

was making a speech in the capital of Ontario on the economic situation of the country, and he said to the electors: It is true there is depression in other parts of the country, but I am happy to make an exception as regards Toronto. Moreover, the *Globe*, which is the principal organ of the Reform party in that country, not later than the 28th of December, 1884, published the following:—

"The progress of this city must be a cause of deep gratification to all Torontonians. The assessment, which is the most trustworthy index of the value of property, has gone up by leaps and bounds. In 1873 the assessment was \$44,764,882, and in the year just closing it is \$85,212,318. What makes this progress satisfactory is that it is all substantial. There is not to be discerned one sign that the assessment is anywhere above the selling value or that values are inflated. Toronto's population has increased so rapidly that suburb after suburb has been built up to and absorbed. Places which a few years ago were 'commons' or large vacant lots are now covered with handsome houses, facing block-paved and well-lighted streets. One who knows the city well, returning after a few months' absence, finds important changes on every hand. The progress made is not the result of a temporary boom, but is caused by the steadily-growing importance of Toronto as an industrial and educational centre."

But if the hon. member has not spoken of Toronto, he has spoken of Montreal. My hon. friend is generally better informed on what takes place in the country, and more especially in the Province of Quebec, to which he belongs; for if it is true that the trade of the city of Montreal has not been so extensive in 1884 as in former years, it is no less true that progress, and considerable progress, has been achieved in that city. Indeed, if the giant who moves about at the foot of Mount Royal does not extend his arms as rapidly as he did in the past, he is far from feeling drowsy. I might quote the figures of the commission. It may be said that these figures have been cooked for official purposes; but I have others, which will prove that the progress, in the city of Montreal last year, has been rapid. And as a proof I shall quote the report of the building inspector. It states that during last year 318 new houses have been built, representing a capital of over \$1,000,000, and among these 318 new buildings we find, 5 warehouses, 4 manufactures and 24 stores. In 1883, the preceeding year, only 260 buildings had been erected, of which there were 4 schools and churches, 7 warehouses, 9 manufactures, 2 shops and 23 stores; the rest were tenements and other lodgings, which makes a difference of 58 buildings in favor of the year 1884 as compared to 1883. The Montreal Board of Trade is far from viewing the situation from as gloomy a standpoint as my hon. friend. On the contrary, it does not hesitate to announce a revival in all branches of trade. Here is what is said in the last report of that institution:

"Over-production in some classes of manufactures, and a general fall in values, have produced their inevitable results. But your council are confident that Canada has not experienced the wave of depression in any great degree as the merchants and manufacturers of Great Britain and the United States. A policy of caution in imports has characterized the business of the year, and should, in the opinion of your council, be continued for some time longer. The prospects for the future are by no means discouraging. The over-production of cottons and woollens especially is almost exhausted, and mills are resuming work, while the fact that the grain crop of last year remains to an unusual extent unsold, justifies the hope that the coming season will witness a revival of trade in all departments."

Besides that, my hon. friend has evidently forgotten, or has never known, that last year the hon. member for South Huron (Sir Richard Cartwright) was making a speech before the Young Men's Reform Club of the city of Montreal, and he used the following words, which are far from justifying the statement that the city of Montreal is on the verge of ruin and bankruptcy:

"So, it would be unworthy of any statesman; it would be unworthy of any public man not to admit, as I admit most fully and thankfully, that within the last seventeen years there has been on the whole, in many respects, very considerable progress. In that time Canada has developed a magnificent system of internal communication. Very great improvements have been made in many parts of the country in our whole system of agriculture. There is no doubt whatever in my mind, and I am glad to believe it, that a very large class of our fellow countrymen are living in much greater wealth and comfort than they were a few

years ago. More than that, I know that there are certain specially favored localities in which very great absolute progress has been made. Looking at the city of Montreal, for instance; remembering what Montreal was twenty-five years ago, and comparing it with what your city is to-day, I cannot help paying a tribute of unfeigned respect to the energy."

I regret that I have lost the rest of that speech, but I know that it is in keeping with the above. Now, we all know that while the grain trade—which enters so largely in the transactions of Montreal—has diminished last year, there is only a temporary depression. We all know that at the present time great elevators are being built in the eastern part of Montreal, that enormous quantities of grain, which is destined for them, have been stored at Port Arthur. We know that millions of bushels of grain are to be sent from Manitoba and the North-West to Montreal, and I am convinced that, with the Ottawa route, which must eventually be built, and which will be the route of the future, and with the route of the St. Lawrence, the city of Montreal will be enabled to pursue its destiny, which is to become the rival of New York, as far as the grain trade is concerned. Now, Hamilton has been spoken of. I know very well that there has been a certain depression in the cotton industry during last year. We all know, however, that this depression, which is due to the overstocking of the market, is drawing to an end. We all know that most of the mills, which had either been totally closed or were only working on half time, are about to resume or are now resuming operations. There was too much cotton goods of a certain class produced; the production is to be diversified hereafter. But while there has been a local depression in the cotton industry at Hamilton, on the other hand we find a considerable increase in the other industries of that city: the stove factories, iron bridge factories, manufactures of agricultural implements, and many others. That city, I am glad to state, has always been one of the most important of the manufacturing centres in this country. I think that city was the first in the country to hoist the flag of protection. That city was the birth place of the late lamented Mr. Buchanan, who was the first apostle of protection in Canada. And under the Mackenzie regime, when the Liberal party commanded a large majority in the country, such was the force of the protectionist sentiment in Hamilton, that both the reformist members of that city were the first to ask for a protection tariff; and even the *Hamilton Times*, which, up to this day, is one of the principal organs of the Liberal party, was also one of the first to hoist the flag of protection. But the Liberals having betrayed that patriotic cause, having burned what they had worshipped, the city of Hamilton has since considered that its best interests would be better promoted if they were defended by Conservative members. Besides, this is the opinion of all cities having a certain importance, if we except Kingston. The hon. member for Digby, if I understand him rightly, has told us that the city of Ottawa, which I have the honor to represent here, was also undergoing a period of depression. This is not the first time that I have heard slanders against this city. On many occasions, since the adoption of the protective tariff, I have heard hon. members opposite making the most gloomy pictures of the city of Ottawa. The truth is, that in 1878, when the Liberal party was in power, there was universal misery, distress and desolation here. The truth is, that at that time, there were hundreds, thousands of laborers without work. But, thanks to the change which has been wrought, the city of Ottawa, since that dismal date, has resumed its onward march towards progress. In 1882 we were only 26,228 inhabitants, but in 1883 we were 27,645; in 1884 we were 30,079, that is to say, only during last year we have added 3,146 to our population. The assessment which, in 1883, only reached \$11,105,002 amounted last year to over \$11,500,000, or an increase within one year of nearly one half million of dollars. The other day the hon. member for South Huron