ninistration Does to Get Any For It.

Now, and Canada Shares in use the Conservative Policy . Foster's Criticism of Budget Speech.

and extravagance that we should find it necessary to augment our number to seventeen. This is far too many, and is a dissatisfaction to the country.

And, if I may be permitted to join the less to the greater, I would say, that, in 1894, the present hon member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), said:

I must take exception, in the first place, to the office ever having been created.

What office ? The Ministership of Trade

I do not see why it was created, unless it was to give a resting place, for the balance of his life, to the hon, gentleman who now occupies the position, drawing \$7,000 a year for virtually doing nothing.

the sources the sources of the hon, gentleman, ng up to the 50 million ably because he did not use, and more particu-tat in bringing it up to he would have to take ollars more in taxation which he must drag the people.

EXPENDITURE. up seriatim some of ake up seriatim some of stouched upon by my st, with reference to the country. The hon. It oblivious of his near ster of Trade and Com-Cartwright), who sat im, though immediate luring those particular shunned. He took no way in which he must ing the feelings of my ister of Trade and Commense expenditure of the present and current men who, in 1893 and articular plank in their xpenditures of the country in the spenditures of the coun-sty high, and that the Government should be ecause they would not of this House and of testo the position they to the strange comthey call their prin-

declaring; new with alarm the e public debt and of nual expenditure of the consequent une people under the have been continues 1878; and we denight the administra-

commenced, in

opped off the present out injury to the pub-

ty, if in power, could he public expenditure savings to the extent lars per annum, with-

urier, now the leader t, declared in Torontox power we will follow Mr. Mackenzie; and I h we may not be able enditures to what they we can beduce the

of Trade and Comster of Trade and Com-early twenty years went this country against the of the Government, dein this House:

art, I do not hesitate part, I do not hesitate I consider a yearly exrty million dellars, or on dollars, altogether e present resources of hat it is a disgrace and Government that have ith our affairs that they us and ask for an ex200,000 a year for fedin, the thing is utterly

mical Minister, the Post-r. Mulock), who, when he into office, objected to e Governor General's sa-elf hourse over seventeen Cabinet Ministers in a ada, swallowing up the try in an attempt to gov-1895 declared, with his

ify the expenditure of the country. It cannot be justicealth of the country. to warrant this enorms of nearly \$38,000,000 that we are burdened and with office-holders, the expenditure of

e taking \$6,115,000 more the people than we at \$7.571,000 more than we at \$7.571,000 more than we lared that an era of eco-iture should be at once

TWO GOVERNMENTS COMPARED.

It has been stated over and over again, by hon. gentlemen opposite, that when the late Government were in power, they were a very extravagant Government. I wish to put a table before the House, and I will read the figures contained in it. It gives the expenditures on consolidated revenue account, and also the total expenditures in parallel columns, consequently, I offend in neither respect, and I do not confuse the two. at that time, but now fustice, declared in 1893 the government of this carried on for a very

in than that which is a out of the pockets of hat purpose.

In for a reduction of a saking for economy in the form of public affairs.

That time, and still, a House, declared that the ming disgusted. taxation from customs
ney see the public debt
see the inordinate inexpenditure, and
leaving the country in

declared in 1889: what at all that the effi-public service might be the expenditure dimin-tone-half. ER OF TRADE AND

FUND ACCOUNT AND TOTAL EXPENDITURE. Consolidated Total Expenditure. ER7-1891 (average) .\$36,326,821 43,800,233

TWO GOVERNMENTS COMPARED.

the average total expenditure rises to \$42, 972,755.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright). I do not want to interrupt the hon, gentleman, but would he state again what he makes the total expenditure for 1896?

