

or has endeavored to persuade others, that if you will depart from a sound rule for his sake, your chances of success will be improved. Let me say, that if that success could be made absolutely certain, it would be altogether too dearly purchased by such a course, because it is purchased by causing the public to distrust your honesty ; and secondly, because in doing so, you weaken the confidence of men with whom moral considerations are paramount, and who would otherwise, on this ground alone, have supported you. I trust, therefore, when we are called upon to deal with this subject we shall do so thoroughly, and by parliament alone, without any extrinsic aid, and without deviating a hair's breadth from the principle to which we are committed, and to which, and not to any caricature of it, the public sanction has been given. This is practical politics in the best sense, because it is the honest course to take. I trust that the representation will be made perfectly fair and perfectly just, and that it shall not be given to any others than those to whom it rightfully belongs.

It is little short of monstrous to adopt any other rule, and it will be the duty of the electorate of the country to see that those principles for which the Liberal party have long contended, which the country has in two successive elections sanctioned, are carried into effect according to their true intent and meaning. I have said now, gentlemen, all I propose saying on this subject of redistribution at the present time. I have only called your attention to the abuse, and to the remedy which Reformers have long advocated, and it is for you to see that the redress given is fair and honest, and that for which we have long contended, and not something altogether different—a caricature or that which the country had a right to expect.

Territorially Canada is one of the most extensive countries in Christendom, and it is our business to make it, so far as we can, in wealth and in population, commensurate with its territorial dimensions. The problem is one of great importance, and it ought to receive the most serious consideration at the hands of the people and their representatives. We have in Canada great resources which require development. We have to consider how this development can best be promoted, how our mines can be made most productive, and our fertile lands to yield the largest amount of food for those who occupy them, and for the markets of the United Kingdom.