

that are pressing so heavily upon it. The great body of the people are too much engaged in their daily avocations to think out to their logical conclusions the effect of the steady pursuance of any policy in a given direction, and it is for their public men to present to them in well digested form public thought for the intelligence of the people to grasp and to vote yea or nay upon, according to their convictions, and, I feel confident that I will not be condemned by my party friends for endeavouring to present the policy of the country in a new light. I propose to deal with some of the leading features of the Government policy in matters of our trade relations, and in the reciprocity features of them in our relations to the United States and Newfoundland; but, first of all, I wish to deal with the question of boodling in its relation to the Civil Service, and the dangers that threaten through its demoralization. The Government is the head of the Civil Service, and it is of the utmost importance that the system which governs the head in its relation to Her Majesty's loyal Opposition, and in its relation to the people of Canada, should be sound and pure. We have a large country to govern, as large as Russia, and we must depend upon our Civil Service to govern it well. I hold up Russia, as it presents itself to our eyes, as an example, because Canada in extent, in resources, in climate, is very similar, and some day in the distant future, like Russia, it will be populous. Look at Russia! There the Civil Service lies like a huge octopus upon the body of the people, warping their energies and embracing in its clinging arms the head of the nation as well as the humblest peasant, rendering them all alike powerless to throw it off, and, if the public press is correct, too soulless to stir itself to relieve their famine-stricken districts and too grasping to allow others to relieve them, until the possibilities of a revolution against its morbid power by the suffering people caused it to relax its system to permit private enterprise and private charity to do its work—not that I desire to compare the Canada of to-day with the growth of that colossal evil. Joyous, free Canada is just emerging from the forest to the plain, pure and undefiled by the struggles older countries have had to contend with when the principles of constitutional liberty were unknown. But, on the other hand, it

is possible to establish a tyrannical form of government under the franchise of the people, and if we treat the offence of boodling as a venial offence, we will feel the entanglements of the octopus clinging more tenaciously year by year. I can say truthfully that, in my experience of many years in the North-West Territories, where our civil servants have had great responsibilities, and are removed far from the eyes of the public, it has maintained a character for honesty and effectiveness for which we may feel justly proud. I remember saying to a prominent official, some ten years ago, that it was a cause for much satisfaction that where the facilities and temptations were present, honesty had prevailed throughout this large territory. His reply was, that if I knew the number of vouchers, receipts and documents they had to sign I should not wonder at their honesty. This was a tribute to the strictness of the system at the head of the civil service, and shows how important it is to keep the head sound and the heart pure. Any weakness there will soon be felt in the arteries through which its course flows. The civil service is to the nation what the blood is to the body; keep it pure and the head and heart will be powerful and capable of accomplishing anything, but allow it to become impure by yielding to the temptations our lesser nature is heir to, and our energies both of mind and body are warped, passing on from one generation to another until we passively resign ourselves to its inevitable result. The last session of parliament revealed much to justify our apprehensions that more was behind, and that the resources of the country were being made the battle ground for party emolument. This has been the growth of late years. Whatever the political contentions may have been, our magnificent system of canals, this magnificent pile of buildings, Osgoode Hall, in Toronto, the court house in Montreal, and other monuments of the enterprise and ability of the past, when our revenue was below ten million dollars a year, are all evidences that economy ruled. The same evidences do not exist to-day, and it is not out of place to glance at the causes that have brought about this change. Canada emerged from a number of conglomerate provinces in 1867 to become a nation stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and this vast territory was handed over to our Government. The great and good statesman who has gone to his