

of trade as compared with what it was five, or six, or eight years ago, when my hon. friend was Minister of Finance, they say: See where your statements are. Why, we actually have two or three millions more volume of trade now than we had seven years ago. Do they not know that we, on this side of the House, believe that we have a country that ought to be able to show more than the slight progress that has been made? Sir, we believe that we have a country that should have taken leaps and bounds almost infinitely greater than it has taken under them. Hon. gentlemen opposite think they have fulfilled all the duties of their position, that they deserve credit for well managing the affairs of this country, if they can prevent us going on the down grade—we, with millions and tens of millions of acres of land, inviting settlers of other countries; we, who have spent two or three millions of money in inducing immigrants from other countries to come here! After all this they point to the result of their management for a period of six or seven years, and claim that we have actually maintained our own natural increase in the country. What a great record! how the gentlemen boast! Well, they know they are not capable of much, and they are to be excused for boasting of little. Now let my hon. friend bear that in mind, and all like him on the other side, that when words are spoken here with reference to the position of the country it could not possibly be with the object of damaging the country thereby, but they are spoken with the sole purpose that this country of ours shall have an opportunity of purging itself from the incapables, as we believe them to be, who are administering the affairs of the country, and that other gentlemen should replace them who will take off the fetters that have been placed upon the country, and will give it an opportunity to go forward, not merely holding its own, but leaping forward, as it is calculated to do, this country that, in its proportions, resembles those of a young giant that needs but to be aroused from his slumbers in order to manifest

his strength. That is the way we have, and when we compare our progress we have not increased more, and we are forced to point out by comparison that such is the state of the country, it is ever done in the spirit in which the member for South Huron did it, and in a spirit more of sorrow than of anger that the country should be thus imposed upon.

The Public Debt.

Well, now I will not attempt to follow my hon. friend in all the statements he has made, but I will touch upon some points he has alluded to, and I think I shall be able to present another view of the question. He has touched upon public debt, has dwelt largely upon that, and has endeavored to controvert the position taken by the hon. member for South Huron. He speaks of our national debt as if it were not a matter of great consequence. He tells us that the interest upon our national debt is not a great deal more now than it was some years ago, and he claims that the reason why we are not paying much more interest now than we did a few years ago, is owing to the excellent management of affairs by the present Government. They take to themselves the whole credit of having reduced the rate of interest throughout the world. Yet, I suppose, hon. gentlemen opposite, although we might suppose from some of their utterances they feigned ignorance, would not care really to admit such ignorance as not to be cognizant of the fact that the rate of interest is low at the present time everywhere. While it must be admitted that such is the case, they have the supreme effrontery to claim it is due to the action of the Government during recent years, whereby a loan can be placed on the money market at a lower rate of interest now than was the case eight or ten years ago. I am not over stating their case. The Finance Minister when speaking on this subject, gave us distinctly to understand that it was due to that cause, and that came alone; that it was the management of the affairs of the country by hon. gentlemen