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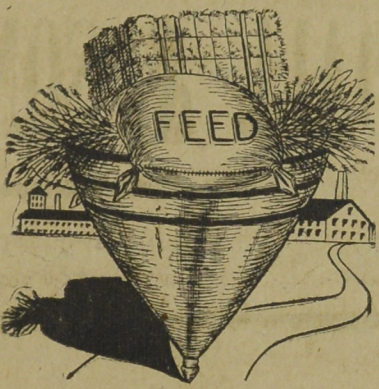
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OTTAWA LETTER

Brilliant Liberal Record, Pre-Election promises Kept

A Few things Inumerated upon which Claim is based for future Confidence--List of Administrative Deeds.

Torys Brought Canada to Brink of Commercial Ruin--
Tories gave away Millions of Acres as Bonus to Monopolists

TAKE YOUR CHOICE

The Conservatives, after eighteen years of misrule, during which Canada was burdened with an increase to the public debt of \$118,135,363 were turned out of office in 1896 by an indignant and outraged people.

The Liberals were then entrusted with the administration of government, having made pre-election promises satisfactory to the electorate--these promises have been rigidly performed as is shown by the fact that upon every occasion of an appeal to the people since 1904 the government candidate has been returned. The Liberals since coming into power have added nothing to the public debt, but have accumulated an aggregate surplus of over \$90,000,000.

(Special correspondence to the Fredericton Daily Herald.)

OTTAWA, Ontario, November 16.—The test of political merit is the prosperity that waits on the people. Under Liberal rule the record from 1896 to date has been marked by a degree of prosperity and material progress never before known in Canada. The farmers have never been so well to do, never so successful and never so contented; the manufacturers have never been so busy and prosperous; never were working men so much in demand, never did they get better wages.

GREAT DEEDS DONE.

The manner in which the great west has been opened up is a monument to the sagacity of the government, and the results a marvel of the century. The land and water transportation problems of Canada have been solved in the interests of the Dominion as a whole. The National Transcontinental Railway, to build which the government received a direct mandate from the people, is being rapidly pushed to completion, and very shortly Canada will have another line of railway stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The finances of the country have been so ably and economically administered that each year of Liberal rule has found the debts of the country promptly discharged, no new debts created, and a handsome surplus remaining. Lower tariffs, producing a greater revenue, has been less burdensome to the people and accomplished the purpose for which it was designed. The Post Office Department has been managed in a business-like manner, resulting in a surplus for the first time in the history of the country. Every department of the government has been conducted upon business principles, in which honesty and economy have become apparent in the satisfactory results secured.

WHAT ELECTORS DEMAND

What does the average elector require of a government?

1. To do everything possible to promote the prosperity and welfare of the whole people.

2. To administer public affairs economically and honestly, to tax the people equitably and fairly, but not unduly.

3. To develop the resources of the country on sound principles, and to that end to promote immigration, and to provide transportation facilities.

HAVE LIBERALS MADE GOOD?

It is admitted--the condition of the country proves it--that the Liberals have given Canada the best government since Confederation. Nothing has been left undone that would tend to promote the prosperity and welfare of the people.

It cannot be successfully denied that public affairs have been administered with economy, having due regard to a proper performance of the public service.

It is an incontrovertible fact that under Liberal policy the taxes have been diminished and the revenue has been increased in startling contrast to Conservative days when the very contrary was the case. For under the Tory administration taxes were increased and revenue was reduced.

MISERABLE TORY PERFORMANCE.

Debt, ever increasing debt, was the lot of the Conservative government. Not having the intelligence to manage affairs so as to make both ends meet they resorted to the device of the gambler and profligate, money was borrowed, and the Liberals succeeded to this legacy of debt. Conservatives today accuse the Liberals of great expenditures, they forget the country has advanced under Liberal auspices, that the expenses are greater, the needs greater. They also forget that the Liberals have the money to spend. Mr. Fielding, finance minister, speaking on this phase of the subject said:

"The lesser sum our predecessors expended was extravagance, because they did not have it to expend; the larger sum we have expended is economy, because we have lived within our means."

LIBERALS' BRILLIANT DEEDS.

