

Thompson or both or the whole Government for breaking away from the tradition of giving portfolios to men long passed their prime, so that we have had candidates for Cabinets who might as appropriately have been candidates for coffins. (laughter.) I mean to say there has been too much timidity in all governments, though the pessimism of the Liberal party, rises so vast that it might cast gloom and chill over even heroic spirits. The Grit party never believed in the North-West. But why should their unbelief be allowed to discount the faith of that great Conservative party which is instinct with national aims? Every word Mr. Ross has said to you of the ignorance of this country, want of faith in this country especially among the Opposition is true; and our friends are too much afraid of the poor, penurious, pusillanimous, peddling, pea-shooting criticism—the McMullen artillery they have to face, (laughter.) Let such shoot away, but let us keep our eye on the beacon fires of progress which illuminate the future and light up this western sky and go right on. (Cheers.)

But I forget I am speaking for the Parliament of Canada. I am an advocate. You know I was trained as a lawyer. But I seem to have forgotten the traditions of any profession. Well I have lately not been much with lawyers. As I grow older I grow better and I choose my company. (laughter.) Well then speaking for the Parliament of Canada I thank you on its behalf—and I can assure you it would be hard for you to do anything more pleasing to that Parliament than to banquet one of its most popular members. That Parliament has the grandest opportunities of almost any Parliament of which history offers a record. I am not sure that we always rise to the height of the great argument of Canada's possibilities. There is sometimes a want of breadth one would fain not

see. Many of us seem to have no higher idea of our great opportunities and responsibilities than to pass from year to year like shadows into those legislative halls, and sit there like phantoms of men, and like phantoms pass traceless away. To a few are given opportunities of being something more than shadows and my honorable friend—about whom indeed as I look at him at this moment there is nothing shadowy or phantasmal—(laughter)—has now entered the ranks of these and I hope and believe he will yet belong to that still smaller and selecter band, who rising above the amug enjoyment of what is called a title and a stipend too large by hundreds per cent. if they are unworthy; too small by equal ratios if they are worthy and fit, leave behind them deeds which will constrain the historian in distant years to pause, rub the dust of time from their forgotten graves, and say, here was a man, who in his day did that for Canada which entitles him to honorable mention on that scroll on which nations inscribe the names of their benefactors. (Cheers.)

Still no doubt much good work is done by all though the pulsing song of the lark of broader mornings may strike the tympanums of but a few. Our people themselves are somewhat wanting. Canadians themselves are not conscious of Canada's greatness and Canada's future; but how can we—we who know the west, who stand here, who know what has been done in the last ten years, and who know also what might have been done, fail to realize that the portals of time have been thrown open to admit a new member into the family of nations? And depend on this in this great western land—in this great British colony we are destined to evolve a better type of man, a better kind of nation and that even a deeper and more expansive art than the world has yet seen will here call mankind to still higher things. (Great cheering.)

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