

the country in the future. We have had a most interesting address from the mover and seconder. And I have great pleasure in welcoming them to this House and in congratulating them upon the manner in which they have addressed us and the ability and weight they possess. I feel, however, that the hon. gentleman who moved the Address and who is an old and experienced parliamentarian, realized, when the duty fell upon him to show how the country had prospered and progressed under the policy of the Government, that he had a very weak case on hand to deal with. There is, I believe, an understanding among lawyers that when a counsel has got a bad case, the best thing for him to do in order to strengthen himself is to abuse the plaintiff's attorney. And in the same way the hon. gentleman apparently felt that as his case was such a weak one he had to strengthen his position by adopting the principle of the lawyers and abuse his neighbours. The fact of the people of the United States not being in a such a prosperous condition as the people of Canada I do not consider is a matter for discussion here. So far as the prosperity of the United States or Canada is concerned I believe myself that it can be measured by the difference of the high protective duties existing between the two countries. I believe that the tariff in the United States is something like 45 or 50 per cent, while ours is 30 or 33 per cent; to the extent of that difference in the protective wall, I am willing to accord the palm to Canada. But it is not a question of comparative prosperity between the people of the United States and the people of Canada. With the resources that we have at our disposal, with the intellectual and physical ability and power of our people, can we not be more prosperous than we have been or than our census returns show us to have been in the past ten years? It is to that we should confine our deliberations rather than seek to show that because we are more prosperous than the people of the United States we should, therefore, be satisfied. We should never be satisfied until we have reached that pitch of prosperity that our own intelligence and physical power show us to be capable of. The hon. leader of this House has found fault with the hon. leader of the Opposition for being pessimistic and for not being prepared to accept statistics that are handed to him for discussion. And he made use of

words in the course of his remarks to the effect that we should all be prepared to accept as facts, figures that are handed to us through the census returns and through the statistics of the country, as a basis for discussion. I quite agree that in order to appreciate the commercial position of an individual or of a country we must look to our book-keeping in order to guide us as to the wisest course to pursue in our commercial life, and as to what is necessary to rectify or redress the profits or losses as they may occur, but at the same time we want to realize that that book-keeping is done with a degree of intelligence and care that will give us the facts as they are. It reminds me of a story of a gentleman who was a rancher, like our friend here (Mr. Cochrane), on the great ranches of Montana. He had sold out his large herd and retired with a very handsome competence. He was asked by a friend how he had been so successful and made such a very large sum of money through his ranch. Well, he said, I always kept my books very carefully. I sold my herd through my books. I was always careful to put down the percentage of loss through storms, the percentage of increase, the percentage of sales and so on. I did not rely upon my cow-boys' count—I relied upon my books, and when I sold them I disposed of them as they stood through the books instead of on the prairies. Well, Sir, that is the class of book-keeping that brought prosperity to him and enabled him to retire with a handsome competence. That is hard on the ranches, some one says. Well, Sir, that is only an individual instance, but it is an instance of how book-keeping can be made to meet any exigency, and that unless the balance sheet tallies with actual facts the result will not be satisfactory to one of the parties.

I do not wish to cast the slightest reflection upon the Government or to say that they are wilfully misrepresenting the facts in the census returns. But I do say there is a good opening for the formation of a Royal Statistical Society to assist in placing the statistical returns of the country before the people in an intelligent and accurate manner. We cannot always rely upon blue books and returns to arrive at accurate conclusions as to the condition of affairs existing in the country unless they are criticised very closely from year to year. Now, hon. gentlemen, the figures that have been put into the hands of the leader of the Govern-