The Opposition Financial Critic Makes a Show of Mr. Foster's Fallacies.

Truth About the Results of the Course Pursued by the Tory Government.

What the Country Would Gain by Honest and Economical Administration.

Ottawa, Feb. 7.-Yesterday in the commons was certainly Sir Richard Cartwright's day. The worthy knight from South Oxford, to use his own expressions, spoke for two mortal hours. Then the house went to dinner and returned again at eight o'clock to listen to Sir Richard again. If the speech was long, there was not a dull passage in Friends listened with undisguised admiration; opponents always listen with attention if not with pleasure or approval. However, in this latter respect Sir Richard could not reasonably be disappointed or surprised. He was not speaking for the entertainment or approval of the occupants of the government benches. He was attempting to confound them out of their own months, for the speech was a criticis:n of Hon. Mr. Foster's budget of Friday last. On that occasion Sir Richard re plied to the minister of finance, briefly dealing with the general matters con nected with the trade policy and the material prosperity of the country, reserving his review of the details and specific statements of the budget until he had given it that attention it deserved. Thursday was government day, and the budget debate was the first order. Having moved the adjournment of the debate on Friday, the floor was Sir Richard's. He began his address at 3:45 o'clock and had still much to say when the house rose at fifteen minutes to six. There was a large attendance of members, and the attention given to Sir. Richard was all a speaker could desire.

Hon. Mr. Foster followed him closely. as a number of interruptions and explanations, clearly showed. Sir Charles H. Tupper was at his desk and made copious notes, thereby giving notice to the house that the criticism of Sir Richard would in turn be criticized by the ex-minister of justice, the Prince Rupert of the commons.

At the outset Sir Richard indulged in little humor, at the expense of the Hansard reporters. As a rule, the work of the staff was excellent, for which they deserved the highest praise. But mistakes would be made even by the best of men, and in the past there had occurred several ludicrous ones, which he quoted in the report of his speech of Friday.

I recollect, no very long time ago, I

had occasion to refer to the political Styx, and I found, to my horror, that the reporter had made it "political stinks." (Laughter.) On another occasion when I had quoted in the same me, as Themistocles said." I found, to statement. my amazement, that I was reported as Peter Mitchell said." \*(Renewed laughno human being could well go in a perfectly correct. more hopeless quest than to ask Sir Charles Tupper the elder to give a por- hon. gentleman would take refuge in tion of his hardly earned-or perhaps I | that statement. should say hardly won-gains for the And then, too, I felt that there was I am seeking refuge. imminent peril if this thing went uncontradicted, that we should have cable- I am. grams speeding across the Atlantic and the reason our party attacked Sir make a fair division of the spoils. Sir, use of another phrase. this is a grave and serious matter. half of myself and the Liberal party, idea implied in this assertion is an idea addressing Sir Charles Tupper and say-that ought not to be implied. ing: "Give us gold." I need not say Sir Richard Cartwright—Th mind and no such words ever crossed will have to sit under the implication. my lips. What I did say was, "Give Mr. Foster-I will not sit still when us good old Sir Charles" (laughter), you misrepresent me. and that I said without disparagement of my hon. friend from Pictou (Sir have plenty of opportunities to correct Charles Hibbert Tupper) for whom 1 me. Now this is rather an interesting have always had a very strong sneaking point. The hon, gentleman referred to liking-more particularly since he began 1880, when our imports entered for conto devote his talents to antiquarian re- sumtion were \$71,782,000. Canadian search. (Renewed laughter.) Now I am exports in that year of our own produce bound to say for myself that I never were \$74,471,000. It was therefore perentertained the smallest or faintest idea | feetly correct to say that in 1880 our that Sir Charles Tupper, who is now re- exports exceeded our imports and so far stored to us, thanks to my prayers and as there is anything in the balance of those of the Bishop of Antigonish trade-to which I myself, I may remark, (laughter)-I never entertained the attach no importance whatever-the slightest idea that he would celebrate balance of trade in 1880 was in our his return in knightly fashion, by dis- favor. Now, I would like to ask, when tributing largesse on this side. (Great the hon, gentleman talks of the ballaughter.) I desire to be corrected in ance of trade, will he assert that if we this matter, and I hope that the misre- had imported of foreign produce in-