Mr. Foster—The total expenditure for 1896 is \$41,702,383, and to assist my hon. friend (Sir Richard Cartwright), I will tell him what the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding) has had to tell me in this House for three several times, but only upon my jogging his memory, namely, that in a book-keeping way he charged up to the Government expenditure in 1896 \$2,394,000 for the North Shore Quebec Railway subsidy, which was a liability incurred in 1882, and not in 1896. And though he included it in railway subsidies actually paid in 1896, I challenge the Finance Minister to rise in his place now, and tell this House that he has paid off, that liability. He charged the total sum in the railway subsidies of 1896 to the late Government, and to this day he is simply paying the interest, as was the condition of the grant made in 1882. That is why I wish to assist my hon. friend (Sir Richard Cartwright), lest he fall into a trap.

Now, Sir, when you come to the summa-

friend (Sir Richard Cartwright), lest he fall into a trap.

Now, Sir, when you come to the summation of that matter let it for ever silence gentlemen who state that the Liberal-Conservative Government for the last ten or fifteen years of its existence was an extravagant Government as measured by great increases in public expenditure. What is that summation? It is that the Liberal-Conservative Government spent in totality \$398,237 per year less from 1892 to 1896, than from 1887 to 1891, and that the present Government has exceeded the Liberal-Conservative average expenditure from 1892 to 1896 as follows:

And, as estimated by the Finance Minister for this current year of 1900, they will overexpend the average expenditure of the late Government from 1892 to 1896, by the sum of \$10,908,255.

Now, Sir, I invite any gentleman on the other side of the House to take the public accounts which he can have put in his hand and to deny one single statement that I have made with reference to a comparison of this expenditure as between the two Governments.

theman who now occupies the position, drawing \$7,000 a pear for virtually doing nothing.

I suppose the hon, gentleman now is willing that this edifice shall be retained in order to give a resting place for the "onlooker" of the present Cabinetz-who has passed his period of active service. What are these that I have been reading represent the solemn pledges of grown men, who have lived in this country and engaged in its politics for thirty, twenty-five and eighteen years. These are the utterances of men, who stood before the people, with their hands on their hearts, and declared that they were honest and truth-telling; these are the utterances of men, all anxious to climb into power, taking hold of these pledges as of the rungs of a ladder, by which they have gained power, they have kiede over, and broken entirely the pledges which they made. Hon, gentlemen smile as I recount these things. Why? Because they believe there is no longer necessity to be contemmed, as utterly to be elieve that be elieve that the electorate is as debauched, as utterly to be eleven the people? Is there any reason why these gentlemen should not cover their faces with their hands whenever they meet an honest man in this country? Do they believe that, by means of the machine which they control, of the creatures that they take into their confidence, and send off to deter electioneering work, they are going to pass scot free for this violation of what, in England, would consign any public man to political oblivious as surely as he has engaged in public life in that country?

TAKING MONEY FROM THE PEOPLE.

Now, these hon, gentlemen came in, and what have they done since they came in?

What have they done since they came in the country to two millions or three millions less than it was. Now, Mr. Speak.

Now, these hon, gentlemen came in, and ture of this country to two millions or three millions less than it was. Now, Mr. Speaker, what are the comparisons?

Consolidated Fund Expenditure. \$40,853,727 51,542,635 41,903,500 \$10,689,108 Increase . . . \$5,089,443

gaged in public life in that country?

TAKING MONEY FROM THE PEOPLE.

Now, these hon, gentlemen came in, and what have they done since they came in? What have they done with the expenditure of this country? The hon, Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), said, in a light and airy way: We had last year more money, we had a revenue \$6,186,000 greater than we had the year before. (Great applause from the back benches!) Let me translate that into plain English, such as the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce would have used in 1896. What does it mean? That you are taking out of the pockets of the people, the wage-carners, the labouring classes, the farmers of this country, \$1.16 per head more than the previous year for every man, woman and child in Canada. He made the statement that they had taken five millions and odd more in customs and excise than they took last year. Again applause from the back benches. Translate it, and what does it mean? That from these people, who, in the language of my hon, friend opposite, were "bled white!" the farmers, the people whose backs were bowed beneath the burdens of extravagant government, you are taking \$1 per head over, and above what you took the year before in taxes alone. Then, Sir, he boasted that he had a surplus of \$4,837,000. It was again greeted with applause. The translation of this into language of old times would have been: "A surplus, Sir! You have no business to take more. You should have let that remain in the pockets of the people, who could use it a great deal better than you could use it here." My hon. friend was very solicitous, lest we should confuse the expenditure and services, you have no business to take more. You should have let that remain in the pockets of the people, who could use it a great deal better than you could use it here." My hon. friend was very solicitous, lest we should confuse the expenditures and vorting through this House, on the lines of capital expenditure, bundreds of thousands of dollars, which, in preceding Governments, were always

over that of the present year by \$1,000,000.

