

to the mover and seconder of the Address, who are both physicians. Physicians are not protected yet, but the lawyers are well taken care of. Judging by the reports of the Auditor General there are some lawyers in this country who are protected to an almost fabulous extent. But where is the need of reform in the tariff? The Speech from the Throne tells us, the hon. member for Ottawa (Sir James Grant) tells us, the hon. member for Hochelaga (Mr. Lachapelle) tells us, and every gentleman opposite, no doubt, will tell us that this is indeed a most prosperous country. I agree that Canada is blessed as few countries are. We are blessed with a cold and bracing climate; we are blessed with fertile broad acres; we are blessed with hills and valleys, with forests and prairies and lakes and rivers, the like of which the sun in its course never sees elsewhere; we are blessed with wealth along our briny shores and in our hills and rocks. Nature has done much for us, but what have we done for ourselves? We are told, and hon. gentlemen opposite profess to believe, that Canada is a prosperous country. But one million of Canadians have fled from their prosperity, and to judge of our condition we have to take some standard of comparison. No doubt, if we compare our fate with that of some nations, we may be deemed prosperous. The fellah in the valley of the Nile who brings up his scanty crop under the protection of a just Government, deems himself prosperous when he remembers that fifteen years ago everything he produced was seized upon by a swarm of petty officials, who kept him in beggary. If we come to more civilized nations, there was a time in the history of France when that most humane king, Henri IV, stated that his object was to bring about such a state of things that every peasant would be able to put a fowl in his pot every Sunday. No doubt, the French peasant who was able to put meat on his table once a week was deemed prosperous; and if we measured our prosperity by that standard, we are very well off. To-day the French peasant brings up his family on ten acres of land, and if by dint of persevering labour and continual denial he is able to add one or two acres to his original lot, he is considered prosperous; and if that measure be applied to us, we are prospering. But if we measure our prosperity by the standard which ought to rule in Canada, if we measure it by the standard which has been laid down by the hon. gentlemen themselves, to tell us we are prosperous is a mockery of common sense and an insult to the intelligence of the people. Prosperity! Why, we are told that our trade has increased with Great Britain. As I understand the Trade and Navigation returns, it has increased more with the United States. But we are told by the press of the hon. gentlemen: No, the trade with the United States has not increased, because most of the increase of that trade has been in the export

and import of coin and bullion. Therefore there has been no increase in trade whatever. So, whichever way you regard it, the Speech from the Throne is not satisfactory in this respect. But, suppose that our exports have increased, what is it we sell most of? The great bulk of our exports—we all realize the fact—is in agricultural products. This is the basis of our prosperity, and I admit that of late years our exports of agricultural products have increased. Under such circumstances there should be more prosperity amongst the farmers. There is not the prosperity among the farmers one would be led to expect from the increase of their exports. Why? Because the farmers sow and reap and sell, but they do not toil for themselves; they toil for monopolists. It is the old story—"Sic vos non vobis mellificatis apes." Like the busy bees they toil, but some robber comes and takes away their profits. This is not prosperity, but, Sir, this is the condition of the country at the present time, and if hon. gentlemen talk of prosperity under such conditions I take issue directly with them. My hon. friend from Ottawa (Sir James Grant) compared our status as a nation with the status of the American nation. It is true that the Americans are not as prosperous a people to-day as they have been in the past. They have been going through a crisis. But what is the cause of this crisis? Protection. Protection is the primary factor in the present crisis in the United States. What has been the determining cause in that crisis? Is it not a fact that the determining cause in the crisis in the United States has been the silver legislation? And what was that but an application of the principle of protection in a law which compelled the American people to buy silver for circulation at a higher price than the ruling market price? That was the origin of the crisis which now prevails in the United States. Therein is a lesson for us. Our legislation is better than theirs in matters of finance, but in our fiscal policy we follow closely upon the lines of American legislation. We must take warning from what has taken place in the United States, and, if we wish to avoid the crisis which they are now passing through our duty is, at the earliest possible moment, to reverse our system and go back to more sane fiscal legislation. Now, Mr. Speaker, there is in the Speech from the Throne, apart from the legislation we are promised, a paragraph which has been commented upon at some length by my hon. friend from Ottawa (Sir James Grant) and by my hon. friend from Hochelaga (Mr. Lachapelle), the award by the Behring Sea Court of Arbitration. Both these hon. gentlemen have spoken in very glowing terms of that award. In this they have reflected. I am sure, the ideas which were set forth by the Prime Minister when he came back from Europe after the Court of Arbitration had finished its labours. The Prime Min-