

tations were 75 per cent higher than the exports—that is to say, we imported 75 per cent more than we exported. To that extent the general wealth of the country was increased, while in '92 that condition has not been maintained. While the increase in our exports has been \$10,000,000 in the last year, there has only been an increase in our imports of \$3,000,000. Now, what I say is that that shows a decrease in the purchasing power of the people of Canada. If it shows anything it shows that they are not able to purchase, for some cause or other, by \$7,000,000 in proportion to the amount that they exported. As I stated yesterday, the exports and imports go backwards and forwards purely in the shape of commodities. No gold passes between nations. The whole bulk of the trade of Canada is carried on by the movement of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in bullion to regulate it, and therefore, if there is a deficiency in the imports year after year, it shows that the country is not prospering so far as the value of the exports is concerned. And it is necessary for us to think that question out; it is necessary for us to realize the economic position I have presented for your consideration. It is not every one who can realize it at once, but it is right that we should apply these facts and figures, in order to see what path we are treading. I stated yesterday that we borrowed \$25,000,000 through the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Canadian Government. That \$25,000,000 comes back to us in the shape of commodities; it does not come back in gold. We have added that amount to the liabilities of the Dominion, and the trade of the country has to earn the money to remit the interest annually upon those amounts, and the actual bulk of those amounts comes to us in the shape of importations. Now, notwithstanding the fact that that liability has been added to the indebtedness of the country, notwithstanding the fact that we had borrowed that money, yet the fact presents itself to us through the statistics, that we have only increased our imports by \$3,000,000, while we have increased our exports by \$10,000,000. If we go on at that rate, what is the next ten years going to bring us to?

Hon. Mr. HOWLAN—Wealth.

Hon. Mr. ANGERS—We would hold the gold of the world.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—There is no gold in the world. The amount of gold in proportion to the volume of trade is nothing at all—only about five or six per cent of the whole trade of the world. There is no such thing as gold passing between nations excepting merely to balance the accounts, the same as the clearing-house in New York or in London will find it necessary to balance probably transactions amounting to 20, 30 or 40,000,000 pounds with a cheque for three or four hundred thousand pounds. The gold is merely used to rectify the balance and to provide for the currency of the people at home—the great trade of the world is carried on by barter, and I would ask my hon. friend, can we live on gold? Must we not export it again? Gold is only a measure of value. If hon. gentlemen will look into that matter they will find that I am correct—that if the importing power of the people is decreasing, their wealth is diminishing.

Hon. Mr. McMILLAN—But their exporting power must be increasing.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—No, if you do not get back something for those exports you are getting poorer. I showed yesterday that through the Canadian Pacific Railway there was eight millions of dollars in net earnings that had to be remitted abroad, that the Dominion Government have to remit nine millions of dollars interest on the public debt and there is interest on 106 millions of dollars of loans upon real estate, shown at present by our statistics and that interest has to be also remitted. These sums amount altogether to between 22 and 23 millions of dollars. Now, the exports which go to Europe or to the United States are absorbed in order to pay that 23 millions of dollars which has to be earned out of the trade and industry of the country. If we increase that to 40 or 50 millions of dollars, of course we are going to labour under so much more difficulty, unless there is a corresponding increase in the labour that is brought into the country to create the wealth in order to produce that exporting power and when we have brought that labour into the country our commercial policy must be so framed that the people will make a fair profit out of their labour after having helped to contribute to the payment of this debt for Canada. I think that is as clear as—

Hon. Mr. HOWLAN—Mud.