THE INCREASE OF THE DEBT.

Now, Sir, having made this comparison, I wish to come back to the statement which was made by the Minister of Finance. He desired to show, as regards the increase of the debt, that the present Government was in a much better position than the late Government; and how did he attempt to show that? Why, Sir, he took the years from 1878 to 1896, and said that in those eighteen years the debt was increased by \$118,000,000, an average of \$6,563,000 per year, whereas from 1806 to 1899, three years, there was an increase in the debt of \$7,700,000, or an average increase of \$2,503,000 per year; and then he imagined that he had satisfied this House, and this country, that he had proved the matter up to the hilt. Was there ever a more unfair statement made? Was there ever a more flagrant outrage committed upon all seasonable rules of comparison? The hon, gentleman takes the period from 1878 to 1896, and he compares the increase of capital expenditure in those years with the increase in the three outrage committed upon all reasonable rules of comparison? The hon, gentleman takes the period from 1878 to 1896, and he compares the increase of capital expenditure in those years with the increase in the three years just past, when Canada had almost completed her house and installed her main furnishings, and now had but to provide the lesser requirements in the various departments of the public service. Let me, read to my hon, friend some figures, and then see if he does not himself feel ashamed of having attempted to palm off so unfair a statement upon the country. From 1878 to 1896 we were building the Canadian Pacific Railway, and we spent \$85,000,000 of capital on that road; in the three years past these gentlemen have spent just \$23,000 on the Canadian Pacific Railway. From 1878 to 1896 we spent on canals, \$36,000,000; in the last three years these gentlemen have spent \$8,300,000; while these hon, gentlemen have made an appropriation of only \$260,000. We spent on the Intercolonial Railway branches, \$20,500,000; they have spent \$1,400,000. We assumed the St. Lawrence debt, \$2,700,000, and went on thereafter with the improvement ourselves; they have assumed nothing with regard to the debt incurred by the Montreal Harbour Commission in improving the St. Lawrence. On the Quebee North Shore Railway we assumed \$2,394,000; they nothing. On territorial expenses we expended \$900,000; they nothing. And yet the Finance Minister of this country thinks it is not beneath his dignity, and that it is fair and reasonable, to make a comparison between these utterly dissimilar periods as regards great expenditure. On the North-West Rebellion we paid \$4,800,000 out of the revenues of the country; they incurred no like expense.

these great services of the country \$142.600,000, while they spent no more than \$11,000,000 on similar services; and, Sir, will you remark it, while we spent \$142.600,000 our debt increased only \$118,000,000, the rest of the expenditure being provided for out of the expenditure being provided for out of the revenues of the country. And yet, my hon, friend thinks that it is a fair thing to send out to the country a comparison on such dissimilar grounds as he placed before this House on Friday last. Let us look at another point. Suppose we did increase the debt from 1878 to 1896 by \$6,563,000 a year, while they increased it during the last three years by only \$2,503,000 a year; let us go to the other side of the ledger. How much taxation did we take out of the people of this country from 1878 to 1896? We took \$26,500,000 a year. How much have these gentlemen taken out in the three years since they came into office? They have taken out \$31,000,000 a year, and they are increasing this in the present year by \$4,000,000. If we had taken the same taxation out of the country that these gentlemen are taking out of it to-day, we would have met all that expenditure of \$142,000,000, and we would have comparatively little of that \$118,000,000 added to the debt of the country. The hongentleman says: Now, look at my surplus. Yes, look at his surplus. Why, Sir, there was an hon, gentleman close behind him (Sir Richard Cartwright), who made remarks with reference to surpluses, not once, but many times in this House. Let me read one. In 1882 he declared, when Mr. Tilley announced a surplus of \$4,000,000.

