

The Conservative party which dilly-dallied in an out-of-date policy and sterile criticism, now change their plans simply for election purposes. On the other hand the Liberals are but adhering to a policy which they have always advocated and from which Canada has largely benefited.

Political history tells us that the Liberals were able to apply protection in a more practical way than the Conservatives who, for half a century, boast of having given it birth. The present Liberal government continues to carry out the beneficial policy adopted by the Laurier administration which gave Canada fifteen years of great prosperity.

The Conservatives by more or less adopting the Liberal policy, acknowledge the excellent bases of this policy which demands rather a wider protection than a higher one, thus benefiting all classes in this country and not only a few favoured and privileged groups.

Some hon. MEMBERS (Translation): Hear, hear!

Mr. PREVOST (Translation): The same may be said, Sir, with regard to the important problem of transportation. For the maritime provinces as well as for the western provinces and centre ones, what can the Conservative party suggest which the Liberals have not already accomplished or begun?

Without gainsay, transportation is one of the most important political questions.

Since the Liberals are at the helm of the country's affairs, they have given close attention to this question and have made an effort to solve these difficulties with which it is surrounded.

The freight rates from east to west and west to east, the famous agreement of the Crowsnest pass, the transportation of our enormous crops from the west to Canadian ports, the interests of the ports of Quebec and maritime provinces threatened by too high freight rates, all these aspects of a complex question, where various interests come in conflict, have been closely studied by the King government.

Since the Liberals have assumed power, excellent reforms have taken place in the freight rates affecting the maritime provinces, as well as the western and centre provinces. A solution has not yet been found for all the difficulties which unavoidably beset a system of transportation across a country as vast as ours. However, we are on the path which leads to a complete solution of this difficult problem.

The country is indebted to the Liberal government for the efforts made in order to improve conditions and for the excellent results already obtained.

[Mr. Prevost.]

Wishing to foster in this country union and peace, without which a true national spirit cannot exist, the King government listened with an open mind to the complaints and grievances which rose from the various parts of the Dominion. Defying prejudices, so easily roused by opponents, and influences of powerful organizations which attempt to enslave Canadian politics to their egotistical interests, the Liberal government turned towards the east and west to render them justice each in their turn.

The Conservatives, naturally, highly criticized the Liberal government. But what do they intend doing to solve the transportation problem? The resolutions of the Winnipeg convention apprise us that on the transportation question, as well as that on tariff, the Conservatives are quite satisfied in rallying themselves to the Liberal policy.

Is the west concerned? The convention asserts that the Conservative party pledges itself to maintain as a maximum the present freight rates on grains and their products. When it is a question of the maritime provinces. The convention asserts that the Conservatives "approve and pledge themselves, when they return to power, to put into force legislation which will carry out the Duncan report." Now, as everybody knows, it is exactly what the King government is doing.

Is it a question of the Canadian ports? The convention asserts "that the policy of the Conservative party is to promote, through Canadian ports, the transit of Canadian products and imported goods for the use of Canadians." This, as we all know, is the policy put into practice by the King government. In fact, by reducing the freight rates, it favours the ports of Quebec and those of the Maritime provinces; moreover, it has lowered the customs duties on goods entering the country through Canadian ports.

Is it to the Hudson Bay railway that reference is made? The convention asserts, that the Conservative party pledges itself to complete it without delay and build a terminus and suitable port."

Is it a question of the national railways? The convention asserts "that the Conservative party pledges itself to keep the national railway system free from political influences." Well, that is acknowledging and approving what was done by the Liberal government which placed the management of this railway system in the hands of a highly competent man, and who, free from all political ties, has made it a great success.

So far as the transportation problem and the tariff are concerned, the Conservative party sails in the same boat as the Liberal party.