

policy, they paralyzed the trade of the country, drove hundreds of thousands of our own people away from their own land, depreciated the value of farm and other property, reduced the demand for labor and the wages of the workman and created a feeling of despondency throughout the country. In Opposition they have opposed the remedies which we have applied with some measure of success to the unfortunate evils with which they have afflicted the country, and even to-day in their blindness they still threaten, if given an opportunity, to undo our work and relegate Canada to the position into which they had succeeded in plunging her when we were summoned by the people to her rescue. (Applause.) Mr. Chairman judging from your applause it is clear that you endorse my statement that the day when Sir Wilfrid Laurier took command was Canada's brightest red-letter day. (Cheers.) No wonder our opponents are out of touch with the electors, who prefer peace and prosperity to discord and depression. No wonder that things have gone badly with them for the last six years, are now going from bad to worse, and that it looks as if after our next general engagement with them three years hence the Tory Opposition at Ottawa will be as extinct as the dodo—(laughter)—and for the same excellent and sufficient reason, that in these modern and progressive times, which furnish so many examples of the doctrine of survival of the fittest, no useful purpose seems likely to be served by their further existence. (Laughter.)

A Progressive Government.

As for the record of the Government, it is made up of records of the various departments. With your permission, I will for a few moments deal with the two departments under my charge—the Postoffice Department and the Department of Labor. (Applause.)

As to the Postoffice Department, you will agree with me, I think, that it is the duty of the State to be *liberal and progressive* in extending postal services amongst the people. This is the view that as Postmaster-General I have ever endeavored to live up to, with what success you may judge from the figures which I now purpose to give you, showing the state of the services for the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1896, being the last year of the late Administration, and also for the fiscal year closing June 30th, 1902. Our predecessors maintained no services in the Yukon and Athin districts, and for the sake of a true comparison between the administration of the department by the late Government and the present one, all postal matters connected with the Yukon and Athin are left out of consideration in the figures and observations which I am about to submit to you.

Growth of Postal Service.

Comparing, then, the administration of the department in 1896 and 1902, there has been the following extension in the service:—An increase of 844 in the number of postoffices—(cheers)—an increase of 4,461,109 miles in the mileage that the mails have been carried—(cheers)—or a percentage increase of $14\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.; an increase of 260 in the number of post-