I ask how it was got. \$1,100,000 was derived from two of the most odious and oppressive taxes which were never imposed in any civilized country before under similar circumstances at least—the taxes on breadstuffs, and fuel. If he really wants to relieve the people, let him remove the taxes on breadstuffs and coal.

If my how friend hoasts of a surplus to

and coal.

If my hon friend boasts of a surplus today, there is an hon gentleman sitting
close beside him who will tell him that
he need not look around very long for a
method of remitting that to the people, and
thus ridding the people of what this prominent member of the Government declared over and over again, an odious tax
which should not be allowed in any civilized country—the tax on breadstuffs and
coal.

lized country—the tax on breadstuffs and coal.

Mr. COCHRANE. Who said that?

Mr. FOSTER.—That was stated by Sir Richard Cartwright. But we have another authority on this question, also a member of this Government. by name D. Mills, and the Hon. David Mills said:

He boasts of a surplus. I say that a government is not entitled to have a surplus. There is no stimulus to economy when a large surplus remains in the hands of the government. A large surplus invites to extravagance, and has invited to extravagance, and has invited to extravagance in this country. The Government and Parliament of this country should inaugurate a system of economy.

That is a statement made in 1893 by a

That is a statement made in 1893 by a gentleman who is to-day a colleague of the Minister of Finance, and when the Minister of Finance comes down and boasts of one surplus of \$4,700,000 and a coming one of \$7:500,000 I refer him to his colleagues.

SURPLUSES AND DEFICITS.

The hon gentleman wanted to show that the era of deficits had passed, and that an era of surpluses had succeeded. Well, what years do you suppose he chose in order to make a fair comparison between the two administrations in the matter of surpluses and deficits, and how do you suppose he treated the question, even after selecting his ground? He took the years of Conservative administration of 1893, 1894 and 1895, and he said that in those three years there was a deficit of \$5,694,759. He then took the three succeeding years of the present Government, and he added up the surpluses and deducted the small deficit, and made a net surplus of \$4,800,000 and then adding this surplus to the former deficit, he exclaimed: Behold a betterment of \$11,000,000 Does my hon. friend think it fair to select a period of depression, such as existed in this country from 1893 to 1895, and to compare that with a period of the greatest expansion, as he himself says, ever known in Canada? Why did my hon. friend not go back to 1891? He would have found that in 1891 we had a surplus and also in 1892, and he would have found hon friend not go back to 1891? He would have found that in 1891 we had a surplus and also in 1892, and he would have found out some other things. He would have found that in 1891, when we had a buoyant revenue and a surplus of \$155,971, with another surplus in sight for the next year. I, as Finance Minister of the Government of that day, came down to this House and wiped out entirely the duties on raw sugar, which were very high. If he had looked at the calculations he would have found the following result, and I give him this table for comparison:

Sugar tax Surplus. \$ 155,977 1,354,555 remission. 1891—\$ 227,474 1892— 5,200,000 1893— 4,000,000 1894— 4,821,000 \$1,210,382 4,153,875 830,551 \$5,694,759

..\$15,667,768 Net gain to country Those are facts which were known to my hon, friend and which he might have taken into account in making his comparison but which, unfortunately for him, would have entirely destroyed it. That no doubt was the reason why he ignored them. Here is another table.

1994 to '96. 1897-99. Excess. Taxes collected. \$80,700,000 \$98,100,000 \$12,400,000 Other revenue. \$25,200,000 \$2,000,000 5,800,000 Total excess 3 years (Liberal)..\$18,200,000 Expenditures on consolidated

Idated fund . . .\$112,600,000 \$119,100,000 \$ 6,500,000 On Cap. Account . 15,000,000 20,700,000 5,700,000

Making the comparison in this way, comparing the actually collected revenue in both cases, they collected sevenue in both cases, they collected \$18,200,000 more from the people in the three years of their administration than we did in the three years of our administration which the hon, gentleman selected, and this would have entirely wiped out his so-called betterment of \$11,000,000, and left \$7,000,000 to the good besides, and not content with collecting \$18,200,000 more, they made an extra expenditure in these three years of \$12,200,000.