The resources of the country have

been developed by the exercise of an intelligence and grasp of Canada's possibilities not possessed by the Conservatives, who had equal opportunities, but who for eighteen years carried on a government that was conspicuous by its lack of ability to grasp great public questions, and was best known by its attempts to purchase the votes of the people by bartering public works in exchange for political support.

The present government has promoted immigration to a remarkable extent, and is today engaged in providing transportation facilities in response to the expressed will of the people, and in the carrying out of its own pre-election pledges.

The Liberals have striven at all times to promote harmonious relations between the various elements of the population. It has been the aim of Conservatives to disturb this harmony and raise up race and religious prejudices, and create discord whenever such a course would appear to serve some political end.

The average elector would be satisfied that his requirements have been met by the Liberal government and that everything that goes to promote national growth, and the prosperity of the people has been contributed to with a lavish hand by the government of the day.

COMPARE RECORDS.

The condition of the public debt is a good indication of the measure of prosperity enjoyed by the people. The public debt in 1896, after the Conservatives had been in office eighteen years was \$258,497,432. When they assumed power in 1896, the public debt was \$140,362,069, so that in eighteen years they added to the burdens of the people the sum of \$118,135,363, equivalent to an average of about six and a half millions per annum. During eleven years of Liberal rule there has positively been no addition to the public debt, but surpluses have been created amounting to over \$90,000,000.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier once said while speaking at Toronto, that it was not necessary to quote a long array of figures to prove the prosperity of the country, for, said he: "You will feel the jingle of prosperity in your pockets." This prophesy has been remarkably fulfilled, for that the Canadian people have felt the jingle of prosperity in their pockets is everywhere acknowledged.

TRADE RETURNS ANALYZED

The total trade of the country in 1896, after the Conservatives had bungled things for eighteen years, kept the people poor by excessive taxation and debared our manufacturers from foreign markets militated against the exportation of farm produce, was \$224,420,485. Compare this with the total trade of Canada for the year ending August 1907, which amounts to \$640,338,157, an increase of \$73,725,729 over the previous twelve months.

The trade policy of the government was condemned in unmeasured terms by the Conservatives. Stung into recriminations when they observed the Liberals casting off the worn-out methods which had been so abortive of good results, and applying intelligent principles of political economy, promised in the new and enlightened policy which was to govern public affairs from the time the Liberals assumed office. The Conservatives could but scoff and sneer. Said Sir Charles Tupper, "One universal wail of anguish from the manufacturers would resound from earth to heaven." There was no wail of anguish but a tribute of praise and thankfulness that the commercial interests of the country had been redeemed from bankruptcy, and the electors of Canada cannot do better than digest the figures given above and then render a verdict and pronounce upon the relative merits of the two parties.

PUBLIC WORKS CONSTRUCTED.

The Liberals have been charged with neglecting public works, and the Conservatives claim credit for great activity in this regard. What are the facts? In addition to the construction of additions to the Trent canal and the building of the great Kirkfield lift lock, the Department of Public Works has pursued a most vigorous course with the object of cheapening and facilitating transportation between the great Northwest and the Canadian Atlantic seaboard. Special and energetic attention was directed towards the following improvements:

1. The harbors on Lake Superior where the western grain is delivered by the railways and stored for distribution.

2. The harbors for trans-shipment in Ontario.

3. The lines of routes between the Province of Ontario and Montreal and other eastern points, both by rail and water.

4. The harbors for receiving, storing and shipment for the ocean voyage.

5. The River St. Lawrence ship channel, Montreal and Quebec, to the sea (night and day).

The general idea has been to create divers avenues through which would flow into the St. Lawrence as the main artery not only the products of the great Northwest, but also the products of part of the Western American States.

To accomplish this additional depth of water was provided at the lake harbors. Dredging has been done at Depot Harbor, Collingwood, Goderich, Owen Sound, Meaford, Sault Ste Marie, Sarnia, and other places, and at some of them wharves and breakwaters have been constructed. Perhaps the most important work of this description consistently carried on by the present government was the improvement of the St. Lawrence ship channel. The old-fashioned plant of the Conservative government, utterly useless to accomplish anything in this generation, was thrown aside by the Liberal government and powerful modern dredges were built to do the work, and the result is seen today in the magnificent deep chan-

nel, well buoyed and lighted, which is the delight and safety of shipping interests.

