

singular that this country has escaped such widespread depression, and I ask the House to consider why we have escaped it. In my opinion, it is because for the last fifteen years our Government have so carefully watched over the interests of the country, its banking and other monetary institutions, and developed its resources, giving us railway facilities, and deepening and enlarging and improving its canal system, and giving us all the facilities, not only for interprovincial but outside trade, that the consequence is that the shock in the commercial world outside of us has not materially affected us. If we had adopted the policy advocated by the Opposition, where would Canada be now? Where would we have been if we had not our wall of protection up against the United States? The surplus production of that country would have been brought into our markets destroying every local industry. It is only that wall of protection that saved us, not only from financial depression, but from being brought to a paralyzed condition which it would have taken years for this country to get over. Therefore, I think the people of Canada have been in safe hands, and I congratulate the Government on the success which has attended their administration which has brought peace, contentment and prosperity to every part of the Dominion. My hon. friend from Halifax and the leader of the Opposition question all this. In our province of Nova Scotia there is no question about it, and yet we do not believe that we are in a better position than any other province of the Dominion. My hon. friend states that the wealth of the country was in the hands of these cotton lords and sugar kings. In my own province, speaking for my own county, I know that the wealth of the country is widespread, as can be seen by looking at the reports of our monetary institutions and savings banks. Men of the humblest walks of life have saved up and safely invested money for their old age. It is the same throughout the province. It might be better, perhaps, if the money were in circulation, but I mention it to show that the earning power of the people of this country has been and is great, and that they are prosperous. If the statements of my hon. friend were correct, what would our position be? If the people were going out of the country with their productive wealth, if our resources were not being developed, could the people

give such evidence of prosperity? If the policy of the Opposition were adopted, and we were not bringing raw material into the country to be manufactured and our people were leaving the country to find occupation in the United States where would our farmers be? The best market for the farmer is the home market, and if our people are driven out of the country to find employment the farmer loses his home market. Such a policy would be suicidal and no one would suffer more from it than the farmer himself. If we had free trade the farmers would be subject to direct taxation. The Address says that it is gratifying to observe that the expectation formed last year as to the continued progress of the Dominion had been fully realized. I do not think any one will cavil at that. I do not think the statement is made in too glowing terms. The trade of Canada increased last year some \$6,000,000, while the trade of our neighbours to the south of us decreased \$143,000,000. This shows, as a matter of comparison as well as of fact, that this country is improving. We note that Canada sold to England of agricultural products \$3,000,000 worth more and purchased \$2,000,000 worth more than in the previous year, and at the same time we purchased from the United States about \$1,000,000 less. I think we can very well endorse the statement made here in the Address and boldly assert that this country is beyond all comparison the most contented, prosperous and happy of all the countries on the face of the globe. I am satisfied that every man here feels in his heart that such is the fact, and that they are safe from financial and commercial depression. As evidence of the fact, during the last year the liabilities of those who failed were less by more than \$1,000,000 than the preceding year, while in the United States the increase was from \$188,000,000 to \$383,000,000. There can be no doubt as to the prosperity of the country and that prosperity will continue so long as we are true to ourselves and stand shoulder to shoulder in promoting everything that tends to the interest of the Dominion, and in speaking well of our country at all times and in all places, and showing that we have confidence in its future. If we continue to march on these lines and continue to be guided by the principles which were laid down fifteen years ago as the well understood wishes of this people, I believe we will go on prospering and to