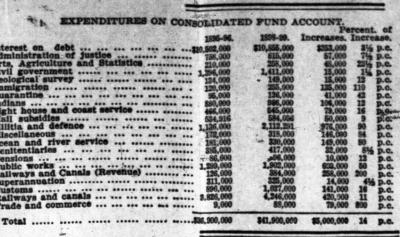
Surpluses, says my hon, friend. Does he know that since confederation there have been twenty surpluses in our financial history? Does he know that the Liberals can only boast of three of these, and that out of twelve deficits the Liberal-Conservatives for seven. But of the seven, two were due to the paying of the North-West rebellion expenses out of the revenues of the country, and the other three were due to this remission of sugar taxation of which I have spoken.

I am willing to take a deficit when it is Total excess expen. 3 years (Lib.).\$12,200,000

try, and the other three were due to this remission of sugar taxation of which I have spoken.

I am willing to take a deficit when it is caused by relieving the burdens of the people. But, what burden of the people, has this gentleman relieved? I fail to see. Sir, he has added taxation. He has added taxation on liquors and tobacco. And, he has added taxation on sugar, under the pretense of giving a preference to the West Indies, which he knew at the time would not be operative, and he came up at the next session of Parliament and declared that it had not been operative. And why? Because at the very time he put on this duty, there was such legislation in the United States of America in respect of the countervailing duties, that it more than made up to the West India cane sugar producers for the preference he gave them. Yet he added from \$300,000 to \$500,000 on sugar under that pretence, and even when he acknowledged that it was but a pretense, he had not the sense of fair play, which should impel him to remit the taxation which he put on the people upon a pretense which was unfounded.

From 1891 to 1895, there were three several reductions of the tariff under the



ASTONISHING FIGURES.

Now, lest I overwhelm the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) with these astonishing figures respecting his own department, I will say, that, at long last, he has plucked up courage to pay the silver-lead smelting bounties in British Columbia, for which legislation was prepared and passed by the Conservative Government before they went out of office, and that a large part of the expenditure in his department is due to the paying of these long-deferred bounties. In the whole of the pages of comparison in the public accounts of this year, there are only four or five departments or sub-departments of government in which there has not been an increase.

Now let me say something with reference to the taxation of this country. The opinion has prevailed, made to prevail, by these hon, gentlemen very largely, that the taxation taken from the country by the Liberal-Conservatives was exceedingly high. This was urged as a strong reason for the defeat of the late Government. The pledges of those who are now in power led the whole country to believe that the load of taxation would be relieved if they were returned to power. It will be interesting to read these figures, taken from the hom, gentleman's own returns. In 1889-90, we had the period of highest taxation in this country, and I begin with that year.

VOLUME OF TAXATION AND REV-

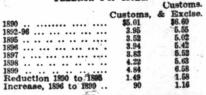
	EW	UE.	Total	000
1880,90		Taxes. 1.587.071	Revent \$39,879	ue. 125
1890-1	30	.314,151	38,579,	310
1891/2	2	8,446,157	36,921,	371
1892-3	2	3,321,307	38,168,	
1893-4	2	7,579,203	36,374,	
1894-5	2	0,440,198	33,978,	
1895-6	2	7,759,285	36,618,	
1896-7	2	8,648,020	37,829,	
1897-8	2	9,576,450	40,555,	
1898-9	3	1,908,009	40,/41,	610
		h- 46	Saures	that

We see, therefore, by these figures, that 1894-5, when the taxation was \$25,446,198, and the total revenue \$33,978,129, was the period of lowest taxation, and we know that from 1890 to 1894, including these years, three successive reductions had been made in the tariff of the country. Now, sir, what follows? That, whereas in 1889-90, \$31,500,000 were taken from the country in taxation, in 1894-5 that had been reduced to \$25,500,000, or is round numbers, \$6,000,000, largely by the tariff revises which had taken place under the Conservative Government. These figures, Fethink, are a striking commentary upon two things: First, the alleged extrawagasce and the high taxation under the Liberal-Conservative Government, and the beautiful way, the unique way, in which these economists have carried out their pledges and reduced the taxation by increasing it to \$7,190,000 from 1896 to 1899.

