

not consistent in their utterances. All I can assure my hon. friend is, that when we act as a government, we act cordially together—that there are no differences between us in the council chamber. All members of a government ought to be perfectly free to express their opinions. No man is worth very much unless he has some hobby in the advancement of the country, and it is quite true that Mr. Tarte has taken up the question of transportation, and is endeavouring to educate the people up to his own plane. Is there anything wrong with that? He is an ardent—

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Protectionist.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No, nationalist. He believes in Canada, and that Canada's prosperity is bound up in transportation.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I suppose he did not tell the truth when he said you "quarrelled like blazes"?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No, not if he said that, but I am quite sure he did not say that, because I do not think we are a quarrelsome family at all. If my hon. friend could peep into the council chamber, he would find a good deal of mirth and pleasantry, but no quarreling, and that when we come out of the council chamber, we are a unit—no undermining of each other.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The facts do not agree.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I am giving the facts as a member of the government, and I do not mind taking my hon. friend into my confidence on that subject. I speak truthfully and sincerely when I make the statement. I do not think it is necessary to traverse any further the statements of my hon. friend. The main point is that we, by adapting ourselves to the conditions as they existed, consulted the best interests of the business of the country—I do not think any business man would deny that—and the figures both of savings in the banks and the trade of the country will bear me out in the statements I then made. They are incontrovertible. But you do not want to go to the figures. It is in the air. Everybody acknowledges that the trade of the country to-day has never been equalled before—that the whole country is prosperous, perhaps with the exception of the woollen industries, and one or two others.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT.

Hon. Mr. McCALLUM—And cotton.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No, I think the cotton industry has done very well.

Hon. Mr. McMILLAN—Over three million dollars' worth of English cottons were imported in July, August and September.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—If you exclude the water from the cotton stocks of this country, would not the hon. gentleman be willing to give 150 to 200 for them?

Hon. Mr. McMILLAN—They are not paying dividends.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—You can put so much water in stocks that they cannot be made to pay a good dividend, and it is a fact that many industries have been making so much money that in order to divert public attention from them they have watered their stocks. But there is the fact which cannot be controverted, that in no period of the history of this country has it been as prosperous as it is to-day.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—When I heard my hon. friend with all seriousness—and he can be very serious when he is really humorous—in apparent seriousness, at all events, claim that the preferential tariff had been the cause of the enormous expansion of our trade, not only with Great Britain, but with all other countries, during the last few years, I am reminded of the incident which Bruce mentions in his account of his travels to Abyssinia. When he visited the capital of Abyssinia, small-pox broke out in the country. He was an astronomer, and was observed in the night-time to be out on a hill with his telescope directed on the face of the moon, and the conclusion the people arrived at was that this was the cause of the small-pox—that he was talking to the moon, and the moon was known to have sinister influences, and it was solemnly believed in Abyssinia that these nightly conferences with the moon had brought about the small-pox, and it almost cost Bruce his life. So my hon. friend turned his preferential telescope in the direction of Great Britain, and as soon as that happened, the sheep and cattle fattened more quickly, on our fields and farms, our industries began to be quickened in every direction, and the markets all over the world became greedy immediately for the products of Canada, simply because this tariff had been adopted in favour of Great Britain.