

I know it will be said that gentlemen on this side of the house have been in the habit of taking credit to themselves when the country has been in a prosperous condition under their management; but I will answer, circumstances alter cases, and the circumstances under which we claimed credit were very different from those existing now. At that time a large part of our imports came from the United States, and facilities for smuggling existed to an extent infinitely beyond what they do now; but at present the entire current is reversed, and instead of requiring the vigilance which once was necessary, our revenue is collected with ease at those seaports which have intercourse with Great Britain, and we fairly at that time claimed what we had a right to claim, because on the vigilance which was exercised depended the resources we commanded. I say, therefore, as to the first part of the honorable member's speech, that he has been using two arguments doubled into one; and, that as far as our present position is concerned, there are circumstances connected with our trade which enable us not only to collect duties on imports for home consumption, but duties on articles intended for consumption in the United States, and that under such circumstances our trade cannot but increase and prosper.

But the honorable gentleman has referred to the increase of our coal trade, and I would again, in reference to that department, ask him to put his finger upon any thing that has been done to increase that trade. Does the government work a mine, by the proceeds of which they have swollen the receipts? I believe they have one mine which they make an extensive source of profit to themselves, and that is the Treasury which they control, but I am not aware of any other mine into which they delve deep to extort the precious metal, although the hon. member may be able to point one out to us. I find that in 1860 the entire export of coal was but 130,000 chaldrons, while in 1865 it amounted to 430,000 chaldrons, so that in a part of five years the enormous export of coal, swelling as it does the total of our exports, has risen to three times what it was five years ago. But suppose it just possible, that in one of the inscrutable dispensations of Providence by which He sometimes inflicts an unworthy Government upon a Province, an administration even worse than that at present existing were to come into power, and the Reciprocity Treaty were to continue, does he mean to tell us that any government, however bad, could prevent our coal mines in the various parts of the country from yielding their supply? Does he mean to insult the intelligence of the House, and the intelligence of the freeholders whom he represents, by telling us that the government have anything to do with the increase in our coal exports? Not content with that, the honorable gentleman has gone into the Crown Land Department; but I ask him again to point me out a line, nay, half a line, a word, a syllable, or a letter that has been changed by the government which he adores? and yet he would go down on his knees and say to these Baals, "It is to you that we are indebted for all this." But he must even go further and refer us to the Railway Department, although I should have supposed that if there

was anything he would have avoided it would have been getting off the track upon the railway. Now, I can tell him, bad as he thinks the late government were, they can take credit for far more than has been done by the present; for in 1859 the railway department, instead of paying its working expenses, left a loss of over £2000, which had to be taken out of the public treasury, besides the entire interest of the money expended on the road; and when we came into power in 1860, at the end of the very first year of our administration, so far from there being a balance against us, we had £5067 to the good.

DR. HAMILTON.—Should that go to the credit of the Government?

MR. ARCHIBALD.—Certainly, for that was a revenue which the Government could control; they don't work the mines; nor take out grants of Crown Lands, but when that department is economically or profusely managed there is all the difference in the world, so that the honorable gentleman's interruption only enables me to give him a more euphatic reply. Now then the only department that the present Government could do harm to they did injure, for while there was that balance to the good (amounting in the year on which we went out of office to £9,295, and shewing that though we took charge of affairs with an annual loss to be met, we converted that loss into a profit), the very first year these gentlemen held the reins of authority that balance was reduced to £3427. That the receipts have increased from year to year is due, not to the Government, but to the great increase and growth of the various interests of the country and of the trade upon which this revenue depends. I have asked for lines and for syllables, and I will ask now have the Government altered the fares? Have they done any thing to account for the increase, excepting only the additional work on the line which of itself has largely increased the traffic? As far as the construction of the Picotou line is concerned, I have given the government all the aid in my power, but is it to be supposed that the expenditure of half a million of money, a large portion of which necessitates traffic, should not add to the Railway Revenue? Therefore while these facts are considered, a large allowance must be made for the demand which construction makes upon the energies of a country, and anybody who has seen, as I have had opportunity of seeing, the large amount of traffic which that construction occasions will be able to understand this circumstance.

Having made these remarks in a very hurried manner, I will apologize for having called attention to matters which have been discussed before, but I think the house will feel that if I have felt it my duty to do so, it was not because I had no provocation, and if the hon. member for Kings had followed the cue given to him by the government, I would have been entirely wrong in making these observations; but I think no one would have asked me to sit silent after hearing a government of which I had been a member assailed, and after hearing the present prosperity of the country ascribed to the superior skill of our successors. Of that prosperity I think I may say that, gentlemen on this side of the House are as proud as gentlemen opposite, and will