INTRODUCTION.

It is the purpose of this pamphlet to present briefly the record of the Liberal administration since its accession to power in 1896. It is proposed to do this by reproducing the actual figures from the official records: chiefly the Report of Trade and Navigation for the last year ended June 30th, 1902, just issued, and from the Trade and Commerce Report for 1901. This plan is intended to enable the elector, who has the right to demand from the administration an account of their stewardship, to examine the figures himself and form his own conclusions upon them—The comment upon the figures will be brief, with the view only to insure a clear understanding of the significance of the results shown in figures. The latter, however, should be considered the all-important portion and may be easily understood by referring to the headings.

In order that the fairest comparison may be made, we give in nearly every case, the figures for twelve years, starting with and including the year ended June 30th, 1891, and continuing until the 30th June, 1902; to facilitate a comparison between the last six years of Liberal rule and the preceding six years of Conservative administration. The totals for each period are given, and the percentage based upon them is a true indication of the progress made; and the results when referred to are averaged over each period. The elector will recognize that by proceeding this way, we wish him to appreciate the results impartially and exactly.

