

House at any length on this subject, but as I am resuming the debate to-day I desire to make some comments on the remarks that fell from some of the hon. gentlemen who preceded me, and I will probably do so at some length. I was pleased with the manner in which the hon. gentlemen on the opposite side of the House criticised the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. It was a fair and impartial criticism. I believe it is always desirable that we in this House should be entirely independent, and while assisting the Government in perfecting their measures in the Senate, we should freely express our opinions. Diversity of opinion is desirable, and by free discussion we can better mature our judgments than if we were in complete harmony on all questions. Therefore, I am always glad to hear independent members on both sides of the House express their views on matters coming before them.

It is not for me to eulogise the hon. gentlemen who moved and seconded the Address; that has come well from the Leader of the Opposition. Of course, it is a novel position for them and it must have been a pleasing duty to expatiate on the general prosperity and advancement of our country; in that respect, they had an easy task to perform apart from any other reason.

HON. MR. POWER.—Hear! hear!

HON. MR. KAULBACH.—My hon. friend from Halifax says “hear! hear!” No doubt he endorses it; can there be any doubt as to the prosperity which prevails? Can he show me one branch of trade or industry that is not prosperous? Since Confederation, has the Dominion at any time been more prosperous than now? The hopes of the country are bright and we can trace our advancement, to a large extent, to the fiscal and railway policy of the Government of the day. Let the hon. gentleman contrast the condition of affairs to-day with that which prevailed when his friends were in power; let him contrast the depression which then existed with the prosperity of the present time! We have to-day a surplus of six millions of dollars and the Savings Banks are overflowing with the earnings of all classes, especially of the working people of this

country. There could not be a better index of the prosperity of the people. In the money markets of the world, our debentures are selling at a higher price than they do in any other colony of the Empire. These are not merely indications, they are facts, which cannot be denied, proving the prosperous condition of the country.

My hon. friend said yesterday, that we are not only manufacturing, but importing largely. I say, that is another index of our prosperity; it proves the purchasing power of the people, that they are able to import and supply themselves with luxuries which in times of depression they could not do.

My hon. friend referred to the fisheries yesterday, and said they were not productive. Coming from the same Province as he does, I cannot let that statement pass unchallenged. He is so opposed in every way to the fiscal policy of the country, that he thinks nothing good can come out of it, and therefore entertaining that belief: he imagines there is depression where none exists.

The exports of the products of the fisheries of Nova Scotia must have increased last year by a million of dollars. Does that indicate that the fisheries are not productive? That increase is largely due to the better prices obtained. The fishermen are purchasing larger supplies and through the bounty system, they are enabled to prosecute their industry on a larger scale. Everywhere in the Province of Nova Scotia, we find men fitting out their little boats and building larger vessels as the results of the encouragement given them by the Government. The fishing interest is a precarious one and should meet with this encouragement.

My honorable friend spoke of emigration from Nova Scotia, but confined his remarks to that portion of the Province bordering on the Straits of Canso. He says there is hardly any body left in that part of the country, except old people and young children. As I said before, I believe that is purely, or largely, imagination, as that condition of affairs, as a matter of fact, does not exist; I say so, not only from my own personal observation, but from the experience of others. No doubt, there has been some movement of the population; people will go abroad and some are emigrating to our North-West;

HON. MR. KAULBACH.