

ed by his successor, seemed to get nerves of a good many people there, and that was the only indication of displeasure that I found. I had intimations that if certain things could be done, that if we would not insist upon so much economy and efficiency, perhaps a section of the people would feel more kindly towards us. However, we could not agree to that, and they in the exercise of their rights voted against us. I found no manifestation of change in public opinion in Colchester other than that. So I do not think our hon. friends need imagine that they have a great deal to hope for in Nova Scotia. If my hon. friend cares to look into the political situation in Nova Scotia, say for the last three years and a few months, he will find this interesting fact, that the people of Nova Scotia have been called upon to elect either to parliament or the legislature within that period sixty-two members and that they have elected one who calls himself an Independent Liberal, six who were willing to call themselves Conservatives, and fifty-five Liberals. If my hon. friend has no better hope of that political change which he thinks is going to take place in the country than is to be found in Nova Scotia, then he deserves our sincere look for it throughout the Dominion at large. We have had since the general election thirty-eight bye-elections in Canada, and of these twenty-nine have been carried by gentlemen who call themselves Liberals. There are one or two who may not see eye to eye with us; but of the whole number elected, I think I am correct in saying that there

are only six or seven who are willing to call themselves Conservatives. In these figures I see very little indication of the coming change which our hon. friends opposite are so fond of talking about. Why should we regard seriously these boast of theirs? Have we not heard our hon. friends proclaim in the past that they were going to sweep the country? I believe, Sir, that the people of this country can be trusted to deal fairly between this Government and the Opposition—a party which at one time was a constructive party, and which with all its faults did much for the building up of Canada, but which seems to have become a party of obstructionists. They obstructed the Grand Trunk Pacific for months, and are now tumbling over each other to say that they never opposed it at all; they obstructed the British preference for many years, and now wish to claim a share in it; they obstructed the tariff policy of this Government for many years, and now find it to be so good that they hardly venture to assail it in Parliament, and when they go to the west they skate over it as they do the Northwest school question. The intelligent people of this country will weave into the hon. gentleman's Halifax platform the record of the Conservative administrations supported by the hon. gentlemen who sit with him, and will compare that with the record of eleven years of good Liberal Government during which Canada has enjoyed as never before the blessings of peace, progress and prosperity.