

CANADA IS PROSPEROUS.

It will be noticed from the public press of the country, from the reports of different Boards of Trade as well as from the hopeful attitude of business men, that Canada has entered upon an era of prosperity, hopeful alike to the political economist and to all who, like the Members of the different Legislatures, have to deal with public affairs. I do not want to entrench upon the domain of Dominion politics or to discuss questions of trade with which the Dominion Parliament is specially charged, yet I think I can be fairly excused if I should take a hopeful view of the financial position of the country, and particularly of the Province of Ontario, which comes more immediately within the supervision of the Treasury Department. It is therefore fitting that I should congratulate the House upon the development of Canadian trade and the vast development of all our industries during the last few years. I shall not enquire into the cause of this development nor into its effect upon the balance sheet either of the Province or of the Dominion. I recognize, with pleasure, that our working men and artisans are, as a rule, more fully employed than in former years, that many of our factories are running over-time and that new markets are being opened all over the world for the produce of our factories, our forests and our farms. The fact that our exports had risen from \$113,638,803 in 1894-5 to \$158,896,905 in 1898-9, and that our imports during the same period of time had risen from \$111,011,682 to \$162,764,308 necessarily calls for a large increase in our banking institutions and all concerned in the transportation of merchandise of every kind. In this way investments made in our railways and our canals have become remunerative, and shipping that was comparatively idle for many years now finds abundant freight.

In regard to the produce of the farm there has been an extraordinary increase in exports in the last ten years. In 1889 we exported of butter 1,780,785 pounds, valued at \$331,958. Last year we exported 20,139,195 pounds, valued at \$3,700,-