

man in Canada that wants to pay as small a rate of taxation as possible never forget that he has to deal with a party that has made a reduction of 10 per cent on one side, and with another party that says that is wrong. If they are honest they will say that, and certainly they will give no pledge that they would not go back to where they stood in 1896. There is one point on which we are all agreed. These preliminaries are helpful in clearing away the deck preparatory to joining issue. The second point in which we are all agreed is that no one on the opposite side, except in a faint breath, by a kind of innuendo, will state that the country is not marvellously prosperous. Here are two things in regard to which we stand on common ground. There are only two or three hon. gentlemen who have spoken on the other side who hint that we are not as well off as we might be, they hint it but no more. I would like any hon. gentleman opposite to go before the farmer, the manufacturers, the lumbermen, or for that matter any class of wage-earners in Canada, and tell them that we are not as well off as we were. They cannot do it. They try to make it appear it would be otherwise, if it were otherwise; they try to make it appear that if they were in power it would be so and so, but now that they are not in, it is so and so, and they try to confuse the people in that matter:

A Tory politician asked a farmer if he knew where was the vile Grit evidence to prove good times is true.

The germs of disputative art had never reached his ear;

He tightly clasped his well-filled pipe, and proudly answered, Here.

That argument is worth all the speeches that ever were delivered in the House of Commons or outside. You may carry under one arm one set of speeches that have been made in this House, and under the other arm another set of speeches, you may read them from beginning to end to any one who will listen to you, and still he will say: I feel it about me, I am better off, I know I am. He will just put his hand in his pocket, and where he used to have to borrow he now says, I can pay as I go.

Let no one think that I am claiming credit to the government for all our prosperity, by no means. I am not going to make a statement that the government is entitled to all the credit. If I belonged to the Conservative party and my party were in, I would do it. Why, Sir, if the Conservative party were in power in Canada you would hear every hon. gentleman who got up to speak claiming for the government the whole credit for the condition of things that exists to-day. Dear me, how I have been wearied *ad nauseam* listening to hon. gentlemen opposite who said: We did it, we did it. Why there was not an hon. gentleman opposite but on every occasion insisted that what brought about good crops, what looked like a busy hive of industry,

was the work of the government. If the price of an article was raised 5 cents they claimed it was due to the national policy. Now, we know just where we stand. The Liberals have reduced the tariff 10 per cent, and we have the most prosperous times we ever had in Canada. We now can very easily approach the discussion as it ought to be approached, namely, within the last four years, what have the Liberal party done to gain, and secure and keep the confidence of the people of Canada, and as against that, who have the people of Canada that they can call upon to conduct the affairs of the country? The whole thing comes down to that. I am not careful whether we imported so many dollars worth of a particular article or not. I am not going to anxiously inquire whether we sold, this year, so many steers more than in another year. Why? Because the sum total is what proves it. You may prove that the country is in a splendid state of prosperity, by naming certain articles that we exported a much larger quantity of; and you may prove from the same returns that business is depressed, and that the country is going to the dogs—because we have not done as much business in another particular line. That is nothing at all. It is the sum total that we have to deal with, for, Mr. Speaker, the business of two countries does not differ in one iota from the business of two individuals in any one country. Therefore, we are in a position, simply, of being able to say, that, so far as Canada is concerned, it is prosperous. I leave the matter altogether as to how this prosperity was produced, to the common sense principle, that honest, economical, vigorous government, dealing with the forces of nature that seem never to have been put forth when the Conservatives were in power has produced this result.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

#### AFTER RECESS.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Mr. Speaker, when the House rose at six o'clock, I was referring to some remarks made by the hon. member for Addington. It will be noticed that whatever was said by the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) was not answered on the other side. The hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), gave one answer to it, that he thought sufficient, and that answer was that the hon. member for North Wellington was raking up old things done by men, some of whom were dead. Well, I have yet to learn that you can disassociate acts of the past from the present, either of an individual or of a party, so as to make them such as ought not to be referred to. Most of us would like that rule applied to our individual selves, the adoption of a statute of limitations by which you could only refer to matters that had taken place in the later present. Our conduct will be regulated in that way, and we