

any attention to the history of this country, knows that, commencing about 1890, there was a period of rather hard times, of commercial depression, the world over, and that these were due to causes not inherent in any government policy, or any government administration. Every person knows also, if he is fair to history, that the Dominion of Canada from 1890 to 1895 passed through that period of world-wide depression with, I think, the least number of scars and the least degree of trouble and difficulty of any large country in the civilized world. Everybody of common sense and intelligence knows that in 1895 the cycle of depression began to roll into a cycle of improved business, as shown by every test which can be applied to it, by the statistics of the country, by the general business of the country, by the statistics gathered by this government, and the officials of this government, and placed in our blue-books. Whether this present administration had come into power in 1896 or not, no sensible man has any other idea than that we would at this time in Canada, as all the rest of the world, have been enjoying great and abounding prosperity. We might as well be honest and fair with ourselves. For my own part I congratulate the government, I congratulate the opposition, I congratulate every citizen in Canada upon the great and abounding prosperity which has marked these last two or three years in the history of Canada. I hope they will long continue. I am quite willing to give to the present administration any credit that may be due to them for administrative methods, either in maintaining a wise policy already inaugurated, or in introducing a newer and better lines, if they have done so. But I am not at present in a position, nor do I think we ought to be asked to place ourselves in a position, to deny the facts of history and to go against common sense and common intelligence.

Now, Sir, we are in the midst of an increasing prosperity, as is shown by certain figures and certain statistics. I am glad of it, as I said before. Prosperity is good for this country, prosperity is not confined to this country, prosperity is general in all the foremost countries of the world, whether they are ruled by a Liberal or a Conservative administration, whether they have a policy of free trade prevailing, as in Great Britain, or a policy of a revenue tariff, or a policy of extraordinarily high protection.

In every one of these countries, as we may gather from their statistics to-day, they are enjoying a period of more than ordinary prosperity and progress. But, these waves of prosperity are due to greater causes and other causes than even the high and mighty ability and the wise administrative policy of the thirteen—no, of the eighteen gentlemen, who, to-day, are supposed to be guiding the affairs of the country. I do not imagine, that

at this particular period of our history, these eighteen gentlemen have very much to do with the affairs of the United States of America. Not many years ago they thought they would have when they came into power. A good many years ago, in their pretensions, they believed that all that was necessary for certain things was that they should occupy the seats of power, and, behold, the United States, in its various fiscal and trade affairs, would open its arms, take Canada to its bosom, and, in loving commercial and trade embrace they would go on as a completely happy and united family. Is there not a period of great prosperity in the United States of America? Will the right hon. Prime Minister listen for a moment to what is the average tariff of the United States of America? There is no pretense about that being a free trade tariff, such as it is in England, or a revenue tariff; that is an out and out ultra protectionist tariff, averaging about 51 per cent of the value of dutiable articles introduced into that country, and yet, in the whole period of the history of the United States, you cannot point to two more prosperous years than 1898 and 1899. Is not that sufficient, of itself, to prove the fallacy and the foolishness of the attempts of the hon. gentlemen opposite, to claim for their policy and for their administration the wave of prosperity that is passing over this country as over the world. Well, Sir, they also ask us to congratulate them on the general volume of the revenue. It is not many years ago that we remember to have heard this House ring with the proposition that all revenue was simply a contribution from, or an imposition upon the hard earnings of the people of this country, and in so far as its height and volume were contributed through the two sources of internal revenue and customs, it was taxation and a burden, and as the right hon. Prime Minister was fond of saying: taxation is not a virtue and not a boon: taxation is the opposite of that. They have their volume of revenue which is seven and a third millions more, taken out of the people of this country in taxation proper, in inland revenue and customs, than what was taken from this country in 1896. They ask us to congratulate them on the increase, and we have to congratulate them on adding seven and a third millions to the taxation of the people of this country. My hon. friend (Sir Richard Cartwright), that distinguished and gallant patriot, who in 1892, took occasion to write over to the *Economist* and to have distributed everywhere through Great Britain a brochure in which he declared, amongst other things, that the taxation which was being raised from this country, \$6,500,000 less than it is to-day, was bleeding the farmers and the people of this country white. We congratulate my hon. friend, though, now, I am sorry to say, he is but an onlooker, so acknowledged by him-