

wherein the bees of agriculture and of industry turn out the honey of welfare and prosperity, in the presence of that striking metamorphosis of our national life, after giving free vent to the admiration and joy with which my heart overflows, I feel the need of investigating, and I investigate, the causes of such a sudden and thorough transformation.

Where, Sir, is the magic wand which has effected this prodigy? With my hon. friends on the other side of the House, I notice in the first place the action of Divine Providence. I agree with them that Providence which has watched over the cradle of our infant nation, watches over its growth and development and visibly takes it by the hand on the road that leads up to the great future which is in store for it. But Providence, which existed previous to 1896, had not waited till then to show its beneficent and protecting hand. There must then be other causes for that marvellous progress; and in accord, once more, with all the hon. members of this House, I may point out the characteristic qualities of all the races which inhabit this Dominion, viz.: activity, thrift, private enterprise and energy together with the clearest conception of fellowship, imagination and passion tempered by reason; the daring spirit which makes for progress combined with the notion of present needs; lastly, a practical turn of mind along with a love of the ideal, and above all,—and that is indispensable in our country,—union and peace among the various nationalities, happy to work together towards the upbuilding of a great, happy and prosperous nation. Add to those various qualities, the development of education throughout the body social, whereby the humblest as well as the greatest, the poorest as well as the richest, are enabled to draw on the treasures of energy and ability that constitute the intellectual heritage of the Canadian people. Therein is to be found, no doubt, one of the main causes of national prosperity.

There is still another cause, and at the risk of drawing both a denial from some of our friends on the opposite side, I shall mention the wise and progressive management of the Liberal government. While our opponents, wrecked by the people's will on the desolate shores of opposition, retained those cut and dried notions and indefinite theories from which the country had suffered so much, the leaders of our great party entrusted with the management of public affairs introduced and pursued a sound policy, founded on a clear perception of the needs of the various classes. Once in power, the members of the Liberal party judged that they were bound to exercise that power for the benefit of the people who had entrusted them with it. They judged that above mean party cravings, above sectional disputes, there should be a na-

tional programme, a work of material and social reformation, the carrying out of which required the co-operation of all people of good will and of all talents.

Agriculture was waning; the Canadian Sully, our clear-sighted minister of Agriculture, enacted in its behalf measures destined to help in a large measure its progress. Inbued with that patriotic idea that farming constitutes in this country the principal source of public wealth, this same minister, through the establishment of a complete chain of cold storage, favoured the sale of our dairy products on the European markets, found new openings for other agricultural products and thus ensured to our farming community an era of progress the beneficent effects of which they feel.

The new trend imparted to our fiscal policy by the hon. the Minister of Finance, by interfering with monopolies, left, however, large manufacturers in a position to reap fair profits. Small industries were threatened with extinction in the weakening atmosphere of excessive protection; through a wise modification of the tariff, possibilities hitherto unforeseen were offered to them, with a wider range under the sun of competition and liberty than trusts had been willing to allow them.

Under the Conservative rule the working-man was at the mercy of these trusts; the Liberal government ensured him fairer wages and better protection in cases of unfair dealing on the part of the employer.

The public treasury was no longer the aim and prey of party hacks. The surpluses which replaced deficits were used in equipping our ports, building our canals, improving our transportation system over land and water, in subsidizing great undertakings of public interest and developing the natural resources of the country. The public revenue increased to a surprising extent, was applied to a gradual reduction of the national debt. Public credit was restored, the commercial independence of the country obtained, the sphere of action of the Canadian nation enlarged, thanks to the insight and enlightened patriotism of the eminent statesman who holds the reins of government.

Such is, Mr. Speaker, the part taken by our leaders in the gigantic development of Canada since 1896. Of course, previous to that, there existed in the make up of our people great stores of strength and energy; but they remained dormant, unsuspected and unused, pending the moment when, under the impulse of an outward force, they would shine in the full light of day and give to the various manifestations of our national life an incomparable breadth and brilliancy. That new factor which has awakened the latent energies in the souls of the people and led them on in the path of an unheard of progress, is the far-seeing management of the men whom our country