

playful discussion at a banquet given by the Board of Trade. Mr. Foster had quoted statistics to show the progress of the country. Sir Wilfrid on that occasion said, in a jocular way, that when his friends should come into power, and when it was necessary to prove prosperity, they would not have to rely on statistics, but the evidence would be found everywhere. (Applause.) What Sir Wilfrid then said has proved correct. You do not need statistics to prove in this city of Toronto that there have been good times in Canada for the past eight years. You have seen the evidence of it in nearly every branch of business. Of course here and there a complaint will be heard, but I have little expectation that we shall reach the millennium in these days. (Laughter.)

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.

Under Sir Wilfrid Laurier, it is not too much to say Canada has had eight years of very prosperous trade. I shall not weary you with figures in detail. If I take the period of seven years up to the last published statement, we find, making a comparison between the two parties for seven years, that in the last seven years of our Conservative friends, under their National Policy, the trade of Canada—the total trade, imports and exports, which is regarded as one of the best tests of the progress of a country—increased by \$34,000,000; in the seven years of the Laurier Government the increase of the trade of Canada has been \$228,000,000. (Applause.) Put it in another form. During the whole eighteen years of the Government of my Conservative friends—and they had good times, for Providence was on their side then—(laughter)—the trade of Canada increased to the extent of \$66,000,000, and in seven years under the Liberal Government the trade of Canada increased \$228,000,000. (Applause.) Put it in another form. In the palmy days of my good Conservative friends, when they told us things were prospering, your trade increased at the rate of three and a half millions per annum; under the administration of the present Government, give the credit where you like, the trade increased thirty-two millions per year.

POLICY IN SAFE HANDS.

My Conservative friends sometimes say that this progress is due to the National Policy, that we have simply continued their policy. We have great difficulty in pinning them down to anything on this point. At one moment, they raise the cry that our fiscal policy is bad and the country is suffering from it. At another, when brought face to face with the statistics of our wonderful progress, they take the opposite line and say we have simply continued the National Policy. I remember that Sir Charles Tupper, in attacking our tariff policy, stated that he heard the wail, the