

*tution the features of legislative union and to minimize its federal elements.* This has tended, of course, to impair and disparage the federal character of the union. The Liberal party, as I understand its policy, is in favour of the federal principle. (Cheers.) It believes in a system of

#### LOCAL LIBERTIES AND LOCAL POPULAR RIGHTS

of a large and extensive character for all the Provinces of the Dominion. We believe that in a country so wide in its area as Canada, so sparsely settled as Canada, divided as Canada has been into Provinces, inhabited as these Provinces are, notably in the case of Quebec, by populations mainly of one race, and of one system of laws, different from and isolating them from the other Provinces, and dividing those Provinces from each other, inhabited by populations holding different views upon many subjects, and unaccustomed to have their local affairs treated otherwise than locally; we believe, I say, that *the true and the only method of establishing a union of heart and feeling between the different parts of our great country, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, is frankly to recognize these circumstances, and to meet them by the establishment, upon a firm and substantial basis; of a large measure of provincial and local liberties; to give us, in fact, Home Rule for each Province of the Dominion.* We believe that here was found the main difficulty under which we laboured in the old union between the Canadas, where the two Provinces had joint control of local affairs, concerning which Ontario did not well understand the wants and wishes, the habits and customs, the passions and prejudices, of the sister Province, and so with Quebec as to Ontario. It was largely in order to remove such difficulties that the Confederation was proposed, and we desire to avoid them still by continuing and, if need be, confirming the federative spirit of our constitution. (Cheers.) But there are other obvious reasons for this view.

#### EFFECTS OF THE CENTRALIZATION POLICY.

Centralization at Ottawa, the management by one authority of local affairs in a country spreading for four thousand miles, from ocean to ocean, would inevitably be the fruitful parent, not merely of discord, but also of federal jobbery, delay, favouritism, blunders, and mal-administration. If you want an example of the dangers, the difficulties, and the failures of an attempt to administer from a great distance the local affairs of a vast territory, read **THE LAMENTABLE STORY OF THE MANAGEMENT OF NORTH-WEST AFFAIRS BY THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION.** It is in order to obviate these