Richard took up the battle axe of his its full advantage, would he rise in his figures and eloquence, and proceeded to place here and tell the house that that ury under protection three or four or assault the financial citadel of the gov- was a balance of trade in favor of Canernment in true parliamentary style. ada of \$22,000,000. Hon, Mr. Foster's speech certainly poswas a remarkable disregard of facts. The minister of finance had a large deficit, the largest of any except that of navigation compilers, the controller of this or that particular manufacturer. the year of the North-West rebellion, customs and ministers of finance, have There have been cases well known and none knew better than the minister supplied, and upon which alone you can was. He had also to face the cheapness ferent years of the balance of trade. of the articles Canadians had to sell, and the futile attempts to obtain new Books do not talk of the balance of and adequate markets. The British trade. I am as well aware as the hon. market was practically closed to their gentleman that there was an excess of cattle, and was likely to be closed to total exports, foreign and Canadian another of their exports; their popula- over the total, not of those entered for tion was about at a standstill; their consumption, but the total goods allegpublic debt increasing, and notwith- ed to have been imported for all purstanding these facts the minister had poses. But I can point out to him that

presumed to assume that the people were prosperous. Mr. Foster's policy seemed to be to shut his eyes to the the country into far reaching engagements and add more to our debt and then taken up and analyzed, as Sir Richard called the process. Mr. Foster had claimed that our exports having exceeded out imports, the balance of trade was now in our favor. This doctrine, Sir Richard did not think important, but if it were, the trade returns did not bear it out.

Sid Richard Cartwright-Now, I want to call the attention of the house to our trade and navigation returns. I find in them that our total importations for the year 1895 is \$105,252,000 of goods entered for consumption. I find that our total exports of Canadian goods, including coin and bullion, amounted to \$103.085,000; wherefor it would appear that so far from having an excess of exports over imports, if that be a benefit, there was really an excess of imports over exports of \$2,200,000, contrary to the hon, gentleman's statement. Mr. Foster-I think my hon. friend

seemed to be to shut his eyes to the debt side of the account, and to twist that supposing, as I say; that if the rethose on the credit side so they would turns show \$30,000,000 of American against the protective tariff, that all utmost of our power in making proper do better service than the truth justified. In the teeth of increased taxathat would not enable us to pay for tenfold force it applies also against any
The finance minister. S tion, a growing debt, and a grim de- the goods which are imported and con- high tariff, any attempt to levy the bulk ficit, the minister was ready to plunge sumed in Canada. The balance of trade or greater part of our revenue by a high means, if it means anything at all, that out of our own exports, or of the proexpenditure. The budget speech was ceeds of our own exports, we are able to pay for all the goods we import and consume and have a surplus besides. All we can be said to get out of foreign goods passing through our country via the St. Lawrence, all that we can possibly get are the tolls, whatever they in 1895, under his tariff, the people of er. Supposing the Chicago merchant Liverpool, does the hon, gentleman ment have not saved 39 cents per head, 1,000,000 barrels of flour would go to account were taken. help us to pay for imports consumed in Canada.

Mr. Foster-No, I would not. how would it help our balance of trade

duty on any article which partakes of the character of raw material, without Canada for the United States. As to enormously increasing the cost to the consumer in the end. This is a simple fact which the hon, gentleman (Mr. Foster) or any other hon, gentleman can work out for himself. What is the hon. of the gravest faults in the protective gentleman's declaration? It was that amount to, and the value of the Canada were paying 39 cents less than to the question of remission of taxation, freight that go in Canadian bottoms they were in the period of 1874-5. What to Montreal and in Canadian bottoms are the facts? The facts are these from Montreal to the point of consump- To-day the people on an average are tion. I will put it to him a little plain- paying per family \$60, taking five individuals to a family, as against \$25 unto send 1,000,000 barrels of der the administration of Hon. Alexanflour via St. Lawrence and Montreal to der Mackenzie. The present governmean to tell us that the price of that but they have lost \$7 per head if a fair

will allow me to draw his attention to toms of long experience, and who would to give the hon, gentleman credit for it. this one fact. As he puts it he leaves have put him right on that question and But as we are raking up old history

system. The protective system from 1879 to the present time added at the

very least \$30,000,000 a year to the tax-Sir, the hon, gentleman proceeding a weight of his deficit of \$4,153,000 by obv 000 Sir Richard Cartwright-Well, then, serving that an amount of \$2,000,000 went into the sinking fund, which, asnow? Why could he not consult the he truly said, reduced the debt, and he Premier, who is an ex-minister of cus- claimed credit for that. I do not object

The finance minister, Sir Richard said took credit for the home market. If he was to be credited with the home mark et he would also have to be debited the increase of the urban population, i would have been far better for Canada that it was the rural population and not the urban population that increased. One system was the flocking of the people to the cities from the country districts. As the hon, gentleman claims that in his 17 years he remitted \$45,000,000 in taxes. Possibly he did, but he forgot to say that in those 17 years he had added \$500,000,000. That was the identical effect of the introduction of a protective

ation over and above the sum paid into the treasury. Multiply seventeen years little further, attempted to lessen the by \$30,000,000 and you get \$510,000. "Did the hon. minister," asked Sir Richard, "ever hear of the saint of old who stole a goose and gave the giblets to charity?'

