

tained, which may cause a delay of several days. We will endeavour to get as well as possible the information the hon. gentleman has asked for.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

Mr. TAYLOR. Before the orders of the day are proceeded with, I wish to bring to the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals a matter of very great importance to the members attending the House of Commons, particularly those living east of Toronto on the main line of the Grand Trunk Railway.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. member is out of order. If this is a matter of urgent public importance—

Mr. TAYLOR. It is.

Mr. SPEAKER. Then the hon member will have to proceed under rule 37.

Mr. TAYLOR. It is perhaps a personal matter and a matter of privilege, because I myself—

Mr. SPEAKER. The House has passed the motion for the consideration of the address in reply to the speech from the Throne and that order is now before the House.

Mr. TAYLOR. Well, I will bring it up before the orders of the day.

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

The House proceeded to the consideration of His Excellency's speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. R. R. HALL (West Peterborough). Mr. Speaker, permit me at the outset to thank the Rt. hon. the Prime Minister in honouring me with the privilege of moving the motion which I am about to make. I take it as a compliment, not so much personal to myself as to the great constituency which I have the honour to represent. There are about twenty cities in Canada having each a larger population than the city of Peterborough, but I suppose the Premier, in coupling my name with this motion, must have had in mind the fact that there are only five cities in the Dominion showing a greater manufacturing output than that of the city of Peterborough. He must also have had in mind the fact that the farmers of the county of Peterborough produce the finest cheese and butter to be found on the British market.

Now, I would like to devote some little time and attention to the question of the development of our trade, especially during recent years. In order that we may take a comprehensive view of the growth and development of Canadian trade during the last few years, it is necessary to keep in view two very important years in the recent history of Canada. I take the year 1878

as being a year of marked importance in the history of Canada. It was then that the late Sir John Macdonald and his party succeeded in gaining the confidence of the country and in being elected to this House by a very large majority. And for upwards of eighteen years they held power continuously. I am quite ready to admit that during these eighteen years much valuable and progressive work was done for Canada, especially the construction of that great transcontinental railway the Canadian Pacific Railway. I do not suppose that any one would be disposed to detract from the credit which the government of the late Sir John Macdonald deserved in that connection, although no doubt a great deal of difference of opinion exists regarding the cost to the people of that undertaking, and no doubt there is good ground for the contention that it cost the people enormously more than it should have. The next year that begins a still more important epoch in the history of Canada is the year 1896, when our present First Minister, the Right hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and his party were elected to office and given control of the destinies of this country. Let me now compare the progress which Canada made in the eighteen years when the late government was in office with that which this country made since 1896 under Liberal regime. In 1878 the total trade of Canada amounted to \$172,405,454. In 1896 it had grown to \$239,025,360. Thus during the whole eighteen years of Conservative government the total increase of Canadian trade was \$66,619,906. Then taking our trade for the year ending June 30, 1907, I find that it amounted to \$617,964,952, or an increase in eleven years of \$376,939,592. That is to say, comparing the last eleven years with the previous eighteen years the average increase in Canadian trade has been nine times as great in the latter period what it was in the former. I might add that the trade between Canada and Great Britain has also increased in a most remarkable extent in the last eleven years compared with the previous eighteen years. The increase from 1878 to 1896 amounted to \$16,297,311, whereas the increase from 1896 to 1907 has amounted to \$117,319,460. Therefore, the increase in the latter period has been eleven times as great as it was during the previous eighteen years. Our trade with the United States has increased twelve times as much during the last eleven years as it did during the previous eighteen years.

I might further point out that the trade of Canada still continues to develop. Take the four months previous to October 31, 1906, and we find that our trade amounted in the aggregate to \$215,196,190. Compare that with the four months ending October 31, 1907, and you find that our trade in the latter period amounted to \$246,592,497. Thus it is clear that during the four months ending October 31, 1907, compared with the cor-