

things. I advise them to claim credit for all that they have a right to claim credit for. I admit that we have had great good fortune, but the greatest opportunities will come in vain unless the opportunities are well used. It is true that we have had a good chance, but it is not true that we have gained population, least of all have we gained population in the ratio we have lately done from the United States, without great and long continued exertion on our part. The ground was ploughed, the ground was harrowed, the seed was sown and we are now reaping the crop of the exertions of my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior in the last seven years. (Cheers.)

Sir, it is not true that our increase in trade, especially in the matter of the increase in agricultural products, has been obtained without exertion and without careful provision on the part of this Government. Least of all is it true that the overflowing treasury that we are now possessed of and which we have filled at greatly reduced rates of taxation from those which prevailed before could have been gained without adopting what was substantially a revenue tariff, as an hon. gentleman opposite was forced in spite of himself to admit the other evening. That is what I claim for the Liberal Party; no more, no less. (Cheers.)

Let our opponents juggle as they will, let them mis-state, let them misrepresent and detract as they please, they

cannot alter these great facts that in the last seven years the net revenue of Canada has quadrupled, that in the last seven years the increase in the volume of trade is double that which took place in the past thirty years, that our population is increasing to-day in all probability at the rate of 1,000 per cent., certainly at the rate of 500 per cent. faster than it was in the decade before. (Cheers.)

Now, sir, I do not pretend to say that I or anybody else can undertake to guarantee this country against reverses. We may have to face a world wide depression as other countries have had to face it, we may have a succession of bad harvests. There may be difficulties, dangers and disappointments. There may be financial troubles, wars and rumors of wars. We may have a chapter of adverse accidents to encounter, but if my hon. friends of the Liberal party are only half as constant to good government and good principle as these hon. gentlemen opposite have shown themselves to be to evil ones, sir, I believe that the close of the next decade will see Canada still standing where Canada is to-day, and that is not merely amongst the foremost but the first, primus inter pares, of all the nations not only of those with whom we trade, but of every considerable nation throughout the civilized world.

(Great cheering and applause ensued as the speaker resumed his seat.)