

THE CASE OF OUR PROSPERITY.

The Laurier Administration Does Not Deserve to Get Any Credit For It.

All the Worlds Prosperous Now, and Canada Shares in the General Activity Because the Conservative Policy Was Maintained--Mr. Foster's Criticism of Mr. Fielding's Budget Speech.

In the House of Commons on March 27, Hon. George E. Foster made the following speech: Mr. Fielding's budget speech, a good deal of pleasure to venture some remarks, of plain, and, I hope, truthful criticism on the address which was delivered on Friday last by my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), as an exposition of the budget of the country. In the latter part of his address, he spoke of the history of Canada as a story, combining certain peculiarities, and, I think, it would be not travelling out of the record, if I were to say that the hon. gentleman's speech bears the marks of a story easily and plainly recounted, gathered from the statistics of the Government, of the banks, and of some of the business interests of the country, very much disjointed, but, any way, very much disjointed, for the purpose of upholding the interests of a Government whose inconsistencies are quite as glaring as were the weaknesses of my hon. friend's speech regarded as a budget speech and an exposition of the financial and fiscal affairs of the country. Necessity, of course, impelled my hon. friend, and he listened to its voice. Any clerk in a very short time could have compiled the figures that he summarily uttered should be drummed up for the purpose of the service, who would make as disingenuous a use of those statistics as I am bound to say my hon. friend made. I found to my surprise that the hon. gentleman had been in the gallery, unaccounted for, one had been in the gallery, unaccounted for, especially in a fiscal and financial sense. I venture to say that, if he took his information simply from the figures which were quoted and the peculiar logic used on Friday afternoon, he would go away with a very insufficient, and very erroneous idea of the history of Canada in these years. He would have looked entirely in vain for an analysis of the expenditures of last year, as to how they were applied and as to the quickening and vitalizing effect of the application of such a sum of money as was expended by hon. gentlemen opposite during that year; he would look in vain for any inquiry into, and any account of the course and current of the trade of this country, or for any discussion of the tariff as affecting the great problems of labour and industry in Canada, which are very close now to a public decision, and public action in this country; and he would have risen from his seat without having had one single reason for the solution of the great and vexed questions which are pressing for solution upon the public mind. As I said before, the hon. gentleman's speech was a Latin text, and he would have been promoted to an appeal might be made, ad captandum, to people who have not had the opportunities of looking into what are really the facts of the case as bearing on the questions under discussion. All through the hon. gentleman's speech there seemed to be a leading up to the remark, "Behold what a people we are--is not this great Babylon that I have built?" And, no matter whether from the first years of Confederation, fragments were extracted, or whether taken to them were fragments from later years--no matter, everything was brought to-day had its origin and is now maintained by the gentlemen who, for the present, are governing affairs in this country. There was a great glorification of revenue, of increased revenue, but there was a very direct avoidance of the obstructive contrast between the professions and policy of these gentlemen, when they were out, and the performance of these gentlemen now that they are in.

INFORMATION LACKING.

My hon. friend was so hurried, along this particular line, that he had not the time to give the House some very necessary information which I think he should have given. For instance, he quoted immigration returns, beginning with the year 1880, as far as immigration from the United States is concerned, with the year 1897, and preceding his figures with the remark, "There is no doubt that the immigration of the last few years has been a great success." He took an important step in giving a broad view of the immigration of the last few years, but he did not have the time to go into the details of the immigration of the last few years, or to give information as to the terms, and the conditions, upon which these securities are to be taken in respect to the trust funds which are invested in the land in the West Indies and in the Dominion of Canada; and he had not either the time or did not take the trouble to give to this House one single line of information as to how this introduction of the products under free trade into Canada would differentiate or affect the trade of this country. He took an important step in giving a broad view of the immigration of the last few years, but he did not have the time to go into the details of the immigration of the last few years, or to give information as to the terms, and the conditions, upon which these securities are to be taken in respect to the trust funds which are invested in the land in the West Indies and in the Dominion of Canada; and he had not either the time or did not take the trouble to give to this House one single line of information as to how this introduction of the products under free trade into Canada would differentiate or affect the trade of this country.

