

hon. gentleman was, however, not willing to admit that the country was prosperous; we have heard that before; but we take bold issue with him on that question, as we have done in times past, and in order that the issue may be distinct, I assert on behalf of those who agree with me, and there are many of them in this House, that the prosperity with which Canada has been blessed, in comparison with other nations, affords reason for pride to every Canadian, who does not take a purely partisan view of the matter. I assert that the prosperity of Canada is not surpassed by any country with which she can be drawn into comparison. I do not need to follow the hon. gentleman's comparison of the condition of our people, with the same classes in the older countries. I do not need to allude to the condition of the Fellaheen, but I am willing to take the standard of comparison which the hon. gentleman himself set up, and to say, that as regards the standard which should prevail on this free American continent, the condition of Canada to-day is unequalled for firmness and stability. It is not, I am sure, the hon. gentleman's desire or will to misrepresent the condition of his country, which induces him to express that denial of the real condition of the country, which is apparent to almost everybody else. The hon. gentleman is without hope for his country. The only hope with which he can look towards the future of the Dominion, the only pride with which he can survey it, is in seeing all the resources this country possesses, which he believes could be made more prolific of prosperity, and the improvement of the condition of the labouring and farming classes, if there were a change in the country—for one change is all that he asks—a change of administrators. The hon. gentleman has no hope with regard to the condition of the country—and therefore he is unwilling to admit that there is any prosperity in it—except on the single ground that by some complication of affairs, a change of administrators may take place; and the hope, which he is willing to hold out to the farmer and the artisan, that while they are now poor, down-trodden and tax-ridden, each of them shall have a chicken in the pot on Sunday, if the hon. gentlemen opposite can but get into power. Now, Sir, the condition in which the hon. gentleman really supposes this country to be, could not be expressed by greater exaggeration than that which he expressed when he spoke of the farmers toiling and sweating in exhibiting the trophies of their industry, and the trophies of their progress at the exposition of the world's industries, while sitting in miserable dens at home, with robbers depriving them of everything they earned—the wages of their toil and sweat. The hon. gentleman and I have to part company here, although it is my duty to comment upon some other of his observations. He commenced by a rebuke to the Government as to the disagreeable season of the year at which Parliament has

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been convened. I agree with the hon. gentleman that the season is somewhat inconvenient and that it would meet the wishes of members on this side of the House, and especially members of the Administration, if the session could commence in the month of January every year. There were circumstances which retarded the opening of Parliament, and I must take exception to the language which the hon. gentleman used in discussing that subject. The hon. gentleman stated that it was part of the unwritten law of Parliament that we should begin our session not later than the month of January. I have a list here of what has occurred during the last twelve sessions of Parliament, including this one, as to the date of commencement, and I find that in six of them the commencement was later than this year. It is generally considered that the period of the session at which the business interests of the people begin to be most affected by our legislation, is the period at which the Budget is brought down to this House, and, generally speaking, when complaint has been made with regard to the lateness of a session, the complaint is based upon the uneasiness of the public as to possible tariff changes which have to be made, but, Sir, if circumstances remain as they are, the Minister of Finance will be in a position to lay before the House on Wednesday of next week the Budget for the coming year; and if he shall be able to do so, he will have commenced that portion of the public business earlier than it has been commenced for seven out of the twelve sessions to which I have referred.

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

### After Recess.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I will ask the House to bear with me for a moment or two more while I allude to the circumstances which appear to me to have justified the Government in delaying until this period of the year the opening of the present session. Let me remind the House that the statement was fully made in the course of the discussion of the Budget of last session, that before the opening of the present session there should be a careful revision of the entire tariff, and that that revision should not be made, or indeed should not be undertaken, until the Ministers who had the immediate charge of the subject had had an opportunity of conferring with the representatives of the various industries throughout the country—agricultural and industrial—industries, in fact, of every description. In accordance with that promise, the conferences took place to which the hon. leader of the Opposition has referred this afternoon. Those conferences occupied the principal portion of last year, and, indeed, a portion of the present year; and it was not until well after the opening of the present year that the Ministers were able