

American lands are already taken up, while ours, which are also richer, are still unoccupied, it is manifest destiny that Canada is now to become the home of foreign settlers on this continent. That is the firm conviction of the people of this country. These gentlemen may enjoy for a time their little triumph in having retarded the settlement of that great country in the North-West, but the time must come, whether there be a good Government or a bad Government in power, when that country will be the only good territory for the occupation for this vast flood of immigrants to enter and settle upon. Before the right hon. gentleman carries out his promise and appeals to the people of this country, we may be able to force the member for South Oxford, by additional statistics, to admit our success in that direction, as he was forced to admit that the statistics which were cited by the hon. the Minister of Finance proved the point he made in the debate, that Canada had made substantial growth, and had prospered since 1868. The hon. gentleman once left his old friends, and the old spirit apparently has not died out of him, because, on a most important point taken by the Finance Minister he left his new friends. The Finance Minister, attacked the position which was taken by the leader of the Opposition at Oakville, when he contended that there had been a decline in the value of Canadian trade. He pointed out that that was apparently a misrepresentation, and that it was an unfair point to take against the country to omit to state the volume of trade and simply allude to the value, and that, in taking that point which was against the progress of the country, he had done an indefensible thing. That important point was taken, and the hon. member for South Oxford for a moment deserted his present leader as he deserted his past leader, in order to have the pleasure and opportunity of stating that that had been his position all along, and that, when he was Finance Minister, he contended that it was unfair to take the value of our imports and exports simply, but that the volume and value of our trade should be taken together. For the purpose of making that point he went back, not only upon his present leader, but a little later on, against the member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills), who, during the speech of the Minister of Finance, had interjected the remark that we had not advanced one jot since 1868. The hon. gentleman for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) was forced, by the array of figures and the array of facts which the Minister of Finance brought forward, to admit that we had made substantial progress. But we do not depend upon his admissions, we do not ask his admissions. Voluntary admissions are made day after day by members of that party who are not desperately driven, by those who are in office in the Province of Ontario, who are not in the same condition as hon. gentlemen on the opposite benches in this House; time and again, in recent months, they have declared their conviction that this country has made substantial growth, nay, imposing progress since Confederation. Mr. Mowat and Mr. Ross have made most eloquent speeches upon that subject, and those speeches have done good throughout the country, because they serve to offset these hon. gentlemen, who are not so careful in their statements as to the progress of this country, and who, perhaps, have a reason for their desperation not known to those who are in office in the Province of Ontario. In regard to the volume and value of trade, it is important in this connection to consider the position taken by the hon. member for South Oxford, during the time that he was Minister of Finance, year after year, as he well knows, and as he himself stated in this debate, when there was a regular and a persistent decline, not only in the volume but in the value of our trade, when, for instance, in 1874, when the aggregate trade was 217 millions, it steadily declined, year after year, down to 153 millions in 1879—that hon. gentleman pleaded to this House and to the country, that it was

Mr. TUPPER.

not so bad as it really appeared; he said that though the values were declining, and though the volume was declining, the decline in the volume was not alarming. Why, Mr. Speaker, he went further, and his argument then is of special importance now, when we see but a temporary decline, when we have not reached the low point of 1879. We find that in 1879 the aggregate trade, in round numbers, was \$159,000,000, whereas to-day it is \$201,000,000. In this connection it is important to recollect another argument of that hon. gentleman when he was Minister of Finance. He turned to the United States, that country that now elicits his warmest admiration, the very fiscal policy of which country has assumed in his eyes entirely new proportions of late; he turned to that country, and stated that during the most prosperous period in its history, when all went well with the American States, there was a steady decline in the value and volume of their foreign trade for 15 years, and he gave us the years. He said that in 1832 the imports amounted to \$100,000,000, and they rose in 1836 to \$189,000,000. But he stated that 15 years elapsed after 1836 before those imports again reached the figure of 189 millions, and this, said the hon. gentleman, in a period of great prosperity, and with a population growing from 15 to 25 millions. That was all very well in the United States. That was a first-rate argument when he was Minister of Finance, but, forsooth, to-day, while he admitted the force of the Minister of Finance's argument, he endeavored to make a point out of the fact that our trade, large as it was, fabulous, even, if the hon. gentleman's theory in regard to population be correct, was not steadily increasing. He endeavored to make that point a little later on, when he turned to the trade of New South Wales. I have not the figures for the last year, but I notice that this country, that is bounding on in prosperity, the trade of which colony is said to be steadily growing, and I hope it is, and must be steadily growing if the hon. gentleman's argument be true, I notice in regard to it that 15 years may elapse and the foreign trade be at a standstill, and yet a country may prosper and grow rich. I find in the Statesman's Year Book, from which I take the figures, that, speaking in round numbers, the trade, including bullion and specie, was £21,000,000 in 1882, and was £15,000,000 in 1886. I have not the figures for 1887-88, but they matter not in connection with the point with which I am dealing. The hon. gentleman devoted a great deal of time to the protective policy, but he is certainly not an authority on that. When resisting the movement in this country for a protective tariff, he staked his financial reputation upon a prophecy and upon a calculation that if you raised the tariff about 17½ per cent. in this country you would have no imports, you would have no means of raising your revenue, and you would have to resort to direct taxation of a most serious kind. He finds to-day, even in his complaint, that the imports of this country are not so large as he claims they should be, that they have risen from 93 millions in 1878, under a 17½ tariff, to 110 millions in 1888, under a protective tariff, and with a decline in values. I will give a few figures to show that the importance and expansion of our commerce is indeed wonderful, as the Minister of Finance has claimed. We find, according to Mr. Giffin, an eminent authority on that question, quoted in Canada a few days ago, that the price of Scotch pig iron has declined from 127s. in 1873, down to 41s. 11d., in 1888; coals, from 30s. in 1873, to 17s. 6d., in 1878; copper, from £91 to £73; wool, per pack, from £23 to £11; and sugar, per cwt., from 21s. 6d. to 13s. 3d. When we find that these are the facts, and then consider that, notwithstanding the decline in values, we have an increase in the value of our import trade, I say, again, that the expansion of our commerce is established at once. We know, also, that we have been supplying ourselves with an immense amount of goods, and an immense amount of manufactures, that we formerly imported, and for which we were