

European Empire excepting Russia; if it falls short in wealth or in progress of the rest of Canada, I am quite sure it will not be through any want of foresight or effort on Mr. Sifton's part.

But while we rejoice in Mr. Sifton's success, we cannot withhold some feeling of disappointment at the result of the General Election in the Province of Ontario—a Province of all others where we had a right to believe the Government would be supported by a handsome majority. Still, this is no time for vain regrets. Every cloud has its silver lining, and in this case it is most gratifying to know that the lining is larger than the cloud—the cloud extended over the Province of Ontario mainly, but the lining extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific. One grateful reflection we can indulge in with confidence, and that is, that Sir Wilfrid's Government is too high-minded and too just in administering the affairs of Canada to measure Provincial rights by majorities at the polls. Nevertheless, I think we must all admit that

### **ONTARIO WAS GRIEVOUSLY AT FAULT**

in the verdict which it rendered at the last election. If we look at the policy of the Government from a selfish standpoint, no other Province in the Dominion profited so largely as Ontario from the comprehensive measures adopted by the Dominion Government for the development of Canada. The extension of the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal did more for transportation in Ontario than it did for any other Province, as it connected directly all our railway systems with our great ocean ports. The reduction in the tariff resulting from the preference given to Great Britain saved us more in custom dues than was saved to any other Province, because we imported and consumed more British goods. The reduction in the postal rates was proportionately advantageous, because of the use our larger population necessarily made both of local and international mail service. And, without reflecting on the other Provinces, because of our larger manufacturing industries, we were the larger gainers from the stimulus which the policy of the Government gave both to manufactures and to agriculture.

### **POLICY OF GOVERNMENT.**

As a matter of sentiment, too, the policy of the Government appealed most strongly to the people of this Province. Ontario was the centre of the British Empire League. In loyalty to the Empire, we were on all occasions most exuberant; we welcomed