

Nights and possess the talent of the great masters of oratory to set in a proper way before this House the enormous advantages accruing to the country from these discoveries which are fast assuming the proportions of an international event, owing to the intense excitement they have aroused throughout the civilized world.

Now, Mr. Speaker, fortune smiles on us and wealth comes to us from several other quarters. There really seems to be a conspiracy of political events to produce prosperity, as if the Government of this country had inherited from some good fairy the conjurer's wand. Through their wise and enlightened policy, a new impetus has been given to trade, and by a readjustment of the tariff on just and equitable lines, a new era of prosperity has been ushered in, a consummation so long wished for by the people of the Dominion. Were you to put the question to the farmers of this country, a most interesting and necessary class of our population, they would, I am sure, tell you that the country is blessed with prosperity and that everywhere the fires of content are blazing upon the hearthstones. To dispel every vestige of doubt, Mr. Speaker, let us hearken to the voice of the people speaking through the by-elections that have been held within the year, and here we have a decisive and authoritative answer to the question. But let me rather say this: that the hon. gentlemen who, like myself, have the honour of representing in this House purely agricultural constituencies, know very well that their constituents are contented and full of hope.

Why, Sir, is it not a fact that agricultural products are fetching most remunerative prices? Is it not a fact that wheat has reached an un hoped-for price? Is it not a fact that the sale of our cattle is fetching very good prices, compared with those of previous years, thanks, undoubtedly, to the wise policy inaugurated by the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), in connection with a very ticklish matter, the abolition of the quarantine with the United States? And let me seize this opportunity to tender, in the name of the country, my heartfelt thanks to the hon. Minister of Agriculture for having established a cold storage system which has proved a complete success and the advantages of which are now before the country in such a way as to carry conviction in the minds even of those who shut their eyes to the evidence of facts.

Now, if we turn to the manufacturers, a most important factor in the commercial development of a young country like ours, they will also tell us honestly that prosperity is ours again. It would, forsooth, be an idle task for them to deny it, in the face of the increase that has taken place in our foreign exports, as shown by the statistics; nay, more, they would tell you, Sir, that they have felt all their doubts dispelled,

and confidence returning with the positive assurance given them that in this matter of tariff readjustment, no rash change should be attempted, but, on the contrary, every change in it should be cautiously made, as warranted by the exigencies of the hour. Let us glance at the table of the failures, a most infallible barometer of the increase or decrease of national prosperity, and one which shows us whether we are on the ascending scale in the commercial sphere, or whether we are slowly verging to bankruptcy. I do not think I am going beyond the mark in stating that there was a decrease of 15 per cent in the number of failures last year, compared with those of the previous year. Those statistics are more eloquent than all the speeches we could make on this side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, although I do not take much stock in the statements of newspapers, however, allow me to quote in this connection, the words of a Montreal paper, "La Patrie," which has an extensive circulation in the country:

Canada is truly a privileged country. We have no international imbroglio to fear; our institutions are working harmoniously; every day we are discovering new resources, and at this time of writing, there is no country in the world on which the eyes of Europe are riveted with more interest than on this land of ours.

As the impartiality of such a statement, coming from a Liberal newspaper might be suspected, let me refer to another great daily of the city of Toronto, a Conservative newspaper; and here is what the "World" said in the same connection:

We are entering upon an era of great, immense developments. Within the next decade, we are sure, our population will have doubled. The year which has just commenced will be marked by astounding progress throughout the west, British Columbia and the Yukon.

There is no gainsaying it, Sir, the discovery of the Klondike gold fields and their working on a large scale will rapidly increase the tide of immigration to this country, and secure us a large and healthy class of settlers, and Canada, which has so much to gain by such a movement, far from trying to check it will, on the contrary, do her best to develop it by all the means within her power. Immigrants from all parts of the civilized world will come to swell our population, develop our latent resources, and build up the country, while our fertile, limitless and attractive prairies of the North-west will witness a large influx of settlers who shall make it their home, securing thereby, if not wealth, at least a certain comfort and an assured future. History repeats itself, Sir, and once the gold fever is over which, anyway, cannot but be temporary, it will be the turn of Manitoba and the North-west Territories to benefit by this movement; and then, with a wise, honest and economical Government, which means a Liberal Government, at the head of the