

into the growing prosperity of the country, and yet hon. gentlemen in this House, although these statistics are carefully culled and collected by their own friends in Ontario, are inclined to discredit them and say they are not reliable. What do these statistics tell us as to the increased value of the property in the country? The hon. member for North Norfolk said he defied any man to show that the value of property, especially in Ontario, had increased during the last few years. I have these statistics before me, and I find in them, where there has been a careful investigation of the subject, that during the year 1883 there was an increase over 1882 in the value of farm property amounting to \$22,450,525, in the Province of Ontario. I find that there was an increase in the value of buildings to the extent of \$31,319,100. I find that there was an increase in the value of implements that farmers used to carry on their operations amounting to \$6,492,715, and I find there was an increase in the value of the live stock of \$18,341,645—or, in these lines, buildings, implements and live stock, a total increase in the Province of Ontario, for 1883 over 1882, of 78,603,985—and that, too, notwithstanding the fact that there was a falling off in the value of crops that year of over \$26,000,000. What better evidence can hon. gentlemen in this House want to satisfy them that the country is prospering, and that the people are growing in wealth and becoming more comfortable? I can only say, in referring to the statement of the hon. member for North Norfolk, that in looking over these statistics very carefully, I find there are only two or three counties in the Province of Ontario that show any decrease in the value of lands or the prosperity of the people; and, strange to say, those very counties are the counties represented by hon. gentlemen on the Opposition side of the House. There is the county of Norfolk, represented by the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), and by the hon. member who endeavored the other night to prove that the man who sent goods out of the country paid the duty, and the man who brought goods into the country paid the duty—that the farmers paid the duties both ways (Mr. Jackson). These are the men who represent that county, and I do not wonder that there is some decrease in the wealth or some shrinkage in the value of land in counties where they are subjected to the speeches of these hon. gentlemen from year to year and from month to month. I come nearer home, and deal with this question in reference to my own county. The hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), who spoke to-night, travelled all over the continent of America to press into his service arguments suitable to the occasion, but he forgot the facts patent to his eyes in his own county, which give the strongest evidence of prosperity. In the constituency he represents I find there is an increase in every line. In the value of the lands there is an increase of \$2,120,820 during the last year; there is an increase in the value of the stock amounting to \$1,154,000, and in the value of the implements of \$238,460, or a total increase in the wealth of his own county, during the last year, amounting to \$4,146,890; and yet he says the country is worse off to-day. What I would like to ask the House and country is, what importance they can attach to the statements and arguments of hon. gentlemen in this House, when they endeavor to prove such allegations as they are endeavoring to prove here, when the people see these facts before them every day in the year. In my own county we had three men who went through the county to value it for the purpose of equalising the assessment five years ago, and while they did their duty admirably and were men of very good judgment, and devoted themselves assiduously to the task, the return was that the value of the county was a little over \$12,000,000. A little more than a year ago three more men went through the county, and in the past five years the value of the same county, the value of

the land in that county, the improvements the people had made in the land, and the wealth of the people as represented by their assessment, taken by men of equal ability and taken with the same care that the others had shown, before them, had about doubled. It was at the last valuation \$25,000,000. And yet we are told that this country is going to the dogs, that the National Policy established by the present Government is tending to make the people poorer instead of richer. Now, I can only say that if the hon. gentlemen who are using these arguments, collected from Maritime Provinces, would only come to the farmers of their own counties and examine the improvements that are taking place there, they would endeavor to present the case in a fairer light to their constituents, or else they would show no disposition to do what is fair in this question. Now, in reference to the wealth of the country, as represented by the accumulation of money in the country, what do we find? I have before me a statement showing the increase in the amounts that have been from year to year deposited in the savings banks of our country during the last ten years, and in the chartered banks. I find that during the years 1876-77-78 the amounts deposited in the post office savings banks, in round figures, were about \$2,000,000 each year; and in the chartered banks they averaged \$58,000,000. But after the present Government came into power do we find them increasing or decreasing? If there was any correctness in the allegations of the hon. gentlemen who attempt to prove that the country is retrograding, we would expect to find a decrease; but, instead, there is an increase in every line, as appears from the following figures:—

Year	Post Office Banks.
1875.....	\$2,926,000
1876.....	2,741,000
1877.....	2,640,000
1878.....	2,754,000
1879.....	3,105,000
1880.....	3,948,000
1881.....	6,208,000
1882.....	9,474,000
1883.....	11,976,000
1884.....	13,245,000

I claim that these figures show that there has been a constant accumulation of wealth among the poorer classes of the people since the present Government has had control of the affairs of this country. In the chartered banks the deposits increased from \$58,946,000, in 1878, to \$87,341,000, in 1884. Now I think this is the very plainest evidence we can have that the country is growing wealthier. If the land is increasing in value; if the buildings of the people are becoming more valuable; if they are becoming possessed of better facilities for carrying on their agricultural operations; and if, in addition to that, the people are accumulating capital, then I cannot understand how it is that the country is going backward. The hon. gentleman from Queen's, P. E. I. (Mr. Davies) said that this showing was no argument at all; that it did not prove that the wealth of the country was increasing; that it only showed, to his mind, that there were not avenues or openings in which the money could be invested and give a reasonable return, and consequently those who had capital locked it up in the savings banks. Now, I think that hon. gentleman either did not examine this subject carefully, or else he was most unfair in presenting this view of the question to the House. I have ascertained the amount of deposits in the savings banks for a number of years. Mr. Stewart, who has charge of the post office savings bank, has furnished the following figures, classifying the deposits. There were 141,000 depositors amongst the farmers of the country, and they deposited \$1,724,000. And how much was the average that each man deposited? Only \$337.28. There were 7,850 mechanics, who deposited \$1,422,000. How much was the average that