part of this Dominion, there was a condition—shall I say of depression? That is too strong a word. There was a condition of discouragement, the people were not satisfied with their condition under the advantages which hon. gentlemen alleged they gave them as a consequence of their policy. It must be said that the condition of Canada in 1896, under the Conservative party, was not a satisfactory one. Some progress, indeed, had been made; you cannot prevent a country like this from making some progress; but it was very small. Take a few items, they are not new, they have been given before, but they are never old. The Canada that he speaks of, the Canada of 1896, which he used for a comparison, had a total trade of \$239,000,000; the new Canada which has grown up under the Liberal administration has a total trade of \$470,000,000. The Canada of that date had deposits in the savings banks and chartered banks of \$183,000,000; the new Canada of to-day has deposits of \$423,000,000. We might go through all the items of trade and commerce. I have dealt with them before, but I ask my hon. friend, in making these comparisons, to remember that the Canada of 1896 was a vastly different country from the country of to-day. This government have recognized the changing conditions; and I have no doubt the legislation which we have introduced has in some degree—in how large a degree may be a matter of debate—but it has in some considerable degree been one of the instrumentalities by which this greater progress has been made. My hon. friend must remember that in making these comparisons he shuts his eyes to the old condition as compared with the new. He must remember that under a Liberal administration Canada has made enormous progress, and if we have expended these moneys we have expended them to the advantage and development of the country, we have expended them also for reasons that will commend themselves to sound financiers. If hon. gentlemen opposite spent little money, they spent more than they had and ran into debt; the lesser sum that they spent was extravagance; the more that we spend is economy, because we have lived within our means.