

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—So as to get rid of the smuggling.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—I want for the present, our commercial relations with Great Britain to be reciprocal free trade for free trade, and the same for the United States, free trade for free trade. But we are brought face to face with a new condition that has never presented itself since Canada was Canada, and the new condition having arisen, it is necessary to put on your thinking cap and consider is that condition a wholesome one, or is it necessary that some change should be made in order to improve it? Now, what is this condition which has arisen, only in the last three years? It is that our imports exceeded our exports for 30 years. If anybody will run his eye down page 17 of the Trade and Navigation Returns, he will see that from 1868 to 1898, with the exception of three years, the imports have exceeded the exports, that is for 27 years of the life of Confederation the imports exceeded the exports. For the past three years they have reversed this order. Now, both conditions cannot be sound. If it was a sound position that we were importing more than we were exporting, it cannot be a sound position that we are now exporting more than we are importing. You can take whichever side you like to argue upon, but you cannot argue both ways like the present government. My hon. friend, the leader of the opposition (Sir Mackenzie Bowell), while he condemns the government for not carrying out the policy advocated in their speeches, quite approves of the manner in which they are conducting operations in not carrying them out, but I think, to a certain extent, arguing both ways also. He approves of the policy the government have adopted, but he condemns them for stealing his clothes.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—And they have left him without the means of covering up his nakedness. He is not prepared to put on a new suit. I want to dress him up with a new suit, and I think I can do it before I conclude. There is a stone wall that you have got your head against, and that is the fact that I have announced to-day, that we are exporting more than we

are importing. In 1896 we exported two million and a half more than we imported.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—That is a good sign.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—In 1897, the year which has just closed, the exports have exceeded the imports to the extent of \$18,000,000. That is a jump from \$2,000,000 to \$18,000,000. The public returns show us that the exports have exceeded the imports during the last six months of the present financial year—that is, between the first of July last and the 31st December last—\$30,000,000, or at the rate of \$60,000,000 a year. I want to know how you can explain that condition. For 27 years of our life we have been importing more than we have been exporting. The moment the Liberal party get into power, the reverse condition comes about and we are now parting with \$60,000,000 more of the product of the labour of Canada than we are getting back. The hon. leader of the House knows that I am stating a thing that is against the principles he has always advocated, and I believe thoroughly in my heart he is advocating to-day, only he has got into a nest of traitors, to use a new parliamentary phrase, traitors to their principles, I think, and he must submit to the inevitable and has to swallow his own principles. I quite appreciate the position. He knows Her Majesty's government has to be carried on and I am proud and pleased to think he is occupying a seat in this chamber and helping the government to carry it out, and I only hope his influence will be so exerted that he will cause them to change their policy; whether he can do that or not, remains to be seen.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—Would you stop the exports?

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—No, but I would bring back the imports.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Supposing this country had been running behind for some years previous, supposing we were incurring a foreign indebtedness, and that when the country was becoming more prosperous, there was an opportunity to even up matters, does not my hon. friend see that the exports would be in excess of the imports? That may be our condition.