

ments as an incentive to further progress. This Government looks back at its own achievements as an excuse for standing still.

The history of the last session is a record of the rejection of one progressive measure after another, nearly always coupled with some flattery intended to soothe the ear of the ministers.

Repeatedly it is said that no reform is necessary, because Ontario is blessed with so excellent a Government.

Praise is given, not as a stimulus to action, but as an excuse for standing still; and ministers vote for and even propose resolutions landing themselves and refusing to advance.

When a Government arrives at this stage it is clearly time for a change. The time, also, is ripe for an advance. The spirit of reform is abroad in Ontario. In gatherings of young men, and men of all ages, in gatherings of women who take a serious view of their duties in life, there are perceived the stirrings of new life, the eager quest for new ideas, the desire for progress, the feeling that a splendid future lies before Ontario and before Canada, and, above all, the wish to do some real share of the work of social service.

The movement needs a leader and an interpreter; such a leader and interpreter has been found in Mr. Rowell. His earnestness, his energy, his comprehensive survey of public questions and of the whole field of public service, his faculty of clear and eloquent exposition, are convincing progressive men of all parties that he is the man of the hour. They see the need of reform and they turn to Mr. Rowell as its leader.

#### **Social Reform Keynote.**

It is well known that a keen interest in social reform was his sole motive for entering public life; social reform is the key to his whole policy. He is in close touch with the social reformers of England, and he believes that in this work, in England as elsewhere, lies the sure and firm foundation of the greatness of the commonwealth of the British Empire. With the zeal of the reformer he combines the sure, firm grasp of the law and the Constitution which was one of the strongest characteristics of Sir Oliver Mowat, and, like Sir Oliver Mowat, he has a thorough mastery of all the business of the Legislature.

The leading issue in the present campaign is the question of abolishing the bar. It is not, however, the only issue, nor