Sir Richard said that Mr. Foster had claimed that the National Policy had increased our farm products. There was he cheese trade. In the name of good ness what had the tariff done for that? It was in existence before the birth of the National Policy and it has grown in spite of the National Policy. There was also a claim that business failures had decreased. What were the facts? From 1874 to 1878 the Insolvency Act was in force, and a record kept of all bankruptcies. Since then there has been no general law and no accurate record kept. The amount of failures to day was largely a matter of conjecture. The minister had dwelt with evident satisfaction upon the free tariff list. Well, out of its 378 articles not more than four or five, like anthracite coal and wool were of general use or a benefit to the people.

For instance, on the list were undressed burr stones, pipeclay, diamonds and many precious stones. 'Brimstone," added Dr. Landerkin.

Sir Richard-My friend says brimtone; also ice granite and curling Dr. Landerkin-"Skeletons."

Sir Richard-"Yes, skeletons and fos

Sir Richard looked smilingly across at he minister and the house burst into laughter. No wonder, continued Sir Richard, that with such a policy and such a record the government had never dared to meet their opponents in a fair fight. They had taken refuge in a gerrymander, and in all the bribes they could scrape together.

Hon. Mr. Foster-We have been meeting you during the past 25 years. There was no gerrymander in the Maritime Provinces.

Sir Richard-I am speaking of the country as a whole. In my own province they had gerrymandered some forty constituencies out of all shape and knowledge. If the government is burning to meet the people why do they not dissolve parliament?

Hon. Mr. Foster-We are meeting the people to-day in Northumberland. Sir Richard—Very well, but why do they not meet them in the other vacant

constituencies? Hon. Mr. Foster-Ask your leader. Sir Richard-I was not aware that the eader of the opposition was responsible for the policy of the government. Hon. Mr. Foster-You should be more united over there, and consult one an-

other. Sir Richard then turned to that inexhaustible fountain of humor, the return of our industrial establishments as set forth in the census. The point arrived at was, that in order to show in dustrial growth under the National Policy the government had been driven to make false and most ridiculous claims. Sir Richard gave several instances taken here and there from the census returns.

There was the flourishing town of Caughnawaga, where 51 establishments Address, QUEEN MEDICINE CO., Box 947 employing 54 Indians of the male and female persuasion, engaged in the manufacture of ornamented snow shoes. In the county of Shelburne, N. S., the clever and industrious enumerator had discovered 93 knitting factories engineered and captained by 93 old women. But, take carpets; here was the pride

and glory of the government. There been better results. were 597 new carpet manufactories; of these 51 existed in New Brunswick, employing just 51 persons, with an average capital of \$18 each.

"Rag carpets," suggested a member; but Sir Richard would not commit himself to rag carpets. The census report said carpets.

He took a village in Montmagny coun-Here was a blacksmith shop emoloying three hands, one boot factory with one hand, a cabinet factory with one hand, and so on through a long list that proved the claim of this village to rank as a great manufacturing centreon paper at least.

Arthabaska had a remarkable case.