POOR NOT NEGLECTED.

The transportation facilities in respect of what might be termed purely local and domestic trade has been greatly improved. In the Maritime Provinces particularly the greatest attention has been paid to the needs of those people who subsist by the fishing industry. Each time money was voted for a wharf in Nova Scotia which would alleviate the condition of the fishermen, the Conservatives would raise every objection possible. The Liberal government, while doing what was necessary with regard to important public works, has not been unmindful of the poor man, and his interests have not been neglected, but his welfare has been thoughtfully considered. It can be truthfully said that a most vigorous and progressive policy has been pursued by the government in the direction of improving aids to navigation.

CANAL TOLLS ABOLISHED.

In order to facilitate lake shipping the government tolls on vessels passing through the canals have been abolished. This was a great boon to Canadian shipping interests, and, judging by results, it appears to have been just what was necessary to turn the tide of the grain carrying trade through Canadian channels. The St. Lawrence route is patronized to a much greater extent than ever before. Canada is more and more handling American export grain, thereby being a difference of grain rates of several cents a bushel in favor of the Canadian lake and canal route. Thus does a progressive government create favorable commercial conditions from which the people as a whole receive the benefit.

WELL MANAGED POST OFFICE.

The management of the Post Office Department affords a striking instance of intelligent administration under Liberal methods as compared to the slipshod manner in which business was conducted in Conservative times. In 1896, the last year of Conservative rule, this department was run at a loss of \$781,152. Last year, under Liberal rule, there was a surplus of over a million dollars--after the establishment of hundreds of additional post offices. In addition it may also be said to the credit of the government that the postal rates have been greatly reduced, a boon for which the people are grateful.

PRESERVING PUBLIC DOMAIN.

The policy of the Liberals to preserve the public domain for the settler is too well known to be enlarged upon, but it is interesting in this connection to remind the people that the Conservatives voted as subsidies to railroads no less than 56,087,072 acres. These are the people who accuse the government of alienating the public lands and favoring the speculator at the expense of the settler.

TORIES MADE SETTLERS SUFFER.

As a matter of fact the lands alienated by the Conservatives were naturally selected along the right of way of the various railroads and were consequently of greater value (in respect to transportation of products) to the settler who was compelled to buy from the corporation at a high figure the land which he would otherwise be entitled to take up free as a homestead. This is the manner in which the Conservative government protected the homeseeker in the west, by forcing him to buy from the railroad, or locate so far from the line that it became of no service to him. What will the people think of the men who cry "the land for the settler" when they compelled the settler to buy from the corporations at a high figure land which the corporations secured for nothing?

If the settler is compelled to pay a high price for his land he owes it to a Conservative government, which frittered away their heritage of the homeseeker. The evils of land bonus to wealthy monopolists must be laid to the Conservatives, and if the west suffers today in having land adapted to agriculture held at prohibitive prices, the blame must be placed where it belongs.

The Liberal government, appreciating that railways are necessary to the development of new territory, extended assistance by paying a cash subsidy upon which interest was charged, thus the subsidy became drastically a loan. The Liberal government imposed other conditions with respect to rates charged the government upon all subsidized railroads which affected a great saving each year. Had this policy been adopted by the Conservatives in the early history of railroad building, many millions of dollars a year of the people's money would have been saved.

PRE-ELECTION PROMISES KEPT

To make even a short allusion to all the good things accomplished by the Liberal government since 1896 is quite impossible in a short article. It may be said with truth that what the Liberals promised before the elections in 1896 and before every general election since, has been more than performed. That the people believe this is proved in the results of the bye-elections. The government has lost but one seat, London, and in that case no Liberal candidate was nominated. The Conservatives have not been so fortunate, they have steadily lost the slight hold they had on the public confidence.

FUTURE SAFE WITH LIBERALS.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier put the case well when he said the Liberals had not been imitators, had not walked in beaten paths, but had framed a policy to meet difficulties as they arose, a policy suited to the condition and the time. As it has been in the past so it will be in the future. The Liberal government will face every difficulty; meet every problem as it arises, and solve it in the best interests of the Canadian people.

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