

on leave, to get some fishing and shooting; and as it happens that he is my grand nephew, he looked me up before starting for the wilderness. He is a manly young fellow, and more than that, he is thoroughly kind-hearted, and, despite my strong protestations, he declares that he will set me up on my pins before he fires a shot or casts a line. I have complete confidence in Rick, and have told him all about my manuscript, and have directed him to publish it, if he pleases, when my toes are turned up to the daisies. This you see is a double explanation, in that it shows who Rick is, and also why it is possible that what is written may be read. It is not likely that my erratic paper will be re-cast, though this would be very desirable; and so the reader, if there ever is one, will make, I do not doubt, all just allowances for deficiencies. But he at least will see that—although I first began to write without a definite purpose—eventually there was a purpose, an earnest purpose on the part of a dying man, for so I feel myself to be, to tell the truth, and to teach a lesson which might be useful.

It is with a deep feeling of shame that I acknowledge that the part which I have taken in life has been all wrong, but it relieves my conscience from a great weight in making this acknowledgment, which I now do calmly and deliberately. My formal resignation has been posted to His Grace, and henceforth I am as free as any act of mine can make me. I feel that I have been to him a faithful servant, and am assured that he will acknowledge as much, and though it would be ungenerous in me, while in his service, to attack the policy of the party to which he is attached, the party at least can claim nothing from me. I know however that if I, while holding office as his Secretary, were to express sentiments hostile to his friends, he would suffer, and although he is too generous to expect complete subserviency to his methods of thought, it would be most ungrateful and unfair in me to jeopardize his prospects or position.

It is stated somewhere in these pages that it is impossible to know the immediate effect of the National Policy, but this was