

Liberals, like Hons. Eli Dawe and J. A. Clift, and noisy politicians whose ideas of politics are comprised in the unbridled abuse of political opponents.

There we see men who warmly advocated the great Railway policy of 1898 in superficial harmony with those who have denounced them in all the moods and tenses of the vocabularies of Webster and Billingsgate.

On the streets and in the clubs the one element denounces the other in terms that leave no question as to the sincerity of the mutual dislike and distrust; but at the cracking of the master's whip these elements vie with each other in rendering prompt and unquestioning obedience. Theirs not to reason why. Theirs but to do as their master declares.

The cement which temporarily but insecurely holds together the sections of the moribund Bond party, is neither loyalty nor policy in the true sense of the word. It is that kind of policy which is known as expediency, the object of which is pull, patronage, and offices of emolument, first, last and all the time.

When in last July Sir Edward Morris left the Cabinet, he took with him not merely the brains of the party, but also the only power which existed amongst it whereby disaster to the Colony could be minimized,—we cannot say averted, for not even his restraining and warning influence was sufficient to prevent those crass stupidities and monumental blunders as have followed each other in rapid and inglorious succession during the past eight years. Even a Sandow may be bound by Lilliputians if their numbers are sufficiently great.

It was with a sense of profound sorrow that the Conservative party recognized that the resignation of their beloved and honored leader, the Hon. Charles Dawe, was inevitable.

When all too soon that resignation was announced, it was reluctantly accepted by those who would willingly and cheerfully have fought, whether to victory or defeat, under his unsullied banner.

It will be remembered that on that occasion the retiring leader wrote a letter which must always rank high amongst the most manly utterances of the world's leaders of men. He urged unity of action amongst those opposed to the Government, and with a magnanimity and high sense of honor and duty all too rare, tendered his warm support actively, if renewed health permitted, to a united party's choice of a successor.

When the House opened this year two Opposition sections sat on the Speaker's right, the old Conservative Opposition formerly led by Captain Dawe, and the Independent Liberals with whom Sir Edward Morris allied himself.

During the session both sections did yeomen's services. They probed deeply into the festering wounds of the body politic, and again and again exposed the corruption and the rank incapacity of an administration, which has won notoriety for its fads and failures, and its utter disregard for the rights of the people.

It was in the course of the session that the old time Conservatives approached Sir Edward Morris with the request that he would erect a leader's banner around which all might rally, and pledged to him their support and loyalty.

Many men would have readily availed of the opportunity. Not so Sir Edward Morris. He preferred to wait for the assurance not only of the support of the individual members of the Opposition in the House, but also of those prominent supporters of the Opposition who had been active in the struggle of the past, and of the great army of Liberals who followed him in July last, when Premier Bond's attempt to prevent