What would be the sources of the revenue, which the hon. gentleman says is this year going up to the 50 million mark. Why? Probably because he did not wish to tell the House, and more particularly the country, that in bringing it up to the 50 million mark he would have to take about four million dollars more in taxation out of this country, which he must drag from the pockets of the people.

THE IMMENSE EXPENDITURE.

Now, Sir, I will take up seriously some of the principal points touched upon by my hon. friend; and first, with reference to the expenditures of the country. The hon. gentleman was totally oblivious of his own statement that in 1880 the total expenditure of the Government was \$18,000,000, and that in 1897 it was \$41,000,000. He was totally oblivious of the fact that the hon. gentleman's statement that the total expenditure of the Government was \$18,000,000 in 1880, and that in 1897 it was \$41,000,000, was a statement that was totally untrue. The total expenditure of the Government in 1880 was \$18,000,000, and in 1897 it was \$41,000,000. The hon. gentleman's statement that the total expenditure of the Government was \$18,000,000 in 1880, and that in 1897 it was \$41,000,000, was a statement that was totally untrue. The total expenditure of the Government in 1880 was \$18,000,000, and in 1897 it was \$41,000,000.

THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE.

On a special point, the present hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) has made a statement that the total expenditure of the Government was \$18,000,000 in 1880, and that in 1897 it was \$41,000,000. This statement is a statement that is totally untrue. The total expenditure of the Government in 1880 was \$18,000,000, and in 1897 it was \$41,000,000. The hon. gentleman's statement that the total expenditure of the Government was \$18,000,000 in 1880, and that in 1897 it was \$41,000,000, was a statement that was totally untrue. The total expenditure of the Government in 1880 was \$18,000,000, and in 1897 it was \$41,000,000.

And, as estimated by the Finance Minister for his current year of 1900, they will over-expend the average expenditure of the late Government from 1882 to 1896, by the sum of \$10,000,000. Now, Sir, I will take up seriously some of the principal points touched upon by my hon. friend; and first, with reference to the expenditures of the country. The hon. gentleman was totally oblivious of his own statement that in 1880 the total expenditure of the Government was \$18,000,000, and that in 1897 it was \$41,000,000. He was totally oblivious of the fact that the hon. gentleman's statement that the total expenditure of the Government was \$18,000,000 in 1880, and that in 1897 it was \$41,000,000, was a statement that was totally untrue. The total expenditure of the Government in 1880 was \$18,000,000, and in 1897 it was \$41,000,000.

THE INCREASE OF THE DEBT.

Now, Sir, I will take up seriously some of the principal points touched upon by my hon. friend; and first, with reference to the expenditures of the country. The hon. gentleman was totally oblivious of his own statement that in 1880 the total expenditure of the Government was \$18,000,000, and that in 1897 it was \$41,000,000. He was totally oblivious of the fact that the hon. gentleman's statement that the total expenditure of the Government was \$18,000,000 in 1880, and that in 1897 it was \$41,000,000, was a statement that was totally untrue. The total expenditure of the Government in 1880 was \$18,000,000, and in 1897 it was \$41,000,000.

TWO GOVERNMENTS COMPARED.

It has been stated over and over again by hon. gentlemen opposite, that when the late Government was in power, they were able to put a table before the House, and I will read the figures as they appeared on consolidated revenue account, and also the total expenditures in parallel columns, consequently, I offend in neither respect, and I do not confuse the two.

EXPENDITURE ON CONSOLIDATED FUND ACCOUNT.

Consolidated	Expenditure
1897-1898 (average)	\$22,228,821
1898-1899	33,765,894
1899-1900	33,814,092
1900-1901	37,885,025
1901-1902	38,122,000
1902-1903	37,213,223
1903-1904	36,940,142
1904-1905	36,940,142
1905-1906	36,940,142
1906-1907	36,940,142
1907-1908	36,940,142
1908-1909	36,940,142
1909-1910	36,940,142
1910-1911	36,940,142
1911-1912	36,940,142
1912-1913	36,940,142
1913-1914	36,940,142
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1917-1918	36,940,142
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2063-2064	36,940,142
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2072-2073	36,940,142
2073-2074	36,940,142
2074-2075	36,940,142
2075-2076	36,940,142
2076-2077	36,940,142
2077-2078	36,940,142
2078-2079	36,940,142
2079-2080	36,940,142
2080-2	