One old woman was set down as con-

ducting two manufacturing establishments. In one she sold lollipops, and in the other she knitted footwear for her | ing the Liberal party and leaders, and worthy grandchildren, all of which appears in the record and goes to swell the go on longer without intelligent and total of new industries developed in this country. Sir Richard made several quotations, and wound up with the speech of Sir Charles Tupper, setting party was, what it amounted to, and forth those gigantic prophecies of 640. Why the Liberal party had advocate 000,000 bushels of wheat to be grown in Manitoba in 1890. He noticed that the dressed the letter to the London Ecol master mind of the government had omist. been exercising itself in Montreal at the Richard said: The hon. gentlemen in board of trade. He hoped to hear him their time have sent the people of Canagain with attendant flourishes in a few ada on many a wild goose chase, they days, and had only read one page of his speech. In that page he noticed 27 The hon, gentlemen sometimes, how great things, 10 vast things, and the capital "I" mentioned 51 times. The government said Canada had been reduced to the deepest poverty in 1878 ferential trade between Great Britain but he fancied the people of Canada, eswhatever for refusing to tell the house pecially agriculturists, would be glad to see the status of 1878 restored. I 1878 Canada, in all the essentials of spenk for my friends behind me as well wealth and the distribution of wealth, have they considered, have they reflect was better off than now. Out of their ed for one moment what preferential deepest poverty \$50,000,000 had been invested in factories, and lost through the policy followed by the Conservative pay the price? Suppose the government quires that we should discuss and de- party. Out of that deepest poverty an- of Great Britain were to come down seen that millions were taken out of the bate any proposition the hon. gentleman other fifty millions or more had been in- us and say: "Admit British manufactured of the people of the



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owing to the government having fritter ed away the resources. It was not the fault of the country, but of the foolish administration. If the Mackenzie policy had been carried out there would have

As to his letter in the London Econ omist, the statement made by Mr. Bayard, the American ambassador at S James, was equally as strong against protection as anything he said in that that letter. Canadian public life nat been debased and demoralized by the results of the protectionist party which the hon, gentleman and his friends had inaugurated.

Sir C. H. Tupper-Will the hon, gent

leman say what his object was in writing that letter? Sir Richard-I have not the slightest objection. I have stated it before. have found that certain persons on the other side and certain persons here -among them men who hold positions in our civil service—had been for a very considerable time systematically malign I was determined that that should not thoughtful Englishmen knowing that there was two sides to the question

have sent them after many will-'o-wisps. ever, get hold of an idea which something to recommend it, and with respect to this question of possible pro and her colonies not on political and economic grounds-there is, or might be, something to be said. But have these hon, gentlemen thought out trade betwen Grat Britain and her co onies meant, and are they prepared to

the policy it did, and therefore I at

IT IS SIMPLY INTOLERABLE THAT THE MISERABLE LIBERALS SHOULD THUS OBSTRUCT THE GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

OMORROW

Sir Richard Cartwright-Not a mis-

"Strike, but hear me, as statement, but a mistake. Mr. Foster-If my hon. friend will ter.) These things I have borne like a lock on page 7 of the trade and navigaman, but I am obliged to say one must tion returns he will see that since condraw the line somewhere, and when I federation our balance of trade was took up Friday's Hansard I found that equal. The balance as regards imports scription for myself and the Liberal total imports, not taking into account (laughter), I felt I could not what is simply the produce of Canada stand that. (More laughter.) Why, or what is not, not taking into account Mr. Speaker, it would not require my either the bullion or coin on either side, parliamentary experience to know that and the figures that I have stated are

Sir Richard Cartwright-I thought the

Mr. Foster-I beg my hon, friend's benefit of the Liberal party. (Laughter.) pardon. He has no right to imply that

Sir Richard Cartwright-Well, I think | sumption? Mr Foster-I think not. sapient English journals reporting that Sir Richard Cartwright-I do not

think that is parliamentary, but if Mr. Charles Tupper was that he refused to Speaker rules that it is so I will make Mr. Foster-I do not object to its be-(Laughter.) Here I am reported, on be- ing unparliamentary, but I say that the

Sir Richard Cartwright-That is a litthat no such thought ever crossed my the too fine. I think the hon, gentleman

Sir Richard Cartwright-You will as we would have done if our Yankee Preliminaries being disposed of Sir friends had used the St. Lawrence to

Mr. Foster-I have simply this to say sessed one merit, if merit it be, and that to my hon. friend, I have followed out five and sometimes ten dollars are taken how grim and ugly a thing a deficit carry out a comparison between the dif-Sir Richard Cartwright-The Blue

connection, the words "Strike, but hear the impression that I have made a mis- prevented him from-I do not say de- I may remind the hon, gentleman of the house by talking of having a balance of the balance-so far as there is anything in it—the balance of trade is \$2,250,000 against us instead of being \$2,857,000 in our favor. Sir, if the hon, gentleman is not satisfied all I can say is that I I was represented as having supplicated and exports has been calculated all am afraid I shall have to refer him to the elder Sir Charles Tupper for a sub- through upon the total exports and the my hon. friend from Kings (Mr. Borden) and my hon, friend from Brant (Mr Paterson), who will no doubt endeavor to indoctrinate him as to the true balance of trade.

