

splendidly upheld. Great works for the development of Canada have been carried on, with a comparatively small addition to the public debt. All the important services of the country have been liberally supported. Canada, which before had received scant notice abroad, has under Liberal rule taken a proud place in the Empire and in the esteem of the whole world.

The Government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier which has directed the policy under which Canada has made such splendid progress, the Government which has propounded and carried into effect the British preference, against the wish of the Conservative leaders who now talk so glibly of the benefits of preference, is the same Government which now asks the people to avail themselves of the trade opportunities to be opened up by this reciprocal agreement. And just as our opponents denounced our tariff policy for years and now come to praise it; just as they condemned the British preference and are now proclaiming its virtues; so in some future campaign, at no distant day, they will be found commending reciprocity and trying to make the country believe that they were always in favour of it.

I am not unmindful of the strength of party feeling. There are, I suppose, some Conservative citizens who will not take the trouble to study this question for themselves; they will be content to follow the party leaders in opposition to it. But I am persuaded that there are in the Conservative party thousands of electors who will be anxious to understand this question and who will be prepared to support the agreement if they receive correct information concerning it. Unfortunately there is a studied effort on the part of many of our opponents to misrepresent the terms of the agreement and busy men who have not had the time to give the question a careful study may easily be misled by these erroneous statements. As an example of such misrepresentations I take the statement which I am assured is being widely circulated that under the agreement the fishing bounties now paid to the Canadian fishermen are to be abolished. The statement is absolutely without foundation. Let those who are interested in the matter read the agreement for themselves. They will see that there is not a line or a word in it which justifies the statement that is being made in this respect by our opponents. Many other misrepresentations are made with equal readiness.