

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The Minister of Finance did not quite so strenuously as on some past occasions argue that our prosperity is due to the government, he treats of that phase in very moderate terms indeed. In fact, the terms of his speech in that regard are in very strong contrast to a recent deliverance of the Minister of Marine (Hon. Mr. Préfontaine) in Montreal in which he remarked that the prosperity of Canada was entirely due to the Fielding tariff. Coming from a gentleman of the position of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, that was hardly a worthy statement—it partakes more of the character of a patent medicine advertisement than of the utterance which we might hope to hear from a gentleman occupying the high position of head of one of the departments of state in Canada. It is perfectly evident that in the view of the Minister of Marine, the Right Hon. Mr. Chamberlain has taken an entirely erroneous view of the condition of affairs in Canada. At the recent colonial conference Mr. Chamberlain referring to the prosperity of Canada and the increase of Canada's trade from 1896 to 1902 spoke in this way:

The total imports of Canada increased in that period 14,500,000 pounds sterling, or at the rate of 62 per cent. That shows the enormous increased prosperity in the Dominion; it shows how the energy of its inhabitants is developing its trade.

And when you come to think of it, I suppose some credit is due to the business capacity and energy of the people of this country. For my part I have never been able to find out the exact nature of the changes in the tariff of 1897 to which the prosperity of Canada during the past few years has been due. I have inquired as to that across the floor of the House on a great many occasions and I have never got a definite or satisfactory reply. I believe that the people of Canada are entitled to some of the credit for the increased trade and the increased prosperity of this country during the past six years, although it is quite true that speakers on the other side of the House, both in this Chamber and throughout the country affect to believe in an entirely different reason for our pros-

perity. If the government does not adopt my view on this question; if their friends do not adopt that view; if they do not agree with the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) who said that the prosperity of Canada was due to causes beyond the control of any government; if they do not believe in that, then Sir, they are altogether too modest, because while they have increased the trade of Canada by \$184,000,000 since 1896, look what the Fielding tariff has done for the world. The following table shows how the trade of other countries has increased during the same period:

	Increase.
1896 to 1902, Great Britain...	\$500,000,000
1896 to 1902, United States...	700,000,000
1896 to 1900, New South Wales...	60,000,000
1896 to 1900, Victoria...	35,000,000
1896 to 1900, New Zealand...	35,000,000
1896 to 1900, Australian Commonwealth...	145,000,000
1896 to 1900, West Australia...	20,000,000
1896 to 1900, Argentine...	40,000,000
1896 to 1900, Chili...	134,680,000
1893 to 1900, France...	680,000,000
1896 to 1901, Germany...	552,000,000
1896 to 1901, Mexico...	40,000,000
1896 to 1902, Canada...	184,885,084

I do not suppose, speaking in sober reality, that any of these gentlemen across the floor claim that the increases in these different countries are due to the tariff brought down in 1897 by the Hon. Mr. Fielding. But may it not be truly claimed with regard to these different countries, that the advent of the Canadian Liberals to power in 1896 is as much responsible for the improved condition of trade in the whole civilized world as for the prosperous condition which fortunately has prevailed in Canada from 1896 to 1902.

Let me make one more observation to my hon. friend the Finance Minister. He seems to take it for granted that as the imports to this country have increased to an enormous extent since 1896, we are to find in that a necessary indication of prosperity. Sir I take issue with my hon. friend on that point. I say that increased imports may accompany but do not necessarily indicate increased prosperity. Look at the condition of affairs in Canada to-day. We produce from \$750,000,000 to \$800,000,000 of manufactured goods, counting everything as a