

gentlemen were too generous towards the novice to laugh at him; hence in a gracious way they turned down the proposal.

For fifteen years the Liberals continued to control the House of Commons, and only lost through their blunder in espousing the cause of reciprocity with the United States. The great victory for the Conservative party in 1911 was not because the party was ready, through preparation, but because of the blunder of their opponents. Reciprocity created what a first-class issue always creates, an eager debate, with resultant unexpected decision voiced in every Province (except Quebec) from the Atlantic to the Pacific. There was no less surprise in the Conservative Party than in the Liberal at the defeat of the Government and the overwhelming support of the Conservative Party.

After three years tenure of office by the Conservative party, the country was confronted with the war. All ordinary issues were set aside, and the War became the controlling factor. It led to the Coalition Government in 1917. The prejudices aroused by the War have since played a conspicuous part in your Province; we developed class consciousness and a group spirit in Ontario and in the Prairie Provinces, and since '21 have been the victims of weak Government, and only since last election have had the definite promise of authority in Government by a clear majority in support of the Liberal party.

During this period of unrest we have been without the steadying influence of party discipline. We have been unfortunately thinking less of Canada as a whole, and more of our local interests. The Maritime Provinces are not alone in this tendency. Quebec fed