

of large public policy—well based and firmly adhered to.

HAS MR. LAURIER ANY?

He used to wax eloquent on the principle of non-interference as between Provincial and Federal politics. The Local Government should not interfere in Dominion contests, the Dominion Government should not interfere in local contests—the parties should be kept absolutely apart.

HOW NOW?

He himself made a compact with Mercier by which he and his followers took the stump for Mercier, and in return Mercier and his whole force took the stump for Mr. Laurier and against the Dominion Government. He himself calls upon Greenway of Manitoba, Mowat of Ontario, Blair of New Brunswick, Fielding of Nova Scotia and Peters of P. E. Island to address his meetings, and to set all the machinery of their local patronage at work to secure the defeat of the Federal Government and the success of his own party.

In Quebec, however, he said, as late as 1892:

"Nor did he speak as the leader of the Liberal party in Canada, but only as a private citizen, it being his policy oftentimes expressed to separate Federal from Provincial matters."

His tongue utters one thing, his hands do quite the different thing. What has become of his principles in this respect? Had he any? Has he any?

More than in any other respect a country demands a settled line of policy in trade and fiscal matters. Trade and industries group themselves about the policy of a country, and vast interests grow up dependent upon its continuity. Change unsettles all; frequent change utterly demoralizes the foundations and operations of commerce.

In trade policy convictions are necessary—well based convictions—convictions firmly adhered to.

Mr. Laurier's Shifts.

What about Mr. Laurier's trade policies?

1. *He has been an avowed protectionist.*

In 1876 he said in the House of Commons:

"What my Honorable friend has said as to my protection proclivities, is perfectly true. I do not deny that I have been a protectionist, which I am still. It is asserted by many and assumed by others, that Free Trade is a Liberal principle, and protection a Conservative principle. I beg to dissent from this doctrine. If I were in Great Britain, I would avow Free

Trade, but I am a Canadian, and I think we require protection."

2. *He has been an out and out Commercial Unionist.*

In Toronto, in September, 1889, he said:

"The policy which we advocate, which we still continue to advocate, is the removal of all commercial barriers between this country and the great kindred nation to the south. The Liberal party, as long as I have anything to do with it, will remain true to the cause until the cause is successful. I do not expect to win in a day, but I am prepared to remain in the cool shades of opposition until this cause is triumphed."

3. *He has been a Continental Free Trader.*

Here is his declaration:—

"The Liberal party will never cease the agitation until they have finally triumphed and obtained continental freedom of trade."

"We will not be drawn away by this issue or that issue, and keeping our eyes on the goal, will work till we accomplish our end."

"If the Reformers of these days can accomplish what they have in view—the great principle of free trade in America—they will have done to their country and to the British race a service of which they will have reason to be proud."

4. *He has been an out and out disciple of Unrestricted Reciprocity.*

In 1891 he said: "When the Liberal party comes into power it will send commissioners to Washington to propose a mutual agreement, by which there will be Free Trade along the whole line, doing away with restrictions and removing the Customs Houses that go so far to cause friction between the two countries."

5. *He has been an equally ardent disciple of Restricted Reciprocity.*

In 1894 he said: "If we come to power, on that day, I promise you, a commission will go to Washington, and if we can get a Treaty in natural products and a list of manufactured articles that Treaty will be made."

"The policy of the Liberal party is to give you a market with sixty-five millions of British men upon this continent."

6. *He is now out for Free Trade as it exists in Great Britain.*

In 1895 he said in Montreal: "The Liberal party believe in Free Trade on broad lines, such as exists in Great Britain; and upon that platform, exemplified as I have told you, the Liberal party will fight its next battle."

Here is wonderful versatility! For many years a Protectionist, he at last cuts loose the safe moorings, and behold, in less than