

say, and I can most sincerely say, that my sole desire is to see Canada well and quietly governed, in accordance with the national interest and with the national honor. I care nothing for fancy names or for historic reminiscences. The Double-Shuffle took place before my time. Whoever manages our affairs tolerably well and keeps the path of rectitude, will have, not my servile devotion, but my cordial support. I am just the reverse of the Irishman, who said that whatever the government was, he was against it. I acquiesced in the rule of the Conservatives till they did what in the judgment of the best men of their own party was contrary to public morality and to the highest interests of the nation. I acquiesce in the rule of the present Ministers provided they will preserve their independence and the independence of the country. I have seen too much of the lives which statesmen lead and the difficulties with which they have to contend under the party system to be captious in criticizing their actions or to add to their embarrassments. Whatever time I have had to spare from my ordinary