

nection with the Civil Service to-day. Let my right hon. friend ask those who sit around him from Ontario and from Nova Scotia, but particularly from the great province of Ontario. We have heard members from Ontario expressing themselves here as to what they thought of the Civil Service and its administration. The hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Hocken), the editor of the newspaper called the Sentinel, has expressed himself in this House time and again and he has said that the legislation in regard to the Civil Service is the most stupid that was ever put upon the statute books of this country. That is the opinion which prevailed to a very material extent among hon. gentlemen supporting this Government in so far as they have support from anybody except by force of circumstances. These are matters, Mr. Speaker, for which this Government claim great praise and credit and I think I have stated clearly that they are not such as to satisfy the requirements of any well balanced or sound thinking administration or that there is anything in the reasons put forward by the right hon. the leader of the Government which would justify him in thinking that all is well with the Administration that he for the present leads.

I wish to say a few words about the general policy of the Government as well as the general policy, on trade and other matters, of the Liberal party. We are questioned as to what our policy is. We are told that we disagree amongst ourselves. All we have to do is to recall the history of that great party from 1896 down to 1911 when it had charge of the affairs of this country in every phase, every line, of Government and to ask the people of Canada to put the confidence in the Liberal party that they reposed in it in those days. As we made a success of the Government during those days and built up the country in a way in which it had not been built up before, we ask the people to place the same confidence in the same men, with the same policy, the same principles and the same desire to honestly and well serve their country.

That is what we say about our policies to the people of this country. When we met in convention in this city last August we confirmed those policies, and they are to-day the policies of the Liberal Party from the Atlantic to the Pacific. We have not one policy for the Maritime provinces, another policy for Quebec and Ontario, and still another policy for the West. Our policies are intended for one united people,

[Mr. McKenzie.]

and we refer to our past record as an earnest of how we propose to carry out those policies in the future.

The right hon. gentleman who leads the Government tells us that what we read in the newspapers is idle gossip which we cannot believe. I do not go that far with him, because the newspapers containing those reports stand very faithfully behind him and his Government and give the very best possible account of whatever redounds to his credit, and therefore he has no reason to give a black eye to the press by calling their reports idle twaddle or gossip which nobody can believe.

The newspapers tell us that the Minister of the Interior (Hon. Mr. Meighen), recently made a speech in Quebec in which he said the country would have to be protected to the hilt; then he moved towards the West, and at Winnipeg found he had to change his tune, as we in coming from the Maritime provinces to Montreal have to change our watches to have the correct time. When the hon. gentleman reached Winnipeg he found he had to put a new record in his gramophone, and the burden of his address was no longer protection to the hilt, but only moderate protection. I suppose had he continued further West by the time he got to Saskatchewan and Alberta there would have been no trace of protection at all in his speeches. I would warn my hon. friend to be careful lest some day he puts on a Quebec record at Calgary or Edmonton and finds himself in a bad mess indeed, because the Quebec record which he played to the shoe manufacturers will not do for the Free Traders of the West. So far as the Liberal party is concerned, we have no occasion to change our tune, for the simple reason that from the West to the East we have only one sound policy to commend to the attention of the people, and we believe that when they see fit to restore us to power that policy will bring back to this country the same prosperity that it enjoyed during the fifteen years the Liberal party was in control, and will revive in the people that faith in the Government which was once so strongly entertained by them.

It is true, Sir, that we have not the great leader of the past years. Men die, but principles never, and we hope on this side of the House that, as we have been faithful in the past to the leadership of the great man who has left us and to the principles which he espoused, there is enough Liberalism in the country to give effective support to those same principles