

1897..	\$ 28,648,626 11
1898..	29,576,455 64
1899..	34,958,069 21
1900..	38,242,222 99
1901..	38,743,550 28
1902..	43,389,111 87
	\$ 213,558,036 10

Average for 6 years .. \$ 35,709,672 00

Hon. Mr. SCOTT.—Rising every day—in-creasing every day.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Yes, increasing very rapidly. The average during the ten years was \$35,709,672. Now, according to Sir Richard Cartwright's doctrine, when the taxation increased out of all proportion to the population of the country, it afforded the most convincing evidence that the government was grossly extravagant and probably grossly corrupt.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—And he says that when you can show that taxation remains stationary for a number of years, you may be equally assured that the government is economically conducted. That was the state of affairs the last ten years the Conservatives were in power. The taxation remained stationary practically during the ten years, and, according to Sir Richard Cartwright, that is the best evidence in the world that the government was economically conducted. On the other hand, the extraordinary increase of taxation during the time the Grit government has been in power shows that they have been extravagant and also probably corrupt. That is the dictum of Sir Richard Cartwright. The remedy for this would be, if the government have taken more than they need from the people, to reduce taxation so that they would not be bringing themselves within the condemnation laid down by Sir Richard Cartwright in 1884. There are some other matters not referred to in this speech, one of which is the singular omission of all reference to provincial autonomy for the Territories. There is no reference made to the giving of provincial powers to the Territories. I am surprised that such is the case. It is well known that there is a desire that they should be given provincial autonomy. The demand is made on behalf of the Territories that they should have autonomy, but the government ignore those claims. They come down to parliament with a reference so far as the mounted

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON.

police are concerned, but no reference to the important question of giving the Territories provincial autonomy. I think it is high time that question should be dealt with. It is not well in this country that we should keep the large number of people residing in the Territories at the present time under a system of tutelage, people who are well able to govern themselves. It is time we started them in housekeeping, giving them full power, and starting them in a just manner, and I think the policy of the government in not making a reference to this question shows their inability to deal with it, because there seems to be some difficulty which they are afraid to tackle, or otherwise they would have taken up this question before now. There is also another omission in the speech, a remarkable one, and that is the omission of any reference to the preferential trade campaign which is now going on in Great Britain under the leadership of Mr. Chamberlain. I must say that I looked over the speech with some degree of surprise at this omission. I have noticed that the government have not been dealing courageously with that question. In fact they have not dealt consistently with it, nor courageously at any time from the beginning of the discussion of the question in Canada up to the present time; and that lack of courage which the government have shown with regard to the subject is a plain manifest from the fact that there has been no reference in the speech to that question, which is one of the most important subjects affecting the interests of Canadians of all the questions that are inside of the political horizon at the present moment. My hon. friend the mover of the address referred in the beginning of his observations to the part which Sir Wilfrid Laurier took in England during the Jubilee year. As I intimated, I am far from agreeing with my hon. friend as to the value of the services then rendered by the premier in Great Britain. In fact I lay to his charge, as the people of Canada lay to his charge, that he failed to perform a duty that he had solemnly pledged himself to the people of Canada he would perform, before the elections of 1896. I will just read an extract from Sir Wilfrid Laurier's speech in London, Ont., in 1896, immediately before the elections, and then hon. gentlemen will remember the solemn character of the pro-