

forming an unbroken chain from sea to sea, seven Provinces having all their legal and official machinery assimilated and made to work smoothly as one. The skill and energy displayed by that Government in all this, inspired a confidence that ran through all classes a confidence that gave life and energy to the commercial man to step out into new fields of trade with the feeling that he had a government watchful of his interests, and ready to guard and promote them. A confidence that quickened the hand of the artisan to meet the wants of their extended commerce, a confidence that gave vigor to the arm of the agriculturist, as he improved his farm or embellished a home for himself and children or that lent elasticity to his step as he followed his plough thinking that the men who guide the State plough had "Neath the early morn drawn straight the furrows and planted a great hereafter in the now." It is impossible to over estimate the importance of permeating the masses with a feeling of confidence in the skill and the ability and determination of their leaders in the Government to protect and promote their interests. With this confidence running through all classes, the progress during those seven years was marvelous. The trade of the country nearly doubled, the revenue increased and overran, so that ten million dollars were left and expended in public works, and all the time the taxation gradually reduced by taking duties off tea, coffee, and other necessities of life. The public credit of the country so rapidly improved abroad that the Auditors in 1870 reported that although there had been an increase in the public debt for the Intercolonial and other public works, of two and a quarter millions, that the interest payable on the whole had only increased \$2.225. But we have on record the testimony of one of the gentlemen on the Treasury Benches, which shows in the clearest light, the progress made under Sir John's Government. It will be in the recollection of the House that in 1875 Mr. Cartwright, the Finance Minister, crossed the ocean to borrow money. A ship is sometime tossed about in a fog for days, and all on board bewildered and depressed suddenly she sails out of the fog into the clear light and ascertains her bearings. So our Finance Minister steamed away from thralldom of party, he sailed out of the fog banks, and in the clear light of duty forgot party and gave to country its due. He laid before the British public a resume of the financial position of this country during those seven years in which he states what I have already enumerated, that the trade of this

country from 1867 up to 1873, nearly doubled, that the paid up banking capital of Ontario and Quebec had increased from six to twelve millions of pounds sterling; and the deposits from five to fourteen millions. He says the revenue showed a continuous overplus each year during Confederation although it was charged in the internal with much heavy expenditure of an exceptional kind, such as repelling Fenian attacks, organizing the Northwest, &c," and he shows a continuous surplus in each year amounting to over ten millions of dollars, besides a large sinking fund, and adds, "Special care is taken to charge nothing to capital account which is not on the most rigid construction applicable to it, but to debit every doubtful item against the income of the year." He, however, forgot to mention that whilst all this was being done the customs taxation was being reduced from an average, in 1868, of 12 per cent. to a fraction over 10 per cent. in 1873. This, then, is in brief the financial record of the seven years of the MacDonald Administration. But what of the record of the three years that have just passed? It appears that from the very hour the honorable gentleman opposite assumed position and power, the trade of the country has fallen off. The legislation accomplished by them is comparatively nothing. A few local bills have been amended, perhaps improved, where experience has shown they could be bettered. There are one or two of importance, but the main features of them had been prepared by the previous Government, and submitted to the country. For instance, the Supreme Court Bill was contemplated at the outset of confederation. It was supposed a little time might elapse before cases would arise, and it would be necessary to enact it, thus saving the cost of from thirty to forty thousand dollars a year, so the late Government prepared the bill and submitted it to the country. The present Government completed that bill. Amendments were made to it last year. Other amendment may be allowed this year, and I am told now very many respectable gentlemen are anxious to have introduced into it the power to prosecute the Government for breach of promise. But what has been the commercial and financial record of these last three years. The Government came into power in November, 1873. Early in 1874 they assembled Parliament, and many of us can remember gathering to hear the Finance Minister's exposition of their policy. The honorable gentleman surrounded by his party and under the eye of