

the last seven or eight years. The aggregate trade has more than doubled in the last seven or eight years. What other country in the world can present a statement of that kind? The exports have doubled. The imports have run up from \$118,000,000 to \$259,000,000. The duty paid has increased from \$20,000,000 to \$40,000,000; everything has practically doubled, giving all the evidence of extraordinary growth of wealth with all classes of the community. No one can say that the farming population are not in a better condition than they ever were before. That is quite evident, and if all classes are enjoying that extraordinary prosperity, why should any fiscal changes be made? The hon. gentleman has alluded to the proposition to issue a commission. Something was said about it, but it was quite impossible at the time the announcement was made that anything of the kind could have been attempted before the meeting of parliament, because any commission that is appointed will necessarily cover a good deal of time, and it would have been quite impossible that any practical result could have been presented at the present session. Now, another reason why the bill of fare is practically meagre is that during the sessions of 1903-4 there were more public measures passed by parliament than in any four sessions since confederation. The public Acts alone in those two years covered between seven hundred and eight hundred pages. So that I think we have rather an excess of legislation in past years, and the country is not really requiring any additional legislation. The hon. gentleman has not pointed out any industry that is suffering that we could help. It is quite true that he could name industries which would make more money if they had a higher tariff, but they would only represent a mere fraction of the community; three or four per cent, and what would the other 97 per cent say to it? It is to be presumed that our legislation should be for the largest number—the greatest good to the greatest number. That is a principle we ought all to recognize, and when Canada is prosperous, as the evidence that prevails about us shows, it seems to me rather unwise and indiscreet to check or disturb the present condition. I am glad to hear the hon. gentleman foreshadow a short session. We have had several long sessions of late, and

I think hon. members on both sides of the House will be gratified to know that this has a promise of being a short session. All the returns of parliament will shortly be in the possession of parliament, and it is to be hoped that no time will be lost in pushing the affairs through to an early end.

The motion was agreed to.

DELAYED RETURNS.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Before the House adjourns, could the hon. Secretary of State inform us when he intends to bring down the answers to the motions that were made a year ago, and two years ago, for the return giving the names of the crews in the 'Arctic' and in the 'Neptune,' and all the correspondence. One motion was made last session and the other the previous session?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I will endeavour to revive the memories of the gentlemen whose duty it is to furnish those returns. I was not aware that the returns were in arrears. I shall let the hon. gentleman know about them at an early date.

THE STRIKING COMMITTEE.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I respectfully suggest that when the hon. gentleman moves for a committee to be appointed to name the standing committees, he substitute the name of Sir John Carling for mine, as I shall not be here. I propose going west this afternoon and may not be back when the motion is made. The hon. gentleman might make the motion now with the consent of the House.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Then I will move that the committee be appointed now, substituting the name of Sir John Carling for that of Sir Mackenzie Bowell.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Before the motion is adopted, I shall for the third time call the attention of the hon. leader of the government to certain facts. We have now 81 Senators—in fact we have 83. The province of Ontario is represented by 24 members, Quebec 24, the maritime provinces 24, and the remainder come from the west, comprising Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, and British Columbia 9—now 11. In the list of names proposed to-day, the province of Quebec is represented by one member of the