

in the East, for reasons into the mysteries of which I do not propose further to pry. But I observe that in his addresses in the province of Ontario and in the province of Quebec, which were the provinces he visited in this way, he was inclined to condole with the people of this country upon the election of September, 1911. He is not at all concerned, he assures us, about himself, but he is very much concerned for the people of Canada. I would suggest to him that his concern is absolutely unnecessary, for the country is quite contented. I would ask him when next he addresses the people of these provinces to throw aside this depression and gloom and join with the rest of us in endeavouring to do some good work for the country. He bewails the rejection of reciprocity. I do not think that the people, under present prosperous conditions, are at all inclined to sorrow over the verdict they gave on the 21st of September, 1911. Allusion has been made to a certain communication which was made public last spring in April or May, I think—a letter written by Mr. Taft to Colonel Roosevelt, which sets forth:

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. BORDEN: I do not wonder that my hon. friend groans. I will spare his feelings to the extent of refraining from reading that letter; I do not know what the consequences to him might be if I should read it. But I would like to bring to the attention of the House, and of the country, one circumstance in connection with it which is of some significance. There is a very well known and responsible newspaper in the city of New York known as the Evening 'Post'. It was supposed to be thoroughly in the confidence of Mr. Taft and his administration. Any gentleman who is curious in these matters will find in the columns of the New York Evening 'Post' of Friday, May 3, 1912, an editorial article touching this letter, and from that article I will read just one sentence:

When we recall that the 'adjunct' letter was passed upon by the full Cabinet and by other advisors of the President, the mistake of giving it out appears the more inexplicable.

That is to say, that letter was not merely the personal opinion of Mr. Taft, but was a letter which had been passed upon by the whole Cabinet of the United States, and by other prominent men in that country. This circumstance, it seems to me, gives it a somewhat odd significance. My right hon. friend, notwithstanding, has nailed his colours to the mast—at least we are so informed by his friends, and therefore the statement must be correct; my right hon. friend will not deny it, for this is an extract from a circular used in the West by his friends in a certain recent election:

Mr. BORDEN.

The reciprocity flag has been nailed to the mast by Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

And if my right hon. friend did not exactly nail it to the mast it was because he seems inclined to pursue his usual course of retiring within the lines of Torres Vedras whenever any difficult or important question is presented for his consideration.

He did, however, tell us at Marieville on the 7th of September: 'My heart and my soul have not changed and my policy has remained the same.' At Cochrane on the 20th of September he said: 'The ideals which we have striven for are stronger than ever.' At North Bay, on the 21st of September, he said: 'On the 21st of September we went down in a noble cause.'

My hon. friend's optimism and courage were very great when he began, but as he proceeded they did not seem to continue, because while at first he was inclined to prophesy the immediate return of his party, yet when he reached Sherbrooke on the 29th of October, after about six weeks of a campaign, in speaking of the next election he said that 'he was not prepared to say that the Liberals would win the first time, but he hoped they would.'

Mr. Speaker, just one moment more. The condition of this country has been described by the hon. gentlemen who moved and seconded this debate as satisfactory from a material, industrial and commercial standpoint. There has been expansion of revenue and there has been general development. These are due primarily to the intelligence, foresight, courage and industry of the people, and this Government is prepared to co-operate with the people of Canada in every possible way to increase and advance that development which has been so marked in the past.

My right hon. friend has charged that we have failed to implement pledges. Let me tell him and hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House, that we have been in power a little more than one year and during that period we have fulfilled at least four times as many of our pledges as these hon. gentlemen opposite in the whole period of their administration. What have we done? We promised aid to agriculture; we brought it in. We promised aid to highways; we brought it in, and my hon. friend's supporters in the Senate defeated it at his dictation. We promised to create a tariff commission; we brought in that measure. We promised terminal elevators, under government ownership and control, and that we would deal with and settle the question of the extension of provincial boundaries; these questions were dealt with last year. We promised that we would proceed at once with the construction of the Hudson Bay railway; the contract has been let for the whole line. We promised to