

it is an expensive operation which requires both money and the highest engineering skill, but we are making progress in that direction. Whether we are keeping pace with the progress of the country I am unable to say, but at any rate we are all desirous to help forward the desires and designs of the government in the establishment of that object.

His Excellency also makes an observation with regard to the revenue, and the general volume of trade in the country. I do not propose to occupy much further time, but I trust I do not violate any tradition or practice of this House if I make the observation that since parliament last assembled there was an election in the country, and that the gentlemen who had carried on the administration of the affairs of Canada during the preceding four years were continued in power, and not only has the expression of popular approval, been the expression of approval of the administration as a whole, but also the expression of approval of every individual minister, who was obliged to go to the people. There is no question that that is a fact of considerable importance, and it is a fact which the country cannot fail to recognize, and which I suppose we cannot fail to recognize here. We can only hope that, with the continuance of power entrusted to the government, with the confidence the people repose in them, they will prove themselves worthy of the positions they occupy, and will continue to discharge the public duties entrusted to them in a manner to meet the approval of parliament. As reference has been made to the trade of the country, I should like to call the attention of the House to some figures, not for any political purpose, but for the simple purpose of showing how great our trade has been for the past ten years. I have taken the figures for 1890 and 1900. I do not pretend to claim for the administration that they deserve any particular credit for all this great increase, because there is the natural growth and increase in the country, and upon that feature we may dwell with pleasure, but at any rate the government of the day have done their share in assisting in the development of trade, and to that extent at least we may give them credit. In the year 1890 the total value of the imports of Canada was \$121,800,000, in round numbers. In 1900, the value of the imports

was \$189,600,000, an increase of \$67,700,000, in the ten years, that is of the total import. The total value of imports entered for consumption in Canada in 1890 was \$112,700,000, and in 1900 it had increased to \$180,800,000, an increase in that period of \$68,000,000 of dollars. Separating the dutiable and the free imports, I find that in 1890 the total value of the dutiable imports was \$86,200,000. In 1900 it had increased to \$112,900,000, an increase of \$26,600,000. The free imports had gone up from \$35,500,000 in 1890, to \$76,600,000 in 1900, an increase of \$41,000,000. The total value of dutiable goods entered for consumption was \$77,100,000 in 1890, and in 1900 it amounted to \$104,000,000, an increase of \$27,200,000. The total free goods entered for consumption in 1890 was \$35,600,000; in 1900 it had gone up to \$76,400,000, an increase in that particular of \$40,700,000. In regard to the exports, in 1890 they amounted to \$96,700,000; in 1900 they reached \$191,800,000, an increase of \$105,000,000. The exports of home produce increased from \$87,600,000 in 1890 to \$170,600,000 in 1900, an increase of \$83,000,000. The exports of foreign produce increased from \$9,000,000 in 1890, to \$21,000,000 in 1900, an increase of \$12,000,000. The aggregate trade of the country in 1890, was \$218,600,000. In 1900 it had gone up to \$385,500,000, an increase of \$162,900,000. The aggregate trade on the basis of home products exported and goods imported for consumption had gone from \$203,400,000 to \$351,400,000, an increase of \$150,900,000. The revenue from all sources had increased from \$39,800,000 in 1890, to \$51,031,000 in 1900.

I refer to these figures to show that there is a rapid increase in the general trade conditions of the country, and that we may feel exceedingly gratified at this increase, showing that our country is making considerable progress, and that we may be fairly satisfied with the progress which we have made.

His Excellency is good enough to close his speech with a reference to the fact that he conveys to our consideration the measures he submits to us. It seems to me that we are met here at a notable and a noteworthy period. We have just placed our feet upon the threshold of the twentieth century in which we hope to see continued with ever expanding force the material blessings, the moral opportunities, which so rapidly de-