

## THE COMING ELECTIONS.

## WHY THE OPPOSITION WILL WIN.

By A LIBERAL-CONSERVATIVE.

I AM a Canadian, loyal to the empire. I desire to see Canada prosperous and progressive, and to see the mother country and her colonies drawn ever closer in the bonds of mutual sympathy.

I support the Conservative party because of the splendid fruits of their past policy, carried out in the face of constant and sometimes obstructive opposition on the part of the Liberal leaders. I support them because they had a definite and progressive policy, and consistently and steadily pursued it—and have not abandoned it now that they are in opposition. I believe they have represented and still represent the best thought of Canada, and are best qualified to carry out the policy of Canadian development and imperial unity.

Some five years ago there began a period of what we call good times. The whole world shared in it. It was marked by a wonderful expansion of industry and commerce. Demand increased and prices advanced. No such period of prosperity had been known for many years in America and Europe.

Canada shared in this prosperity. Why? Because for eighteen years the policy of the Liberal-Conservative party had been building up her industries, providing her with lines of communication by land and lake and river and ocean, and so developing her resources that when her products were needed at high prices in the world's markets she had them to ship, and had the facilities for shipping them. And she also had the factories to manufacture the goods which her own people were able to purchase at high prices with the money paid for the agricultural and other products.

If the Liberal government have any claim upon the people for support, it must be on their record during the past four years, viewed in the light of their former professions. Does anyone pretend to say that they have kept their pledges with regard to the tariff, reciprocity with the United States, reduction of the public debt, the public expenditure or the volume of taxation? The records speak for themselves. We still have a protective tariff, we have not reciprocity, we have a larger debt, larger expenditure and a larger volume of taxation. Therefore the Liberal leaders are pledge breakers. Is pledge breaking to be condoned and applauded?

The liberal conservative party, at the time they went out of power, were moving

steadily toward a fast Atlantic service, and preferential trade within the empire. The liberal government have not given the country the fast Atlantic service, and instead of advancing the prospects for preferential trade have told the people of the mother country that we do not want for our products any preference in the British market. The liberals first promised to secure a real preferential tariff; then Sir Wilfrid Laurier told the English people we did not want it; then his government got an act passed giving a preference to more than a score of countries; later this was limited to British countries and still later the preference was increased. But it gave the Canadian producer no better market, and under it our trade with England has not increased as rapidly as our trade with the United States. No act of this government has built up Canadian industry or given the Canadian producer a better market than he had before. And they killed, for the time being, the fast Atlantic steamship project.

The government tried to force through parliament the Yukon tramway bill. It was an outrageous bargain. The Senate threw it out and it was never resurrected. But for the Senate the Drummond Counties and Grand Trunk deals would have cost the country several millions more than they did—and they cost too much as it was. The Crow's Nest railway cost about \$2,000,000 more than the conservative government had arranged to have it built for. In the matter of the prohibition plebiscite the money was wasted, and the government did not keep faith with the people. Charges of the gravest character against the administration of affairs in the Yukon have been made, and every returning miner confirms them. The government have refused a full and fair enquiry. The grossest crimes have been committed in election contests in Ontario. The government have succeeded in blocking the investigation until after the elections. Men have been dismissed from the public service on the charge of partisanship, without any investigation, despite the distinct pledge of the premier that it would not be done. Public contracts have been given without tender to men who were not in the business, and who farmed out the work and pocketed their profits.

These are not baseless charges. The records show that they are true. It is not claimed that the conservative party in power was above reproach. It is claimed and can be maintained that the conserva-

tives were more mindful of the public welfare, less extravagant, and their administration marked by greater honesty than has been observed in the departments of Mr. Tarte, Mr. Sifton and Mr. Blair. All this is to be remembered in connection with the pledges of economy and purity made by the liberals before they went into power.

When the South African war began, Canada had an opportunity to show that her loyalty to the empire was the same in war as in peace. Because a Liberal government was in power, with Sir Wilfrid Laurier at its head and Mr. Tarte as its leading spirit, Canada, despite the angry protests of loyal citizens both Liberal and Conservative, was behind the other colonies in offering a contingent. But after it was decided to send a contingent the government could make a scandalous contract with Dr. Devlin for a supply of "emergency rations" which were utterly worthless, and which every returning soldier declares were worthless. Even the men who offered their lives for the empire could not be exempt from the operation of the spoils system. Canada was humiliated by the government's delay in the first place, and then disgraced by the scandal of the emergency rations.

Moreover, Mr. Tarte talks of Canadian independence, and his friends Bourassa, Monet, *et al*, go about denouncing Canada's participation in England's wars. These gentlemen have a perfect right to their opinions, but can Canada afford to have a government in power which takes these men to its bosom? Mr. Bourassa resigned his seat as a protest against sending a contingent. He was not opposed by the government, but was re-elected, and is hailed as a worthy supporter of Mr. Tarte, who took pains to praise him publicly in Paris last June.

The liberal government have failed to represent the aspirations of the Canadian people. They ought to be defeated and give place to the party whose policy now as in former years is in the best interests of Canada and the empire. The liberal ministers have shown that they are less capable, less sincere and less truly Canadian and British than the liberal-conservative leaders. They have not reduced the cost of living or developed any policy that makes it easier for the working man to earn a living. They did not take advantage of an era of good times to reduce the debt or the volume of taxation, but increased both. They have been tried and found wanting. Let us get back to first principles and to the men and the policy that made Canada a nation.