

Judged, then, by all available tests, both the total wealth and the diffused well-being of the Colony are greater than they have ever been before. But, as I have previously remarked, I shall not rest my claim for your future support solely upon the past services of the Government, for the work of the Liberal Party, which I have the honor to lead, is not done yet. We have so far paved the way only for further usefulness and greater reforms.

After the election is over, and we return strengthened by your renewed sympathy and support, we shall continue in that straight line of duty that we marked out four years ago and have consistently followed to the present.

1st. The preposterous claims arising out of the Railway Deal of 1898 shall be resisted, and the Contractors shall be compelled to respect their obligations to the public.

The public are to-day faced with a claim from the Railway Contractors amounting to Three Millions of Dollars in connection with the Telegraph Lines, which were given away to R. G. Reid in 1898, and were pronounced by the Government then in power to be worthless to the Colony.

I deem it proper to remind you that the man mainly responsible for that Railway Deal, and the claims arising out of it, is Mr. Morine, the standing solicitor for the Reid-Newfoundland Company and the actual leader of the Opposition to the present Government, and also to ask you if you are prepared to return him and his associates to power, and to entrust to him and them this vital matter.

I also consider it well to remind you that Sir William Whiteway who recently sought admission into the ranks of the party of which the Reid Company's solicitor is the actual leader, and who has declared his opposition to the present Government, was the retained solicitor for the Reid Company in their former outrageous claim against the Colony, and also to ask you the question whether you are prepared to entrust to him the conduct of your case.

As germane to this question I would observe that it has been alleged by my opponents that Reid's former claim of Two million Four hundred thousand Dollars arose out of the 1901 Railway Contract. I would state that the assertion is absolutely incorrect. When the present Government entered into office they found filed in the Colonial Secretary's Department an account from R. G. Reid, in which he claimed under the 1893 and 1898 Contracts the sum of One Million Two Hundred and Seventy-seven Thousand Dollars; that the late Government had paid Reid One Million Nine Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Dollars on account, leaving a balance of Two Hundred and Sixty-eight Thousand Dollars, on the understanding, as stipulated by Minute of the Executive Council, dated February 3rd, 1900, "that the payments thus made would be without prejudice to the claims of either party to the Contracts, and solely as a payment on account." The difference between the above stated account and the claim that went before the Arbitrators appeared as for work and materials supplied between the date of that account (1899) and the year 1902. This statement of fact will, no doubt, come to many as a surprise. For months I have patiently submitted to an infamous falsehood freely circulated by my political opponents concerning a letter addressed by me as Colonial Secretary to R. G. Reid, under date July 24th, 1901, and termed by them, for the purpose of deceiving the public and of vilifying me a "secret letter." That letter was drafted at a full meeting of the Executive Council and embodied the unanimous decision of that Executive, which was not to take advantage of any mere formalities to