

only indicated generally the establishment of a fiscal policy which had been forshadowed in general terms by a resolution moved in this House in a previous session. I think, therefore, that the House will not approve of the hon. gentleman's course in proposing that this House shall address His Excellency upon this subject, as if it were a most unusual thing to omit mention of tariff changes from the Speech, as if it were a most unusual thing for His Excellency not to announce what tariff changes would be made, and to demonstrate to His Excellency the unsoundness of the advice which has withheld that announcement from Parliament, and for which, as I say, no precedent can really be found. I think the House will see that a mistake has been made on this subject, and the House will be prepared to wait until the fiscal policy of the Government upon this subject is announced, and then if it pleases, to address His Excellency upon this subject in approbation or disapprobation of the changes which the Government may propose, but will not censure the Government for not having announced these tariff changes in the Speech in a manner which, as I have said, unless my memory is entirely at fault, has actually no precedent in this country. The hon. gentleman seemed to infer from the omission of any allusion to this subject in the Speech that it was our purpose to make no tariff changes, and that the policy which we intimated elsewhere of remodelling, to some extent, the tariff would not be pursued. The hon. gentleman, I repeat, has no right to draw such an inference as that from the omission of the subject in the Speech. Mr. Speaker, I heartily repeat my gratification at the manner in which the Address has been moved and seconded, and I am sure that, notwithstanding the amendment which the hon. gentleman has moved, a large majority of the House will concur in waiting until the usual time arrives for the announcement of this Government with regard to its tariff policy, before undertaking to make any declaration upon the subject.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, the hon. the Minister of Justice makes it a complaint against my hon. friend and against other hon. gentlemen upon this side of the House, that they only look to one particular set of statistics which favours their own views, and that they are entirely unprepared to wrestle with the so-called facts which he and his friends are prepared to bring forward in evidence of the increasing prosperity of the people of this country. I, for my part, am not conscious that I have ever refused to meet any statements, any statistics, any figures which those hon. gentlemen opposite have to bring forward. What I have said, what my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition has said, what my hon. friends on this side of the House have said is this: We are prepared to deal, not with part, but with all the statistics that can possibly affect the prosperity of the

people of Canada. What we object to is, not that hon. gentlemen opposite quote certain statistics which appear to their mind to confirm the view they hold, but that they will omit, suppress, garble and distort other statistics of far greater importance in the direction of showing the prosperity of the country. That is our complaint, a complaint which I think, before I sit down, I shall be able to show to be a reasonably well established one. Sir, I, for my part, standing in my place in Parliament, and addressing my fellow-countrymen in various parts of this Dominion, have always stated that there were certain ways in which this country has progressed, that it was impossible that a people well nigh 5,000,000 strong, having well nigh half a continent at their disposal, should not increase and prosper in certain directions; but what I have stated, and what I now repeat, is this: that that progress has been wholly one-sided, that that progress has been uneven, and, to an enormous extent, it has been a mere displacement of wealth and not a creation of wealth. If you take our own older provinces, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec, despite all statistics which go to show that a certain section of the people have grown rich at the expense of the rest, and that a few men have become millionaires, thousands and tens of thousands are on the verge of pauperism, and while there has been progress, partial, uncertain and irregular in certain parts of the country, that, nevertheless, taking those five old provinces together and striking a fair and honest debit and credit account, and balancing the increase of the so-called evidences of prosperity he refers to, I am prepared to prove that, during the last twelve years, under this so-called prosperous system, the collective wealth of the people of the five old provinces has not increased one cent. That is my declaration, a declaration which I am prepared to prove in detail. I am perfectly willing to admit that half a dozen cities and towns throughout those five great provinces have increased in population and wealth, but a hundred towns and villages, equally deserving of the consideration and protection of the Government, and equally deserving of the consideration and protection of this House, having collectively quite as large a population, and being collectively, quite as important to the well-being of this country, are stationary, or retrograding; and if you put together the depreciation of property in all those towns and villages to which I have alluded, you will find that the absolute, actual depreciation of property in those places equalizes the augmentation of property in the few favoured localities to which I have referred. We contend that is the tendency of the policy of this Government. There are to-day, I grant you, a dozen times as many very wealthy men in Canada as there were under the Mackenzie regime, and there are also a