

office savings banks, or a percentage of 34½ per cent — (cheers) ; an increase of 751 in the number of money order offices, or a percentage increase of 57¼ per cent—(cheers) ; and the establishment of the postal note system, and the opening of 4,936 postal note offices as against none under our predecessors' administration. (Cheers) That these increased facilities, accompanied by reduced letter rates and general prosperity, have been in the public interest, enabling the people to make a more liberal use of the postoffice, is also abundantly clear from a comparison of the transactions of 1896 and 1902. Such a comparison shows the following growth :—

An increase of 115,250,947 in the number of letters and other mailable articles carried by mail, being an increase of 68 per cent — (applause) ; an increase of 83,005 in the number of savings bank transactions, being an increase of over 34 per cent. — (cheers) ; an increase of 36,319 in the number of savings bank accounts, being an increase of over 28 per cent. ; an increase of 286,342 in the number of money orders issued, being an increase of over 25 per cent. ; an increase of \$8,802,906 in the value of the money orders issued, being an increase of 67 per cent — (cheers) ; the issue of 1,012,026 postal notes of the value of \$1,702,296 in 1902, as against none in 1896—(cheers)—and adding together the money order and postal note business of 1902, we find the total sum to be \$23,587,065, being an increase of \$13,081,861 over remittances of 1896, or a percentage increase of 80 per cent. (Cheers)

Previous Maladministration.

Gentlemen, *these increases speak for themselves*, and are respectfully submitted for the careful consideration of those gentlemen who, for the last six years, have described us as an "aggregation of incapables." But perhaps you may desire to know at what cost to the country have these results been achieved. Permit me, then, to inform you. As you are aware, the revenue of the Postoffice Department *has heretofore always failed* to meet the expenditure, and each year the deficiency has to be made up by a vote of Parliament out of the moneys collected from the people. During the last few years of the late Administration the annual shortage increased until it had reached over three-quarters of a million dollars a year, the deficiency for the last year of their administration, the fatal year of 1896, amounting to *no less a sum than \$781,152.19*; in other words, the financial result of their management of the Postoffice Department was that after expending in its maintenance every single dollar of revenue, there remained *debts unpaid amounting to \$781,152.19*, which Parliament had to provide by voting the amount out of the general taxes of the people. During this time it may be remembered also that *they* collected from the people five cents per half ounce on letters to the old country, and three cents on letters within Canada and to the United States, rates reduced by the present Government to two cents. Time and again the late Administration had been urged to reduce our domestic letter rate to two cents, but they invariably refused most emphatically, prophesying disastrous results should such a mistake be made.