with Mr. S. J. Ritchie, of Akron, Ohio, President of the Central Ontario Railway, and I will read you a few lines from it:

"In conversation with one of our reporters Mr. Ritchie stated that, while at the United States Capitol, he had met a great many representative men with whom he had talked about Canada, its resources and possibilities. Touching upon the question of a policy of reciprocity between the two countries, he found that the general feeling prevailed, based upon the bad character which Canada received from some of its public men, that a reciprocity treaty was hardly necessary, as, in the course of a short time, the country must come to the United States Government for relief from their present condition."

Now, if we can turn to the utterances of some of these hon. gentlemen and show that they really have made them to the effect that is there described, I think it will show that the contention I just made, that the hon. gentlemen opposite are themselves to blame, at least in part, for the difficulty which is now found to rest upon the present Government in securing a reciprocity treaty, will be proved. I will take a very short extract from a speech of the hon. the leader of the Opposition at New Glasgow. He is reported in the *Eastern Chronicle* as follows:—

"If you had not liberty to exchange your property you would find it useless to continue to produce more than you required for your personal wants, for you could not get rid of it. To restrict or prevent you from exchanging what you desire to exchange would be a restriction against which you would rebel. Restrictions which have a tendency to divert trade from its natural channels are injurious to the many. Your natural channel of trade is with the neighboring Republic; your exports will find the best market there, and your imports should come from there."

Now I will read from the speech made by the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake) in Charlottetown:

"Now I believe that free trade is best for all sections of our community. But look at your present interests, your agriculture and fisheries. How are they helped? Can it be said they are protected? If it is a good law that some men should be protected, why should not all be protected? But can labor be protected? There is no law to prevent an employer from looking where he will for labor."

Now I acknowledge that does not touch the question of reciprocity, but I want to remark that if there is no law to prevent the employer from looking where he will for labor, there is no law to prevent the employee from looking where he will for employment; and if the policy of this country increases the number of employers, it will therefore increase the number of employees. That is a proposition which is just as true as the proposition of the hon. gentleman:

"You want the first exchange of productions with other countries. You want free access to the markets of the world. What prevents you having these? The hand of man debars you by legislation Your natural market is the United States, but by the laws of both countries free exchange of productions is prevented. That country would be a market for your potatoes and a large number of other articles, if their laws would allow it to be so."

Now I think, Mr. Speaker, that assertion of the hon. member is not borne out by the facts. I think it cannot be claimed, even at the present time, that the laws of both countries prevent the exchange of the natural products of Prince Edward Island with the United States. There is a law at the present time, as every hon. member knows, which will compel the Government of the Dominion, just as soon as the Government of the United States are willing to enter into a reciprocity treaty, to take off the duties on those articles which the United States would admit free from our side. I think when the hon. gentleman made that assertion he forgot that law, and was not quite correct in claiming such was the law in both countries. The difficulty that affects the people of Prince Edward Island in their trade relations is not owing to the Government of the Dominion, but entirely to the Government and people of the United States. I have read these extracts to show the difficulties which lie before the Government of the Dominion in obtaining a reciprocity treaty. They not only have to contend with enemies from without but they have to contend with speeches which are not made in the interests of Canada by our own people. Now, Sir, to return to the question of the prosperity of the Maritime Provinces and of Nova Scotia. The hon. member from South Huron does not object, in running down the Dominion Government, to include the Maritime Provinces; but if he says anything against the Maritime Provinces in an assembly where I am present, I shall endeavor to disprove his statements and show they are not correct. I contend the picture he has drawn of the condition of Nova Scotia is not a true one, and I am prepared to prove it. If I can prove that the country has continued to gain in wealth from 1869—as I could not get the statistics from 1867—to 1878, that it has not only gained absolutely in wealth, but has gained relatively with other Provinces of the Dominion, I shall have proved that during the period the National Policy has been in operation that Province has improved even more rapidly than previously. If I can prove that the capital in the savings banks has increased to a large extent I shall have proved that the prosperity of the country has increased, a proposition which I defy any hon. member to dispute. On the 31st December, 1869, the paid-up bank capital of Nova Scotia was $1,890,000—perhaps a little more, as the returns at that time were not very complete. On 30th June, 1884, the paid-up bank capital of the Province of Nova Scotia was $4,858,000 or an increase of $2,967,000, or about 154 per cent. The deposits in the chartered banks not bearing interest on 31st December, 1869, were $1,157,853; and on 30th June, 1884, $2,000,000, or an increase of $844,000, or about 73 per cent. Then the deposits in these chartered banks bearing interest, which I think will more clearly show the saving of the country, were, on 31st December, 1869, $1,366,000; and on 30th June, 1884, $6,518,000, an increase of $5,151,844, or 377 per cent. Now we come to the savings banks. On the 1st July, 1869, the deposits in the Dominion savings banks—we have no post office savings banks in Nova Scotia, but we expect to have them soon —were $722,000; and on 30th June, 1884, they were $6,493,000, an increase of $5,770,000. I have not calculated the percentage, but if the hon. gentleman from Digby (Mr. Vail) wishes to reply he can make up the percentage; it is somewhere in the neighborhood of 600 or 700 per cent. Now, Sir, I submit these figures show that there is an absolute gain in the capital and prosperity of that Province from 1869 to 1884. The sum of all these figures shows that the increase in what you might call the available capital and savings of the Province of Nova Scotia during those years was $14,735,000; at the same time all the ordinary investments of the country and all the ordinary improvements went on as usual. During the last few years there was a very much larger sum than ever before invested in manufactures, and in the improvement of the farmers' houses and outbuildings throughout the whole Province. No one who knows Nova Scotia from one end to the other but must admit that amongst our people generally there has been a very great increase in their prosperity, and they are now living much better and in a more prosperous manner than they were in 1867. Now, Sir, let us see how the increase in these particulars in the Province of Nova Scotia compares with the increase in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The paid-up bank capital in Ontario and Quebec on 31st December, 1869, was $30,727,000; on 30th June, 1884, it had increased to $55,063,000, an increase of $15,335,000, or about 50 per cent., as compared with the increase in Nova Scotia during the same time of 154 per cent. The increase of deposits in chartered banks not bearing interest was, in Ontario and Quebec, on 31st December, 1869, $16,849,504, as against $41,541,195 on 30th June, 1884, an increase of $25,691,691, or 148 per cent., compared with Nova Scotia's 73 per cent. In that particular class of deposits I am prepared to admit that those Provinces did go a little better than Nova Scotia, but I will show that in some other particulars we went a little better than they did. The deposits in chartered banks bearing interest,