

## INTRODUCTION

---

The Liberal Party came into power in 1896 on the strength of its policies and promises as set forth to the people of Canada during its 18 years of opposition.

It has been in power for nearly twelve years and the Electorate will soon be called on to pass judgment upon its record.

What then were its promises, and how has it fulfilled them?

It pledged itself among other things:—

To lighten the burden of taxation, which it declared to be "grievous."

To reduce the expenditure of the Country, which was "monstrous."

To diminish the public debt, which was "viewed with alarm."

To eliminate the principle of protection, to obtain reciprocity with the United States of America, to secure for us a mutual preference with Great Britain, and open new markets abroad, to lop off over-expenditures in the civil government, to diminish the number of ministerial positions, to rid the people of the burden of superannuation, to cut down the gross expenditure at Rideau Hall, to draw the poison of the reptile press by destroying the newspaper and printing patronage given to friends of the party in power, to make the civil service more in consonance with the requirements of the country, to abolish bounties, to do away with subsidies to railways, to keep the lands for the settler and away from the speculator. The Senate was to be put upon a new and stable basis, the independence of parliament was to be assured, the purity of the electorate was to be guarded, and the standard of public life in this country was to be elevated.

Has it made good?

The following pages are intended to present certain facts and considerations bearing on this matter, which it is hoped may help the elector to come to proper conclusions.