

capita debt has only been increased \$1 over and above the amount at which it stood when hon. gentlemen opposite left power. The hon. gentleman was also able to show that, when the great Canadian Pacific Railway is completed, and every dollar of expenditure is provided for, the debt of this country—including the canal expenditure and everything else—would only be \$203,000,000; and that the surpluses—the money the country can afford to pay, as they do in the United States, to the reduction or diminution of the debt—would, up to that period, bring the amount down to \$175,000,000.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. With the sinking fund?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes; the surpluses, with the sinking fund, would bring it down to \$175,000,000. So I think the anxiety of the leader of the Opposition, on the score of the debt, will be very much relieved. The hon. the Finance Minister also drew attention to the fact—a fact which hon. gentlemen opposite will not dispute—that if we sell one-half of the rich, fertile lands we have for sale in the great North-West, at \$1 per acre—and hon. gentlemen opposite are hardly likely to question that calculation—the debt of Canada will be reduced down to \$100,000,000, or to a figure, after the great national work has been provided for, far below what it is at this moment. The hon. gentleman has shown that such was the improved condition of the people that, while these hon. gentlemen are talking about the pressure upon the poor man, and while the hon. gentleman says that the fiscal policy of the country has degraded the poor man, while the hon. gentleman has endeavored to show that his comfort has been less, my hon. friend the hon. Minister of Finance meets him with conclusive testimony as to the fact that, in three years and four months, these poor suffering operatives have deposited no less than \$13,000,000 in the savings banks of this country; and this, too, notwithstanding the regulation which shut out and closed these savings banks against the wealthier class of the community, and the class of deposits which used to be received. And not only was there an increase of \$13,000,000 in the savings, but also increased deposits in the other banks of no less than \$23,000,000, or an increase of \$36,000,000 in all in money deposited in the banks of Canada in three years and four months; and this is indisputable evidence of the position which this country to-day occupies, notwithstanding the fact which is patent to every hon. gentleman, that, during these three years and four months, more money and more capital has been invested by the capitalists of Canada in fostering, promoting, and building up our industries than ever occurred before in Canada during the same period. The hon. gentleman is, moreover, able to extend the free list; the hon. gentleman is able to take the duties off tea and coffee; the hon. gentleman is able to meet the desire of our friends in Lower Canada with reference to home-grown tobacco; the hon. gentleman is able to strike off the Stamp duties to the amount of \$200,000 a year; the hon. gentleman is able to give the fishermen of this country a bounty of \$150,000 a year, and well we may do so. What do they do? Why, Sir, these hardy sons of toil, these men who have to take their lives in their hands in building up the industries of the country, have created exports for Canada of no less than \$6,000,000 per annum. Well, Sir, the hon. gentleman says that the estimates have been increased. So they have. Naturally they have been increased; and my hon. friend pointed out the reasons why they have not been increased with regard to the controllable expenditure, for that we have decreased—but merely in order that the hon. the Finance Minister might properly discharge his duty to the country. Now, Sir, I think we have given pretty conclusive evidence as to the position which the country occupies. I think that the statements made by my hon. friend the hon. Minister of Finance will carry the conviction to the mind of every intelligent man in this country,

that no country on which the sun shines, was ever in a position to claim greater advance in the progress that has been made in the same time, or was in a happier and more prosperous state than Canada is in to-day. I have had myself the opportunity of seeing more of Canada during the last six months than probably any Canadian ever saw of the country during the same time. I have travelled away up the Pacific coast, and I have gone 300 or 400 miles into the interior of British Columbia, returning through the North-West, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. I passed through Prince Edward Island from end to end, and with regard to every section of the country which I visited, I am here to add my testimony to that which the hon. Finance Minister gave in such a conclusive manner, and to declare that a more united, a more happy, a more prosperous, and more progressive people are not to be found in any part of the world than are to be found in Canada to-day. This, Sir, is the proud position which my hon. friend occupies; and he was enabled to show that all this enormous increase has been given, and all this change in the trade policy of our country has been accomplished, without exposing ourselves to one jot or tittle of the danger which the ex-Minister of Finance predicted when this policy was introduced. It was said it was going to be inimical to Great Britain. But, Sir, the fact is now ascertained from the Trade Returns that, so far from this being the case, the very reverse has been the result. Instead of a policy, such as was in operation before, and which was eminently in the interest of our friends across the border, when no Canadian could look forward to any future, except the hope that he might continue to occupy the position to which we were reduced by hon. gentlemen opposite, of being the hewers of wood and drawers of water to our neighbors across the line, and instead of the trade of Canada being steadily withdrawn from Great Britain to whom we owe so much, and transferred to the foreign country to the south of us, building up that great and populous Republic, the result has been what my hon. friend said it would be, and the Trade Returns establish the fact that the average imports from the Mother Country are increased, while the average imports from the Republic to the south of us have been largely decreased. My hon. friend, moreover, has been able to show that not only is this the case, but also with increasing the price of all those products and articles which, owing to the high prices, were going to cause so much suffering and destitution throughout the country provided this policy was adopted. Competition between our home industries has been such that we occupy the vantage ground of being able to demonstrate that never were necessaries of life and the things which are incidental to the comfort and happiness of the poor man to be obtained in Canada at a cheaper rate than is now the case. And the hon. gentleman did not venture to question this.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. Yes, I did.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. I did so, very strongly.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman merely said that: "Assuming it to be true, the question was not whether all these articles were to-day cheaper than they were in 1878 in Canada under my Tariff, but whether we can buy them cheaper to-day in Canada than in New York," and if so, he says: "You are injuring the poor man." Let me tell the hon. gentleman that he must be hard-pressed, when he is endeavoring to controvert the fiscal policy which is calculated to foster and protect the industries of Canada, and can only say, that the way in which the poor man is injured, is not because we have not reduced the cost of goods below what they were in 1878, under his Tariff, but because prices are not as low as they are in a country where the Tariff is