

secured the denunciation of the treaties than by the plan that was adopted. It is perfectly clear from the expressions of opinion that I have quoted for many years back and up to the year 1896, that it was absolutely impossible for the premier of this country, or for the parliament of Canada, whether individually or collectively, to have secured from Great Britain a preference for our products in their market. I think that must be clear and manifest to the judgment of every fair minded man. The evidence is conclusive, and it was only by appealing to British sentiment in the manner that he did that Sir Wilfrid Laurier secured the denunciation of those treaties. It will, I have no doubt, lead to very much closer relations. It may be as years go by that we will be able to reduce the duty still further upon the importations from Great Britain. The Imperial Federation League that was in existence for some 12 or 15 years disbanded hopelessly only two years ago, feeling they could accomplish nothing. They did accomplish nothing in all that time. But our legislation of last year has forced this country forward very many years in advance of what we ordinarily would have attained to. It is evident in a variety of ways, as I said before, especially in the high price of our securities. Our securities which were sold only a few months ago have gone up several points since that time, and I think we are quite right in stating that Canada's political position in the British Empire has been very much raised by the course that we took last year and by the action of the premier in Great Britain.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—The leader on this side of the House my hon. friend from Hastings, very aptly made some reference to some changes which had taken place since last year on the other side of the House in respect to leadership. I must on this occasion express the satisfaction which I have in seeing the hon. Minister of Justice occupying the position which he does on this occasion, namely the leadership of this House. I would, however, like to say in reference to the elevation of that gentleman to cabinet office and also to the leadership of this chamber, that he overlooked and disregarded a very important plank in the Liberal platform, and one to which he no doubt subscribed with very great cheerfulness even as late as the Liberal Convention of 1893. I

refer to the reduction of cabinet ministers, which as my hon. friend will know has been strongly advocated by the Liberal party. Now, my hon. friend has had an excellent opportunity of demonstrating that he was true to the principles which were being promulgated by the Liberal party previous to his accepting this portfolio. He might have been willing to sacrifice himself upon the altar of his party so to speak, and thus demonstrate that there was one member of the Liberal party who when offered a portfolio insisted upon consistency being observed, and the number of ministers reduced by the fusion of two or more portfolios. But my hon. friend would not resist the tempting bait; and I must say that I am very well pleased personally that he accepted the portfolio and let somebody else sacrifice himself in that particular matter.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I never proposed the abolition of the portfolio which I hold.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I would be rather surprised if my hon. friend or any of the other leaders of the liberal party would do so. However, that did not stand in the way of the numerous professions which were made along that line previous to and at the last general election. Now the predecessor of my hon. friend, the counsellor and guide and the moral force of the liberal party, that is the late leader in this House, the present Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, was likewise guilty of a violation of an equally important article in the liberal creed, one which was advanced with quite as much emphasis as the one to which I have just alluded; namely, that no member of parliament should accept an office of emolument under the Crown other than that of a portfolio except a year elapsed between his resignation and the acceptance of office.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I never advocated anything of the sort.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I did not say my learned friend advocated it. I refer to the predecessor of my hon. friend. I think that this was a favourite plank in the platform. The present Postmaster General advocated it in very strong language and was prepared to designate as a political parasite any one who would occupy a seat in parliament with the immediate view of