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is accompanying Mr. King on his western tour, followed Mr. Motherwell.

Announcing that he had a little gossip to give them, Col. Thompson outlined the political situation throughout the Dominion at the present time. Stating that the Hon. A. K. MacLean a few weeks ago con-

ceded the Liberals 21 out of 31 seats in the Maritime provinces, the speaker quoted later authorities as giving first 23 and then 24. "When we get back east," he said, "we expect to find that it is 31." In a humorous way he quoted others as giving the Liberals all 65 seats in Quebec and said he was satisfied that the returns would give the Liberals not less than 20 to 25 seats in Ontario. "That," he said, "gives us 105 up to the Manitoba boundary. Add another 15 west of that with the Yukon thrown in for good measure, and we will have a total of 120 or a majority over all."

"You are counting your chickens before they are hatched," yelled a voice from the audience.

No Bad Eggs

"We don't mind counting our chickens before they are hatched because in the Liberal party we have no bad eggs," the speaker flashed back to the accompaniment of prolonged and loud applause.

Dealing with the Progressive movement, Col. Thompson declared that class rule perpetrated two wrongs. It was a wrong to the private citizen because one of the most cherished rights was the right of a man to represent his fellow citizens and it was wrong to the nation, because it deprived the nation of representation of all classes. He pointed out that in the Farmers' movement or the Labor party such statesmen as Lloyd George or Clemenceau could not be accepted as representatives. "The farmers' group stands for the farmers," he said, "the labor party stands for labor, the Conservatives for the privileged class and the Liberals for no class." He pointed out that the returned soldiers, recognizing the restrictions and evils of class movement, had formed no political party.

Dealing with the tariff, the speaker said there had been no change in the tariff policies of either of the

two parties. The Liberal policy, that of tariff for revenue, was the same in 1896 as it was today. The Conservative policy, that of tariff for protection to privileged interests, was the same today as it always had been.

Brings Prosperity

In 1896 when the Liberals came into power on a tariff for revenue policy, Sir Chas. Tupper had declared that such a policy would result in grass growing on the streets in the cities and women and children starving for bread, but the actual result was 15 years of great prosperity for Canada. "Mr. Meighen attributes the prosperity of that period to a continuance of the old national policy," he said, "but if the old national policy were being continued, how could Sir Chas. Tupper have made the remarks he did?" he asked.

The British preference was inaugurated during the Laurier regime, but the British preference was opposed by the party that was flapping the flag in 1911. The same party opposed reciprocity and successfully opposed it. "I venture to say," he said, "that had reciprocity been carried in 1911 we would have added a million to our population and we would have had no railway problem today."

Referring to the fact that the tariff was revised in 1897 and in 1907 the speaker said tariff revision should take place every ten years. There was no revision in 1917, this being the occasion of the formation of the Union government. He pointed out, however, that all preparations had been completed for an ostensible revision of the tariff but nothing had been done despite the very definite promise contained in the budget speech brought down to the house. "Mr. Meighen," he said, "cannot revise the tariff upward, because he would lose the support of the people, and he cannot revise it downward because if he did, what would become of the source of the campaign funds?"

In his concluding remarks, Col. Thompson made some humorous comments at the expense of the Meighen government and its connection with the big interests, illustrating his portrayals with apt quotations and allegorical anecdotes.

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