

for their triumph, these men, I say, have a right to expect from us, to whatever party we belong, the supreme recognition which is due to nation-builders, some evidence of our gratefulness and admiration. And such is the view taken by us, since we all acknowledge to-day the greatness of the work accomplished in our midst, with such a firm and confident heart, by Sir John Macdonald and Sir George E. Cartier.

Sir, what has the future in reserve for us, and what should be the aim of our further efforts?

Since September 21, 1911, the Conservative Government, supported by the immense majority of the country, have taken in hand the destinies of the nation, and the pace of progress is not any the slower.

I do not propose taking up the time of the House by a consideration of figures which we will be called upon to consider in the course of this session. There are, however, a few points on which I would like to dwell.

Canada's finances are in a most prosperous condition. Our revenue is increasing by leaps and bounds. The figures for the last year, which have just appeared in the blue-book, exceed even our most sanguine expectations. Our receipts from the consolidated fund have reached \$136,108,217.36, and the expenditure on that same account a total of \$96,161,440.77, leaving a surplus of \$37,946,776.59. The expenditure on the capital account amounted, cross entries included, to \$38,980,641.43. If to our surplus receipts, there be added \$1,156,456.16 for the sinking fund, there remains a balance of \$122,591.32 which will go to reduce the national indebtedness.

Wholly by means of our ordinary revenue and without borrowing, we have succeeded, Mr. Speaker, in meeting all expenditure on capital account, and besides we have cut down to a certain extent the national debt. Besides, it is expected that henceforth we shall be in a position to reduce the debt by a still larger amount, through the wise and prudent policy followed by the hon. Minister of Finance.

Sir, a moment ago, I pointed to the development of our trade during the last fiscal year. Let us consider the amount of our imports during the twelve months ended September 30, 1912. They aggregated \$616,842,090, while in 1911, on the same day of the year, they reached \$496,837,471, which means an increase for the year of \$120,004,619, that is to say of \$10,000,000 per month. Customs duties collected in 1912 during the same period amounted to \$102,695,974.76, while in 1911, they had not exceeded \$78,792,125.49. In other words that means a surplus for the public Exchequer of \$23,903,849.27, i.e., in round figures, of \$2,000,000 per month. Such a brilliant state of affairs should prove encouraging to us, and nobody will blame the Government

for bestowing the greatest attention on the trade question.

Sir, in passing allow me to draw the attention of hon. gentlemen to the thorough and successful work which is being carried on in our midst by the hon. Minister of Commerce. Last year he carried through a Bill for the inspection of grain, and provided for a special commission appointed to look after that important interest. The Government have built at Fort William an elevator to be run under their supervision. By means of such legislation and of strict government control, an effective system of inspection is ensured.

The organization of our service of commercial agencies in foreign lands is now an accomplished fact, and we are assured of the co-operation of the British authorities. The Department of Commerce is from day to day in receipt of fuller information. A statistical commission has been appointed for the purpose of re-organizing the various branches, and the department is in hopes of establishing shortly a system of statistics of interprovincial trade which will be of a nature to help considerably our business men. As regards our intercourse with outside countries, the department has already initiated and is still pursuing its policy of reciprocity with the British colonies.

Sir, it would be an easy matter to take up the various departments and to show what work they are doing. Once more, it will be found that equal progress has been accomplished by the Departments of Public Works, Post Office, Interior, Marine, Inland Revenue, etc., concerning which my hon. friend from Kingston will more particularly acquaint the House. Similar activity is apparent everywhere, and everywhere there is a like desire to increase the welfare of the country. As a matter of fact the government have improved the postal service, extended help to the railway companies, induced the House to grant a million dollars towards the improvement of highways, a proposal which for party reasons was rejected last year by the Senate and will be once more submitted to the representatives of the people, providing, as I hope, for a still larger expenditure.

Let me congratulate the Government on the substantial help extended to the farming community through the putting of an amount of a half million dollars at the disposal of the various provinces in aid to agriculture.

That generous deed has not yet given the full results which it is expected to give; but I am confident that such beneficial result will go on increasing for the future welfare of that important class so much in need of encouragement, so as to enable it to overcome the innumerable diffi-