

been done has been the handing over of the case by the Dominion Government to the government of the province of Manitoba. And, Sir, it is to be trusted by all those who would wish to see the disappearance from the arena of Federal politics of matters of this vexed nature that the province of Manitoba may be pleased to arrange amicably between the parties the rights or privileges of the minority in respect of the matters complained of, and which the Privy Council stated had been affected. Now, Sir, I come to deal with the phase of the Address in reference to the trade and commerce of the country as it at present exists, and as it has existed during the past year. And, referring to the phraseology of that, I do regret, in common with hon. gentlemen on this side of the House, that there has been in this Dominion a depression in trade that has resulted in a decrease of our revenue; that has resulted in this year of grace, in a deficit in the income of the Dominion. Sir, the faces of hon. gentlemen opposite light up at the prospect of a deficit. That is to be little wondered at, because in a deficit they recognize an old friend. Year after year they sat on the Treasury benches, and year after year they had to announce to the country that deficit after deficit was piling up, but they consoled themselves with the reflection that they had transferred them to capital account. Contrast that with the other picture. Year after year, instead of deficits of from one to two millions piling up, we found, under a Conservative Administration, a surplus announced annually, reaching in one year nearly the colossal sum of \$4,000,000. I am not, at this time, going to discuss whether it was right or wrong to pile up those surpluses. But this I do say—that the surpluses so piled up were of benefit to the people in this way, that, while they had the capital on hand without unduly taxing the people, the Government expended those surpluses in great public works which have been, and will be for all time of enduring advantage. Now, Sir, there must be reasons for a deficit. And I have no doubt that before this session closes, hon. gentlemen, very fruitful in charges, very prolific in contentions, will allege many reasons why a deficit has occurred. First, throughout the whole civilized world, there has been, during recent years a most wonderful depression. Situated as we are, close to the great republic to the south of us, feeling as we do the very pulsations and throbs of the commercial life of that country, little was it to be wondered that such depression would not penetrate within our borders. But I am proud and pleased to say that the depression in the Dominion of Canada has not at all reached the extent of the depression which has been felt throughout the length and breadth of the United States of America; and to-day no country in the world

Mr. BENNETT.

has a more fair distribution of wealth, has a more fair distribution of prosperity, has a more fair distribution of comfort, than Canada. And I say that it is in great measure due to the fiscal policy which not only has predominated in this country for years past, but which shall predominate, I believe, for years to come. Hon. gentlemen opposite have been crying for an opportunity to test in a constituency the trade policy of Canada as it has been under this Government. Where were the gentlemen opposite when there was an election in Haldimand the other day? Echo answers, "where?" And though the hon. leader of the Opposition was almost within a stone's throw of the Liberal stronghold of Verchères, his silence on that occasion was golden. And, although he has the honour of representing one of the constituencies of the city of Quebec, he permitted two Conservatives to make the fight to a finish in the adjoining riding to his own. Sir, these are signs of the times, and most unexampled proof that when the appeal is made to the people of this country they will endorse the fiscal policy which has been in force since 1878. Now, Sir, I have an authority under my hand, a most eminent authority, that of Mr. Sauerbeek, who, in a recent issue of the "London Times," has made this statement: and being a statistician of the very highest order, and an acknowledged authority in the old country, to his statements some reliability must be attached; and he has proved conclusively that within the last 100 years there have never been lower prices realized for the exports of Great Britain than in the past year. Moreover, he has proved that in the years 1878 and 1879, as contrasted with the present year, prices of exported goods from England were 20 per cent higher than they are to-day. Well, Sir, what has that to do with Canada? I say that has a great deal to do with it, for in that time we were importing from Great Britain at prices which were one-fifth higher than they are to-day, and it must be borne in mind that if duty is paid on an article of the value of only \$50, the same duty paid on an article of the value of \$100 will produce more revenue to this country. So in the decreased price of every article we have purchased, and, while our consumption may not have been less, the value of the goods so consumed has been less, and, as a result, there has been a lessening of the revenue. Then, it must be considered that on many articles the tariff of this country has been greatly reduced in the last year or so.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Hear, hear.

Mr. BENNETT. The hon. member says "Hear, hear." I trust he says it approvingly, and I believe he does. But as a result, what do we see? We see that the revenue derivable from a great many of the large staples