

not seem to take exactly the view which the hon. member for South Wellington took in the remarks which he so forcibly placed before the House. The view of the hon. member for North Norfolk was this, and possibly there may be some small modicum of truth as well as of common sense in the view which he expressed :

The government was fortunate in assuming office just at the beginning of a period of prosperity, which not only applies to us, but to all commercial nations, and which it is well to realize has been due to the blessings of Providence, and to causes beyond the control of the Canadian government.

I do not know that I have anything to suggest in answer to what the hon. gentleman has said, beyond the words which have fallen so aptly from the hon. member for North Norfolk in regard to that matter. The hon. gentleman also referred to some opportunity which had fallen to the lot of the Conservative party when in power, and of which that party had not seen fit to avail itself. I understood him to rejoice that the present administration had taken some step which has corrected the mistake of the late administration, and has resulted in a marked increase of our trade with the mother country. I did not clearly gather from the hon. gentleman just what step of the present administration he referred to. Possibly when the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) comes to deal with this matter he may be able to supply that omission. As a matter of fact, we know very well what the policy of this government has been with respect to that, and we know what result, if it can be called a result, that policy has produced. If it be possible for this administration to so control trade matters as the hon. gentleman would have us think, how does it happen that this administration has been so remiss in its duty as to permit the imports of this country from Great Britain to rise from \$33,000,000 to no more than \$37,000,000 in the three years they have been in power, while during the same period the imports from the United States rose from \$59,000,000 to \$93,000,000? If these are matters which can be effectively dealt with by measures placed before the House, by Acts of the parliament of Canada, and if it be true that these are altogether independent of trade conditions throughout the world, it strikes me that the administration of this country is highly remiss in not having corrected that most unfortunate condition of affairs during the past few years.

Now, my hon. friend spoke also of the misfortune of the Liberal-Conservative party in struggling against prosperity in 1900. My hon. friend will permit me to say that the Liberal-Conservative party has no record of struggling against prosperity in this country. The Liberal-Conservative party, from 1896 down to the present time,

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

has been prepared to concede, and all those who have been qualified to speak for it have always conceded, the prosperity of this country and have been thankful for it. It is true that the Conservative party has taken the ground that the prosperity is not due to any change of administration. It is true that the Conservative party has taken the ground, as it still takes the ground, that the prosperity may in no small measure be due to the policy which was advocated through good report and through evil report, and was maintained by the Liberal-Conservative party for eighteen years. I would remark, in passing, with respect to the depression in trade matters, which was referred to by my hon. friend, that with what he said in regard to the resources of Canada, and the possibility of Canada facing a depression more successfully than other portions of the world, I am inclined to agree, in some measure at least, but I desire to remind him and the House of what, I think, he has forgotten, that during the administration of the great party which I have the honour to lead in this House, a depression which prevailed throughout all the world was felt by Canada much less than by any other portion of the world, and much less certainly than by the great country to the south of us, although that country may claim to have resources as great, and possibly more varied, than even the great and varied resources of Canada.

Now, with respect to the other remarks which were so eloquently made by my hon. friend, I do not know that I need refer to them, at any length at least. It has been claimed by the right hon. gentleman, I think, who leads the government, that this is a business administration. I shall endeavour to claim for the opposition in this House that we shall be a business opposition, and, therefore, I do not propose to discuss, except so far as necessary, matters which have been referred to in the speech. With respect to one matter, I desire to say a word or two, and that is a matter which has been referred to so eloquently by the hon. member for South Wellington. I mean the part which has been taken by our Canadian citizen soldiers in fighting the battles of the empire beyond the seas. I believe, Sir, that Canada has every right to be proud of the way in which its men have acquitted themselves. We knew when they left us that they would be brave and true, and we hoped that they would be fortunate. They have fulfilled all these conditions. The opportunity came to them more than once in South Africa, and the opportunity never came to them when they were found wanting. They received the commendation of their superior officers on every occasion on which they were called upon to play a prominent part, and it is well not only for Canada, but for the world to know what Canada and the outlying nations of the empire are capable of doing in that respect.