Well six there is another way of making

Well, sir, there is another way of making comparisons, which is the taxation per head, and that will be shown by the following

Taxation Per Head.



That is to say, the reduction per head from 1890 to 1895, under a Conservative administration, was \$1.49 in customs, and \$1.58 in customs and excise both. From 1896 to 1899, customs and excise both. From 1890 to 1890, the increase in customs alone is 90 cents per head, and in customs and excise together, \$1.16. And this past year is but a promise of what the present current year and the succeeding year are to be in the way of still greater increases.

COMPARISON OF TARIFF RATES.

Now, sir, I want to say a word on the tariff rates so as to make a comparison which will bring out as clearly as we possibly can what is the difference between these hon, gentlemen under what he was the same the same and the s Now, sir, I want to say a word on the tariff rates so as to make a comparison which will bring out as clearly as we possibly can what is the difference between these hon. gentlemen under what they call their low revenue tariff, or moderate tariff, and the Liberal-Conservative Government under what the hon. gentlemen opposite denominate as the extravagantly high national policy duties. Now, I am not going to make these calculations myself. There is one thing that a member of an Opposition can sometimes get out of the Government, that is, information, and when these hon. gentlemen do get their blue-books.down—which the Minister of Trade and Commerce has not done yet, and the lack of which I felt in my preparation for my raply to the hon. gentleman who spoke on Friday—I say that when we do get the figures made up by themselves, I propose to take them as long as I think they fairly conserve the facts, and are based upon immartial lines. So, I take from the trade and navigation figures, the duties on dutiable and free imports into this country for home consumption and present it as follows. The highest year of tariff rate was in 1899, when it was 21.65 per cent. The House will see that from 1889 to 1895 the percentage rate of taxation fell from 21.65 to 19.99 under the successive reductions of the tariff which were made by the Liberal-Conservatives. In 1896, the rate goes up, because, as I said, a part of the sugar duties were put back, and the rate in that year was 18.28.

Now, what is the state of things which they disclose? If we compare 1899 with 1895, there was a reduction of 4.66 per cent. in the rate of taxation under the Liberal-Conservatives. If you take the imports of 1896, which were \$105,252,000, you will find that 4.66 per cent. of it is \$4,900,000, that is to say, the reduction in the rate of taxation from 1889 to 1805 was 4.66 per cent; and the actual volume of taxation, \$2,400,000 that is to say, the reduction of the sum of the proper sum of the sum of the proper sum of the proper sum of the proper s

AVERAGE RATE OF CUSTOMS TARIFF.

AVERAGE RATE OF CUSTOMS
TARIFF.

Mr. Foster—I will carry on the comparison a little farther. From 1892 to 1896, a period of five years, the average rate of custom tariff was 17.47 per cent; from 1897 to 1899, three years, the average rate was 17.17 per cent. So that if you take three years of the hon, gentleman's administration, they have reduced the tariff rates by 39-100 of one per cent. Now their answer to that will be: Well, but, in 1897, we had done nothing with the tariff until the very last month, or two months of the year. Very well, then, we will take 1898 and 1899, two years. During these two years their average was 16.82 per cent., and if you deduct that from the average rate from 1892 to 1896 it gives a reduction of 65-100 of one per cent. of the average tariff rate. But they will say: Our full preference was not in lorce in these two years. Then we will take the year 1899, when, by their own calculation, their rate was 16.70; this is a reduction of 77-100 of one per cent. compared with the average tariff rate from 1892 to 1896. Now, these are statements which are made from their own figures, which are open to the House and which can be canvassed by the country and pondered upon. The following table shows the rate of duty from 1899 to 1899 inclusive:

Rate of Duty on Imports for Home Consumption. Dutlable and Free.

