

best of governments could not always preserve or even restore prosperity to the people of Canada. I can recollect perfectly well when Sir Charles Tupper and Sir John Macdonald, for the matter of that, laid down the position that no government was fit to remain in power unless they could create and increase the prosperity of Canada. Well, out of their own mouths let them be judged. The present government came into power at a period of very considerable depression in Canada, and, for eleven years at any rate, which is a reasonably long period of time, under the administration of the present government, Canada has enjoyed, in every respect, a prosperity which Canada never enjoyed before, and which contrasts very remarkably with the progress of Canada in the eighteen years, from '78 to '96. The hon. gentleman seems to be impervious to the distinction which exists between then and now. He is perfectly correct in saying that in 1896 I, and other gentlemen with me, thought that there was great need and very great need for economy, and the strictest economy in the administration of public affairs. We had reason for what we said. During the eighteen years it is a miserable and melancholy fact that Canada was losing the very best of her population, not by tens of thousands, not by hundreds of thousands, but by millions, and it was not until the present government took office that the exodus from Canada was stayed and in place of an exodus from Canada, we saw an exodus into Canada from almost every civilized country from which we desired to bring them, and notably from the United States, to whom we had formerly exported hundreds of thousands of our best subjects. The hon. gentleman was good enough to dilate at considerable length on the trade and commerce of this country. I have here the Trade and Navigation returns of this country from '73 to '97, and I will simply call my hon. friend's attention to this trifling fact. In 1882 I observe that the gross imports and exports of Canada amounted to \$214,000,000 in round numbers. In 1896, after a period of fourteen years, or 1895, which is the closer to it, after a period of thirteen years, the total trade and commerce of Canada had increased from \$214,000,000 to \$218,000,000,

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

a magnificent increase in fourteen years of \$14,000,000. From 1896, when we took office, the trade and commerce of Canada had increased from \$231,000,000 to \$546,000,000 in 1906, a similar period of not quite thirteen years, a period of ten or eleven years. The increase in the one case I observe for a period of thirteen years being for about \$4,000,000, and the increase in the other case over a period of ten years amounts to \$316,000,000.

Now, with all due regard to my hon. friend, I think that there is a difference at the present time as compared with the time to which he alludes. I think there is some justification for the enlarged expenditure and enlarged revenue when you find the volume of the trade and commerce of Canada increasing by three hundred odd millions in a similar space of time as against an increase of four millions taking two periods of thirteen years. That is one illustration. It is only one out of many that I could give. The hon. gentleman thinks that we have been depleting the resources of Canada; that we have been consuming a great deal too much of the means which might otherwise have gone to aid in the development of Canada in the matter of the revenue we have collected. I will have a word or two to say on that subject later on, but in the meantime I desire to be advised as to the mode in which my hon. friend obtained some of the figures he has recently given. My hon. friend, if I correctly caught his figures—and I am open to correction if I have misreported him in any way—said that the balance of trade against us was \$118,000,000. Was I correct?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—It would be that amount this coming year, according to the present calculations.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—I thought the hon. gentleman referred to the existing balance of trade, because, if he did, he was very much astray in the amount. As to how he made up his figures showing a balance of \$118,000,000 until the calculation is verified, I cannot very well see; but for my own part, I have never been in the least degree afraid of seeing a very considerable balance of trade against us. If our exports are not equal to the amount we import, I do not know that it is a proof of any great loss or injury to the