

this taxation of \$15,000,000 or \$18,000,000 per year now levied on them in excess of what the necessities of the country require. Let the goods which pay those customs duties be manufactured in this country. The doctrine of free trade is played out, and our people are insisting upon the manufactured goods they consume being made in our own country. The ideal condition of any country is that in which the manufactures are centred in the cities and supply the rural parts in the cities and supply the rural parts in every direction. Those countries which are destitute of manufacturing industries are poor and unprogressive. What we require is varied industries, but, under the policy of the right hon. gentleman and his colleagues, that is most difficult to obtain. They throw out no hope of protection to our manufacturing industries. The words of the right hon. gentleman are in the contrary direction, and I presume it is he who guides the cabinet in that respect.

Then what has become of all the promises made by the right hon. gentleman and his friends? We were to have had reciprocity with the United States and a preferential arrangement with Great Britain. But, according to the right hon. gentleman, the High Commission is not going to sit any more. It is practically at an end. He tells us that, if the people of the United States wish to bring any matter before the Joint High Commission, the initiative must come from them. They, and not we, must make the first move. We may consider, therefore, that that commission is entirely at an end. We are then told to await developments in the imperial parliament. We are to find out what they intend to do in England before we make any move at all. Sir, the people of England are moving in a direction which meets with the approval of the majority of the people of this Dominion. The Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain is giving expression to the opinions and the wishes of nine-tenths of the people of Canada. That right hon. gentleman holds that in order to have imperial unity, we must base it on something more than sentiment. We must have a tariff arrangement between the various colonies and the motherland. But the right hon. gentleman is doing nothing to promote any such arrangement. He will not even make public the views which he and his colleagues expressed at the imperial conference. He refused to give the imperial authorities permission to lay upon the Table of the Imperial House of Commons the correspondence and papers in connection with the proceedings of that conference. Why have we not got those? Why have we not got what the right hon. gentleman said over at that conference? Have we not the right to the views to which the right hon. gentleman gave expression at that conference, so that we may judge whether he then truly represented the views of the people of this country or not? There

was nothing objectionable, from the point of view of imperial interests, to the publishing of those proceedings. The Secretary of the Colonies asked the different colonies for permission to publish them, but that permission was refused by the right hon. gentleman, and we are thus without the record. We therefore do not know to what extent the Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain is voicing the opinions of the gentlemen who represented us at that conference in England. We cannot tell whether or not he is following in the footsteps suggested by them.

Then what about the economies which the right hon. gentleman promised? What about the reduction of the public debt? What about that excessive levying of customs taxes which the hon. the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Rt. Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright) was accustomed so vigorously to denounce in those days when he declared that a customs taxation of \$37,000,000 was largely in excess of the requirements of the country, and that, if he ever had the power he would reduce it by \$5,000,000 or \$6,000,000? We hear nothing now of that comparison which the right hon. gentleman used to make when he compared the condition of the United States in 1845, when its population was over 20,000,000 and its expenditure only \$26,000,000, with that of Canada. To-day we find a taxation wrung out of the people in the shape of excise and customs duties to the extent of about \$15,000,000, or \$18,000,000 in excess of the amount we used to levy when we were in office. The total expenditure in 1896 by the Conservative government was \$41,702,353. The current expenditure was \$36,949,142, which was about the average for seven years. In 1902, these gentlemen expended on current account \$50,951,903, and on current account and capital account together \$59,931,824. They voted for the purpose of expenditure during the year 1902 no less than \$88,000,000. Yet these are the gentlemen who went from end to end of the country declaring that if they got into power they would reduce expenditure and reduce the public debt. Has the debt been reduced? On the contrary it has been increased. Has the expenditure been reduced? It has been increased from \$37,000,000 to \$51,000,000. I do not know what it will be for the current year, but in all probability, it will be largely in excess of that of the year before. But, to cover all this these gentlemen talk about prosperity. The mover and seconder of the address referred to it and the right hon. leader of the government said that Providence was on his side and there must be some reason for the country being so prosperous while he was in power. And what laudatory remarks we hear from gentlemen sitting behind the treasury benches. They would have us believe that this government was the greatest aggregation of intellect that ever governed the country. I remem-