

The present cabinet, Mr. Grant claimed, was not satisfactory to himself and other Liberal members. One objection is that 'here are old men administering departments, such as Customs—

Ah, now we have it.

—such as Customs, &c. The only members of the cabinet from Ontario in whom we have confidence are Aylesworth and Hyman. I am speaking as Liberal whip for Ontario in making the statement that the only ones we recognize as worthy of our confidence are Aylesworth and Hyman. 'The Liberal members are becoming tired of tip-toeing into ministers' rooms,' and of the dissatisfaction in general he said that 'a radical section of the Liberal party commanding a larger support in the House of Commons than is generally supposed, is prepared to act, and act soon, against present conditions.'

There are eighteen Liberals from Ontario prepared to act in an independent attitude during the coming session.

The session is here. Shall we at last have that which never before has been seen, that much to be desired prospect of 18 Liberal members acting independently on that side of the House behind the Liberal government.

The member for North Ontario said that if the government proposed a higher tariff he for one would vote in opposition to it.

Was there any other reason than a sprained ankle so unfortunate, that the tariff is not brought down this session? Has the Liberal whip issued a warning, and must four or five or six months be allowed to placate the Liberal whip in order that a proper kind of tariff may be ventured without disastrous consequences.

The Ontario Liberal members had not been satisfied with the way the Grand Trunk Pacific project had been handled. Mr. Grant expressed also their want of confidence in the Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick, whom they considered to influence the actions of the chairman of the Transcontinental Railway Commission. This chairman, Mr. S. N. Parent, was a law partner of Mr. Fitzpatrick and is entirely at the bidding of Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick, and the Ontario Liberals fear that there will be certain arrangements regarding the Grand Trunk Pacific made which will not redound to the credit of the country.

And finally Mr. Grant declared that the Liberal government was fast becoming a bureaucracy. Now, these heart thoughts, developed in a moment of extreme candour after they had been pent up so long that they must come or something worse would happen; these are made now the property of the right hon. gentleman and he can reconcile these with the great harmony which he says exists on his side of the House.

Hon. SYDNEY FISHER (Minister of Agriculture). I shall not follow my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) in the banter in which he has indulged with regard to the comparative solidarity of the parties in this House and in the country. I shall leave to my

colleagues the defence of their own utterances, but I cannot refrain from suggesting to my hon. friends opposite that if they wish to find solidarity in a political party in this country, let them come in to the field in an election in any one constituency or other territory of this Dominion or in any province of this Dominion, or in any general elections, and they will, now, as in the past, find a solid Liberal party on whose unity their attacks have no effect and no influence. These gentlemen opposite have had abundant opportunities since the last session of parliament, they have had election after election, in the great new provinces of the west, in the province of Ontario where they boast themselves to be so strong, in the province of Quebec at which they look with longing hopeful eyes, but in which they can have no chance and no show at all; down in the maritime provinces where Nova Scotia declared itself against them in 1896, in 1900, and solidly and unanimously in 1904; in all the provinces of Canada they can make no impression on the solidarity of liberalism notwithstanding their blandishments towards the electors, and notwithstanding their attacks on the present government and on its policy. I shall not dwell upon this, and I do not know that I would have risen at all but for one or two remarks which perhaps call for a little correction from myself in regard to certain utterances I have made on a recent occasion and which seem to have attracted far more attention than I expected from gentlemen opposite and from those who seem to sympathize with them; remarks which have also attracted attention from those who sympathize with the views which I then expressed. The leader of the opposition quoted verbatim the remarks which I made on that occasion, and which I also take from the Montreal 'Herald' and which are to this effect:

Now, as to our own interest, I am going to say frankly as a farmer and as Minister of Agriculture, that I am rather glad that England has decided not to give us a preference.

I do not think I said: 'as Minister of Agriculture.' I believe I said: 'not as Minister of Agriculture.' I know I intended to say: 'Not as Minister of Agriculture,' and I know that several gentlemen who were present and with whom I have discussed this question since have informed me that the words which I used were: 'Not as Minister of Agriculture.' I also know that the context indicates that I intended to say that. I find a little further down in the same report of that address that I did say:

Speaking absolutely my own personal opinions, I say, I think in the recent decision England has done right.

I wish now, Sir, to make the correction in regard to this publicly as I have done