

of insurance had reached the enormous sum of 760 millions of dollars. The increase of the amount as risk of fire insurance from 1869 to the present day is 300 per cent. Measured by this acknowledged sensitive test—the most sensitive that can be found of the condition of a country the prosperity of Canada is marked. From 1881 to 1892, in ten years, this test applied to the progressive wealth of this country showed an increase of 64 per cent, while the population only increased 12 per cent. Now let me apply another test: that of life insurance. The great Mulhall, who is perhaps the greatest statistician that the world knows and one of the greatest financiers, states that no better test of the prosperity of a country can be found than the volume of life insurance. In 1869 we had only \$35,680,000 in life insurance in this country. In 1874 it had increased to \$85,716,325. Now, the sensitiveness of this test is again apparent; and I ask you to observe it. In 1878 the life insurance of this country dropped off to \$84,751,937. In 1890 it rose up to \$248,424,576; and in 1891 to the enormous amount of \$261,500,000. According to this the onward progress of this country showed no less than 630 per cent of an increase. The increase from 1879 was no less than 190 per cent, and from 1881 to 1891 no less than 182 per cent. The late Lord Derby, one of the greatest financiers England has ever seen, stated that national prosperity and progressive wealth is shown by the consumption of tea, coffee and sugar, perhaps better than by any other standards.

Now, let us apply this test of national prosperity, taking periods of two and three years. From 1871 to 1873 the average consumption of coffee in this country was 1,970,000 lbs. From 1874 to 1879 the sensitiveness of this test was again displayed. The average consumption dropped to 1,734,000 lbs. From 1890 to 1892 it rose to 3,298,000 lbs., an increase of 91 per cent. The consumption of tea increased 22 per cent from 1879. The combined consumption of tea, coffee and sugar in 1879 was 15,360,320 lbs. In 1892 it had risen to 25,541,000 lbs., an increase of 70 per cent. Now, I am satisfied that applying these tests of national prosperity, which are acknowledged to be the most sensitive and accurate that can be found to ascertain the progressive wealth of the country, they will confirm the truthfulness of the statement made by His Excellency to this honour-

able body and to the Lower House; and for this reason I use it, I have not done it for the purpose of political effect, but when His Excellency, the representative of the Queen, makes a statement to Parliament I conceive it to be my duty to confirm that statement so far as it can be legitimately and properly done by the records before us. We have this prosperity in Canada without the appalling, hopeless and degrading poverty so prevalent in the country south of us. This appears to be a startling statement, but it is nevertheless true. I point you to the *Arena* of December, pages 49 to 55, on the authority of Mr. McCullough, one of the best authorities in the United States on such subjects, to show that the neighbouring country is not the Eldorado that it has been painted by some of our people. In the city of New York alone, there were no less than 29,720 evictions last year, and 148,000 people homeless, naked and starving on the streets of New York, while within a few blocks lived twelve individuals whose aggregate wealth amounted to no less than 800 millions of dollars. He states that 200 wealthy people in the same locality control the vast sum of 3,000 millions of dollars, while under their eyes starving thousands are to be found. I point this out to show that after all the United States is not the country that many conceive it to be. We find that the arrests in the city of New York in one year ending September last, amounted to no less than 88,152, of which number 24,350 were females. No such degrading poverty is to be found in any other civilized country in the world as is found in the city of New York. I state this on the authority of Mr. McCullough, who lives there and is a close observer. What is true of New York is true of other cities in the United States. I know that it is so of Buffalo and Chicago and other centres of population. These vast fortunes in the United States to which I have referred, have been abstracted from the pockets of farmers in the Western States by bulling and bearing agricultural products on the Chicago market. Will you believe me, when I tell you that the 12 million families of the United States have nine millions of mortgages upon their properties and almost six millions of chattel mortgages on their household furniture. Fifteen millions of mortgages—not money, but mortgages—on the twelve million families in the United States. I state this on the