

here cannot be gainsayed, and that the country will therefore be in a position to accept these statements as trustworthy and to be depended upon.

Looking at the history of the country during the last five years, in reference to its trade and commerce, its navigation, its banking institutions, its tonnage and its exports and imports, I find that from every aspect in which I view it, I rise from the inquiry feeling the greatest possible encouragement, not only with reference to the past but with reference to the present and to the future. (Loud cheers.)

And now, with regard to the last five years, let me call the attention of the House to a few facts which are calculated to show the material progress of the Dominion during that period. First, let me draw your attention to the marvellous and wonderful increase in the capital invested in the banking institutions of the country during that period; and next to the extraordinary increase in the deposits in the banks of the Dominion. Nothing could show more satisfactorily the increase in the wealth of our people than the facts to which I am about to direct attention. Let me first refer to the paid up capital of the Banks for 1867, and as I do not desire to weary the House, I will not give the figures for the intermediate period. The paid up capital of the banks in February, 1867, was \$28,692,980; and at the same period in 1873, it was \$49,189,969; the deposits in 1867 were \$26,103,004; and in 1873, \$59,560,003; thus showing a net increase in the ordinary banks of the country, including Savings Banks, of nearly \$37,000,000 within the space of five years; and an increase of paid up capital of the banks in Ontario and Quebec alone, (the banks in the other Provinces not being included, as some of them have not sent in their returns) of \$20,497,000.

This fact at once shows the wonderful progress of the Dominion, but I desire also to call attention to the steady progress made in the value of the imports and the exports of the Dominion since the commencement of the Union. In 1868, the exports were \$57,567,888; in 1869, \$60,474,781; in 1870, \$73,573,490; in 1871, \$74,173,618; in 1872, \$82,639,663; and in the first half of the current year, \$53,488,968. Now we come to the value of goods entered for consumption during the same period. I take the goods entered for