

## INTRODUCTORY.

The purpose of this book is to set forth as clearly as possible the record of the Liberal Government since 1896 and to show what it has done for the nation.

The record is a magnificent story of progressive, enlightened and courageous statesmanship, of wise and prudent administration, and of careful and judicious financial management. It is a story which ought to stir the blood, stimulate the pride and fire the imagination of every good Liberal. No government in any civilized country in the world ever had a finer record of achievement to place before the people. They have been doing things all the time.

The Liberal who will not take his coat off and fight with vim and enthusiasm until the last vote is polled at the next election is not worthy of the name.

To fairly and properly appreciate what has been done, it is necessary to consider the conditions that prevailed when the Liberals took office in 1896. It is no exaggeration to state that the country was then practically at a standstill; business was and had been for years stagnant; manufacturers were discouraged; farmers were dissatisfied. THE NATIONAL POLICY HAD NOT MADE US RICH. The Conservative Government had brought disgrace upon the country by fighting like "pot boys" among themselves. They had, moreover, stopped doing things. Scandal after scandal were brought to light. The Public Debt was being largely added to every year, notwithstanding that the burden of taxation was very high. The country was almost rent asunder by tyrannical handling of a delicate school question in the West.