Mr. Foster-I am quite willing to discuss the question with my hon. friends at any time.

Sir Richard Cartwright-Very well; if we send a quantity of foreign goods via the St. Lawrence they represent a that the finance minister ought to have part of our imports entered for con-

Mr. Foster-Not necessarily. Sir Richard Cartwright-Not at all. And if they do not it does not affect the balance of trade. It may be a very good proof and a very good evidence that we are benefitting by use of our water ways, and had the hon gentleman congratulated us on that I would have agreed with him. But when he supposes. Now I would say this is very tional Policy, and I think he had better in the future consult with my hon. right on these interesting questions. and misleading. Over and above the matter of that, to put her defences in revenue of \$30,000,000 that goes into proper order? presentation will disappear very shortly stead of ten millions say thirty millions, finds its way to the classes under a prothe treasury, about \$30,000,000 more tective system. That was not the way with a revenue tariff. For every dollar of taxation that goes into the treasfive go to certain manufacturers. There were innumerable cases where for every dollar that goes into the treasury four. go into the treasury, but go to benefit the pockets of the people and not a cent

has gone into the public treasury. Mr. Foster-Millions? Sir Richard Cartwright-Millions; do on want the proofs?

Mr. Foster-In Canada? Sir Richard-Yes; if the hon, gentlenan will look at the duties on sugar preceding the recent addition, it will be pockets of the people, and only the most has to make looking to the better arma- vested in speculations in the Northwest, tured goods free into Canada and we

luding-but undoubtedly misleading the fact that some of his predecessors had not given such credit to Hon. Alexander trade in our favor when in point of fact Mackenzie, when they were howling about the deficit of 1876-78. Then the hon, gentleman proceeded to make comments which I shall not call false, but very incorrect and unfair comparisons between the deficit of the Mackenzie government and his own. And here again I apologize to hon. friends and to the house for going into this, which I think might well have been omitted. Sir Richard then went into a calculation which showed that the total Liberal deficits during the Mackenzie regime was \$2,564,000. If credit were given for sinking fund the Mackenzie government

came out \$7,000,000 to the good. As loes the hon, gentleman maintain that for the remains of the present year we could not get more than \$36,000,000, so some doubts as to whether he would escape a deficit. For the year 1896-97 the expenditure was likely to reach about \$40,000,000, an estimate already being made of \$38,000,000. He objected to hiding away in obscure pages of the public accounts such items as bounty on pig iron \$29,000 and on bar iron

\$63,000. And now, said Sir Richard, I come to a matter which was alluded to be my hon. talks of the balance of trade I must put | friend beside me (Mr. Mulock), and that in a caveat. The balance of trade is is the hon. gentleman's refusal to take against us to the extent of \$2,200,000 the house into his confidence and inform and not in our favor as he mistakenly us what sum he proposes to ask for the special vote for militia. I venture to say like a mistake which the hon. gentle- this to the hon. gentleman. If he has man made some years ago with respect | not made up his mind, if the council to the quantity of agricultural products have not made up their minds on this that had been gained for the farmers subject, if they do not know what they of Canada by the operation of the Na- are going to do, and will say that they have not quite decided, I shall not press the hon, gentleman, but if he and the friend the Premier, who will put him council have made up their minds it is the most ostrich-like policy on the face Sir Richard then dealt with the state- of the earth to refuse, when making ment of Mr. Foster as to the per capita the budget statement, to say how many taxation of 1874-5, as compared with millions they require for that special 1894-5, showing that it was only 8 vote. What is the hon, gentleman afraid cents greater than the average of the of? Is he afraid of casting dismay into period from 1874 to 1878. All compari- the great American nation by informsons, said Sir Richard, between a protecling the world that Canada wants three 'ive and a revenue tariff were fallacious | millions or thirty-three millions, for the

> Mr. Foster-No danger of that after yesterday's debate. Sir Richard Cartwright-I am glad the hon, gentleman's mind is relieved. Then he will tell us, of course, what the amount is.

Mr. Foster-I am sorry to say that I am not able to tell the hon, gentleman. Sir Richard-I am afraid that the impression we made on the hon. gentleman is going to be evanescent. If we will look at what is done usually in a similar case in England or elsewhere we will see that the request is very usual where millions have been taken out of and fair, and that there is no ground that he undertakes to add to the public debt on that score. I think I may so as for myself when I tell the hon, gentleman that no reasonable, no rational proposition will be harshly criticized from this side. Still, as our duty re-

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