1889 to 1899 inclusive:

Rate of Duty on Imports for Home Consumption, Dutiable and Free.

Under Liberal-Conserv. Under Liberals.
1889 . 21.65 p.c. 1897 17.87 p.c.
1890 . 21.21 p.c. 1888 . . . 16.35 p.c.
1891 . . . 20.06 p.c. 1899 16.70 p.c.
1892 . . . 17.56 p.c.
1893 . . . 17.38 p.c.
1894 . . . 17.13 p.c.
1894 . . . 17.13 p.c.
1895 . . . 18.23 p.c.
Average 1892-96, 17.47 p.c.
Average 1892-96, 17.47 p.c.
Reduction, 30-100 of 1 p.c.

But there is a peculiar circumstance that

But there is a peculiar circumstance that I would like to call to the attention of the hon Minister of Customs, who deals honestly with figures and wishes to do what is

CORN NOT FOR HOME CONSUMPTION.

I will ask him if, in 1898, 23,000,000 bushels of Indian corn had been imported into the country, how would it have been entered in the Trade and Navigation returns of that year? He knows that that 23,000,000 bushels would not have been taken for consumption in this country, and that a very small proportion comparatively; is taken, even now for home consumption, of the consumption in the country intransit, and is exported from this country as foreign produce. I ask the hon. Minister of Customs, if, under these conditions, in 1896, there had been 23,000,000 bushels of American corn brought into this country, in what column would it have been entered—for home consumption ex under general imports? The hon. gentleman knows that not a bushel of it would have been entered for home con-

hon, gentleman knows that not a bushel of it would have been entered for home con-sumption except that small quantity which was actually intended for home consump-tion, and that the rest of it would not have

gone into the home consumption totals for the calculation of the revenue rates, and it would have gone out as foreign product exported. Now, the thing is changed, Corn is free, and I ask the hon. Minister of Customs to take his Trade and Navigation Returns, to turn up the book and find how much corn, from the United States, was entered in the column of total imports, and not included in the home consumption column upon which the scale and rate of duty is to be calculated. How much will be find? I venture to tell him that he will see find? I venture to tell him that he will see find a bushel, but he will find that 23,342,847 bushels of American corn were brought into this country, placed in the columns of his returns; 'entered for home consumption,' that the value of that was \$8,906,925, and it he will go to the column of exports he will find that of that \$23,000,000 bushels, \$6,009,847 bushels, valued at \$6,302,683, have been exported from this country, as foreign product, to the old country, as foreign product, to the old country, as foreign product, to the old country. If the hon, gentleman wishes to deal honestly with figures he will instruct the derks of his departments to take that \$6,302,683 worth of corn, entered here for home consumption, but which did not go into home consumption, but in \$60,000,000 which he has taken_as the home consumption totals upon which to eal-chiate his averages. Will the hon, gentleman do that? Does he consider that this is dealing honestly with the country? If give my hon, friend greater credit, for sagacity and knowledge than not to know the currents of trade upon such important articles as Indian corn, in the department of which he is the head, and where he is constantly in touch with the details of the business. Why is it they have gained the advantage of a lower rate per cent. this year which the addition of this \$6,000,000 odd, where it, should never have been added, has given them? Because, either the hon, gentlemen's clerks did not choose to do the right thing. I have b

rou have an important policy founded upon a preference. A preference of the duty, and it goes into force 12 1-2 per cent. first and then another 12 1-2, making it 25, and for eleven months of this year 1896, the 25 per cent. reduction has been in force. If you take 33, 20, which was the tariff on dutiable goods in 1896, their full reduction of 25 per cent. would be 7.25, but instead of that they are reduced only 3.38 per cent. But I will deal more with that question later. My hoa, friend (Mr. Fielding) undertook to go over a large number of what he called indications of prosperity in this country. I agree with him that in the main these are evidences of prosperity. First, the growth of trade; second, the deposits in the public banks and the savings; third, the clearing-house returns, which register the transactions of trade to a large extent. Then there is the immigration into the country, and the various other points which he mentioned. But, sir, when the hon, gentleman (Mr. Fielding), was speaking I thought I had heard an argument advanced per contra on that very line, and in looking & uffort on the twery line, and in looking & uffort on the twenty line, and in looking & uffort on the twenty line and in looking & uffort on the twenty line and in looking & uffort on the twenty line and in looking & uffort on the twenty line and in looking & uffort on the twenty line and advanced per contra on that very line, and in looking & uffort on the country and the very line and in looking & uffort on the uffort of Trade and Commerce (Str Richard Cartwright) rose and made a very serious and very vigourous comment on my position. And what did he say?

