

to appeal to people's observation and experience in order to give them heart, because all do not investigate these things for themselves, and all do not have the wide view which takes the whole country in. So it is necessary for this party to say, and it is our duty and privilege to say to the people of Canada on every occasion: here is a country of great resources, here is a country of great progress, here is a country of great prosperity and happiness, and here are the figures which prove it, figures with which my hon. friends opposite never wrestle. Well, my hon. friends opposite say that the country is not prosperous, and find fault with us because we say that it is, and prove by figures that it is. But they give an altogether different idea of Canada; they ignore certain facts; they ignore the fact that there has been a large increase in the deposits of the people in the savings banks, or when they mention it they depreciate it as my hon. friend did to-night. But my hon. friend was once of a very different opinion, and stood up in this House, and I suppose in this very seat, and declared that one of the very best proofs of a country's prosperity was the amount of the savings of its people in the savings banks and other money depositories of the country. To-day when it suits him he thinks it is not at all a ground for arguing prosperity, but quite the opposite. I think, however, the people generally, and politicians and statesmen generally, are of the opinion that it is, amongst other things, proof of prosperity and good feeling amongst a people. They ignore the very great increase that has taken place in the trade of Canada, not only an increase during the past year of so many millions, as has been stated already, but an increase beyond any preceding period in this country. And when you take into account, as my hon. friend from Kent (Mr. McInerney) has done, the fall in values during the last twenty years, there has been an increase of wonderful proportions in the external trade of this country. They also ignore the fact that this country's population is increasing, and the home market has immeasurably developed within the last ten or fifteen years. They forget that the farmers' products are being raised in greater proportion per head of the farming population than ever before, that they are being exported and consumed in a much larger proportion, and that the average price the farmer gets for them is greater than it was before. They forget another fact, that the average price of what the farmer has to buy is less by far than it has been at any time during the last ten, or fifteen, or twenty years. But, notwithstanding all these things, these hon. gentlemen go before the people and upon an ex parte case, leaving out of sight those things that make to the advantage and good heart of the country, they simply bring up those things which have a tendency to discourage the people, and to take hope and ambition away from them.

They talk about piling up the taxation. They forget several things. My hon. friend who sits opposite held the post of Finance Minister for five years in this House, and he did nothing towards decreasing the taxation of the people. The last Budget speech he made in this House was one of the most doleful and disheartening productions that ever came from a Finance Minister of any country as a portrayal of the condition of the country; yet with all that depression, the hon. gentleman's only resource was to add to the taxation instead of diminishing it. He forgets that during that time he increased the expenditure from year to year, he increased the debt, he increased the deficits; the trade fell off in a wonderful percentage. Yet this is the gentleman who, to-day, states that we must go back to that old policy of theirs, and that our policy, progressive and beneficial as it has proved itself in the past, and, as I hope, it will prove itself under amended conditions in the future, is the cause of the exodus, and the cause of the depression, and the lowering of farm values and so on. He talks about the great increase of taxation. Why, Sir, there is just one fact I would like to give the House. The poor man's tea is as much to him as the poor man's flour; one is as much a necessity to him as the other so far as habits of life go. When my hon. friend stood here as Finance Minister he taxed the people's tea five cents and six cents per pound. On the amount of the tea which was consumed in this country in 1892 at that rate of taxation, the people would have paid a round million and a quarter into the treasury of this country. Coffee he taxed; sugar was taxed at the rate of 2½ cents a pound or thereabouts. We have taken the duty off raw sugar, and I have this other fact to state to the House to-night that if we had kept the duty on raw sugar that we had two years ago, and applied it to this year's consumption, the people of this country would have paid over \$4,000,000 taxation more than they have paid. Yet these gentlemen say that we have taken off none of the burdens of the people. They talk about the great burden of taxation, and yet if we take the population, and take the amount of duty that is paid upon the imports, you will find, that according to the per capita of the population in one year in which my hon. friend was Finance Minister, compared with this last year of 1892, the amount per head of duties is only 30 cents higher than it was during that year of the hon. gentleman's regime; and that during this last year of 1892, the amount of percentage of tax which is paid is about 17½ per cent upon the total imports of this country. I say these things should be taken into account as well, and it is not fair to say that we have not reduced the taxation of the country. It is not fair to say that we have not taken off burdens from the people. I will tell my hon. friend more, that although, he in his