

try must be opened up. We must encourage the construction of those lines which are necessary to develop the country. All these things have to be carried on, and it is well that the government should encourage them, and I am glad to know that they are doing so. I simply rose to make a few remarks in reply to the hon. leader of the opposition. I thought he trampled a little roughly on the toes of the Reformers in his criticism of what he was disposed to call the wickedness of London. We join in regretting that anything of the kind ever took place, and we earnestly hope now, from the feeling exhibited on that side of the House, from the admissions made by the minister, the frank statement made by the hon. Secretary of State, that we have reached a condition when the heads of the wisest of our politicians in this country will be put together, and that they will pass a law that will prevent the repetition of such things, that they will not tolerate the existence of doings, which have been a disgrace to this country, which would ruin the liberties of a righteous people and bring us down to a position which would be discreditable to ourselves and unworthy of true Canadians and men that claim to inherit the best traditions of the British nation.

Hon. Mr. COFFEY—At the risk of undue reiteration, I too wish to say that it is pleasant to note that Canada's onward march on the road of prosperity still continues. We may divide on many lines. We may belong to different races and creeds and colours, but the whole people of this favoured country wear the sunny smile which betokens happiness and prosperity and a trusting faith in a future fraught with promise the like of which has seldom been the portion of any other section of the world.

The people of Canada have an abiding faith in their rich inheritance. To the world it has been proclaimed, and the echo comes in the shape of brain and brawn which will help materially to lay the foundations of this magnificent temple of freedom and happiness broad and deep and strong.

We may rejoice in the newer Canada. We may feel proud on beholding now the splendid proportions of the Canada

which was in its cradle ten years ago. Rapid indeed has been its growth and strength and power and promise are its attributes. It has been the custom of some to attribute this most gratifying condition to Providence, to chance, or to conditions beyond the ken of the far-seeing and beyond the control of man.

While we may very properly have an abiding faith in Providence, and it is meet we should be so disposed, the fact still remains that a country whose affairs are wisely administered will surely forge ahead of that which is handicapped because of a disposition to let the cobwebs remain and allow the spiders to pursue their avocation undisturbed.

The newer Canada—the Canada whose course has been steered surely in the channel of prosperity by the great mind of Quebec's favoured son—Sir Wilfrid Laurier—has become to us and to the universe a revelation to be admired.

The fame of Canada should be a sacred trust in the breast of every Canadian, and it is to be deplored that at times—few, but still too many—the party pen is dipped in gall, the party tongue is bitter, and statements are made which have little or no foundation in fact, but which, spread broadcast, sully the good repute of our country.

Far be from me to condone or extenuate wrong-doing, but let there be legitimate ground for complaint and action before complaint is made and action sought to be taken.

I have in mind now the many charges hurled at the leader and some of the members who sit at the right of the Speaker in the other House.

Attempts have been made to unearth that which does not exist and to magnify matters which are but mere trifles. This strenuous straining to make political points at the sacrifice of fair play is very much to be deplored. It is a waste of valuable time, and, what is worse, tends to cast odium upon honourable men who come to Ottawa standing high in the confidence of their constituents.

Last session became a fishing season. Some good men and true—and others—spent much of their time with rod and line and tempting bait, but when the close season came they found they had caught nothing.