Bank deposits! Sir, evidences of dobt are not evidences of prosperity. Savings bank deposits! Where is the money? You have not got it. If a run were made on your bank to-day, you would have to go to England and borrow it. You own lit it is intered, in public works to keep some troublesome follower behind you in Friedring looking the honour little substitution of the money in

AN ARBITRARY DIVISION.

Well, sir, I have nothing to quarrel with in these indications of prosperity, but I have some remarks to make as to the manner in which they were collated and placed before the House. Does the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) tell me that he is giving any fair comparative or other statement of the trade of Canada by dividing it arbitrarily into three unequal periods—the first period from 1868 to 1878 (ten years); the second period from 1878 to 1896 (eighteen years); and the third period from 1898 to 1899 (three years). On what basis has he made the collocation of these figures on what basis has he made the collocation of these figures on what basis has he made this aggregation? Does not my hon, friend know that when he states that in 1868 the trade was \$131,000,000; and in 1879, it was only \$153,000,000; does he not know that he has simply caricatured; the state of trade from 1868 to 1879, because if you look over the course of trade, you will find that in 1873 it had gone up to \$217,000,000 from \$131,000,000 in 1868, and then in 1873, for some reason it commenced to decision with it went down to \$153,000,000 at find that in 1873 it had gone up to \$217,000.000 from \$131,000,000 in 1808, and then in 1873, for some reason it commenced to decline until it went down to \$153,000,000 at the end of the administration of the Mackenzie Government in which my hon. friend (Sir Richard Cartwright) was Finance Minister, as compared with \$217,000,000 in 1873. Well, take the other period, from 1879 to 1806. In 1879 the trade was \$153,000,000, and in 1896 it was \$239,000,000. Any one looking over the trade reports knows that in that long period of eighteen years there were periods of greater and less trade, because cycles of this country radically change from period to period, and so his comparison was entirely worthless, except that he wished to exaggerate the immense and splendid increase the last three years had registered in the trade of this country, taking these unfavourable points of comparison as he did, in 1878 and 1896. Well, Sir, let us look at this question of trade. Nobody doubts at all that the trade of Canada has advanced splendidly in the last three years. Nobody who will be fair doubts that the turn of the tide commenced in 1894.

NO PANIC IN CANADA.

Nobody, who has read the financial and trade history of this country doubts for a single moment that the conserving power of the national policy from 1891 to 1895 did great-things for Canada, preserving her in a position enjoyed by very few other countries in the world. Let me give an outside authority for that —an authority who has been quoted in this House before, a famous statistician and publicist, the Hon. Mr. Wells, who in the Forum of 1894 wrote as follows:

In the Dominion of Canada, separated

In the Dominion of Canada, separated In the Dominion of Canada, separate from us on the north by an imaginary line, there has been no panic, no unusual demand for money, no stoppage of industries, no restriction of trade, no industries, no restriction of trade, no industries in short, nothing dustries, no restriction of trade, no in-creased rate of interest; in short, nothing beyond the ordinary course of events, except so far as these events may have been influenced by contiguity to what may be termed a financial cyclone whose pathway of destruction was contigu-ous to, but not within Canadian terri-tory.

That is a statement of great force and great worth, coming from the eminent man who penned it. Well, Sir, that period of 1891-5 was one, of well-sustained activity in the Dominion of Canada. There was a disturbance of trade; there was a falling off in im-