

Chamber sittings or Red Parlor conclaves, such as were customary under Conservative administrations, to determine the policy that should be adopted. On the contrary, the leading Ministers of the departments most vitally concerned with tariff issues have gone throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion, hearing in public the representations that were made, not merely by the manufacturers, but also by those who represented every kind of interest in the Dominion. Every one who observed the Minister of Finance at Toronto presiding over the sittings of the Tariff Commission here must have been struck with the keen intelligence, accurate information and patient consideration which was brought to bear upon every case that was presented. Not merely in the appointment of the Commission, but in the manner in which it conducted its business, the people had evidence of its popular and democratic character, and may look forward with confidence to a tariff revision that will consider the interests of the people and not merely the desires of any corporate class.

And yet, with this splendid record, I was surprised to notice during the recent campaign in North York that the chief plank in the platform of Hon. Mr. Aylesworth's opponent was one of "public ownership and public rights against the encroachment of large corporations." It was thought by the use of broad general terms that some would be caught, but the farmers of North York gave such a cheap cry a decisive answer. These general terms mean nothing. I was reminded of the story of a Kentucky legislator who came to a friend of his who was a lawyer and asked him to draw up a "dog law" for him, as he wanted to introduce a bill in the House. The lawyer said, "Well, what kind of a dog law do you want?" to which the intelligent legislator replied, "Oh, a good, broad, safe, democratic dog law, one that will please my constituents and won't interfere with the rights of the dogs." There is a good deal of this shot-gun character in the "policies" that are often advanced by our opponents. We may safely commend to the people a party that has had a specific policy in the past on these important matters as it will continue to have in the future.

I congratulate the Club upon the renewed interest that is being taken in its meetings. We need no policy of "ward politics" such as our Conservative friends have adopted in Toronto. What the Liberal party wants is an educational campaign, for if the people only rightly understand what has been done and is being done by the Liberal Government we need have no fear of the result. In this work the young men of the country have an important part to bear. As "reading maketh a full man," so you cannot intelligently discuss with others the important political questions of the day unless you are yourself well informed. It is in the opportunities that are given by just such Clubs as this for the discussion of these important questions and the informing of members that your greatest usefulness lies.