

thousand times as many men in different parts of Canada who are on the very verge of destitution, thanks to that same policy. That is our position with respect to these matters. Let me tell the Minister of Justice that it is a very great mistake to confound evidences of increasing debt with evidences of increased wealth. A great many of those facts on which he rests, a great many of those facts to which he has appealed, are simply evidences, not that the wealth of the community has increased, but that there has been a displacement of wealth, that certain sections of the community, perhaps, are richer and certain other sections are poorer. It is not the best possible proof of the increased wealth of the community to tell us there are in Canada to-day a large number of persons who hold deposits in private banks and in the Government savings banks, or, in other words, that there are an unusual number of persons in a country like Canada, a young country with unlimited quantities of fertile land, which should afford unlimited opportunities for profitable investment, who are obliged or choose to be content with receiving three or four per cent interest for money, held at command, in place of seeking permanent investments. Sir, there are two sides to this question. It is well to have money in the bank, or in the Government savings banks, but it goes to show this, and the experience of every hon. gentleman beside me, and hon. gentlemen opposite will confirm it, that there are an immense number of people in Canada who have very little confidence, indeed in the future of the country. Go to any town of any importance in the country to-day. Put up farm property to auction, put up town or village property to auction, and although you will find hundreds of thousands of dollars lying in the banks established in the town, you will scarcely find one man ready to come forward and buy property for fifty, forty or even thirty per cent of its value a few years ago. Sir, the hon. gentleman might as well tell this House that it is a wonderful proof of the increasing prosperity of the people of this country that there should be an immense number of mortgages recorded over and above the number on record ten years ago. In support of that proof of increasing prosperity and increasing wealth, the hon. gentleman could, if he desired, obtain statistics enough; and had the challenge I flung some years ago across the House been accepted, had the information I asked for been obtained, had a small sum been used for the purpose of obtaining the statistics desired, a record would have been procured that would have opened the eyes of a large number of the agriculturists at least, and gone a long way to prove the true extent of the prosperity which they were enjoying under the benign reign of hon. gentlemen opposite. I should be pleased if it were

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

possible—because I am deeply interested in the welfare of Canada, quite as deeply interested as any hon. gentleman I see on the opposite benches—to confirm the declaration made by the Minister of Justice and his colleagues that Canada is now one of the most prosperous countries in the world; but I cannot do it, simply for the reason that my daily and hourly personal experience contradicts every statement made by hon. gentlemen opposite, as does the daily and hourly personal experience of a large number of hon. gentlemen, if they would condescend on their honour to state the facts as they know them to exist. I am not on the present occasion disposed to enter into minute details in regard to all those points, or to explain why it is, for instance, that I doubt extremely the wisdom of a policy which in a country like Canada borrows at call, at three or four per cent, a large amount of the money of the people, in place of obtaining money for a fixed term of years at a similar or lower rate elsewhere. That is a question which may be more appropriately discussed when we have to deal with the statements of the Finance Minister, but it has a good deal to do with the wisdom of the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite. I place our grounds for moving the amendment which we have just moved on broad facts which are known to every man who knows anything of the position of Canada. The appeal which we now make through you, Mr. Speaker, and through this House to the people of Canada, we base on the broad fact that our census statistics disclose an enormous loss of the most valuable asset that any country could possess, an enormous loss of the youthful population of Canada. We base it on the fact known to me, known to my friends beside me, known, I say, to hon. gentlemen opposite, capable of proof if they will give us the means of obtaining legal proof; the fact that from one end of the older provinces to the other there has been an enormous and utterly unprecedented depreciation of the value of not merely town and village property, but of the value of farm lands held by the agricultural community of Canada, on whose prosperity the prosperity of this whole country depends. We base it, in the third place, on the fact that there has been, as these same records show, a most enormous increase in the taxation on the people, which is but feebly and faintly represented by the sums which come into the public treasury. To the \$30,000,000 which was paid into the public treasury, and which in some sort of way may be said to have been appropriated to the benefit of the people of Canada, there are to be added another \$20,000,000 or \$30,000,000 which have been wrung from the tolling masses of Canada, and have not been applied to the public welfare, but which have been applied to enrich the few at the expense of the many, on condition that these few would tithe their plunder to keep hon. gentlemen opposite in power.