is how this feat can best be done; not how little will suffice but how much can be ventured without the creation of mischief,—and mischief does sometimes arise out of a good intention. Indeed, the burden of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's amendment is that Mr. Borden's proposal for an immediate contribution "is not an assumption by Canada of her fair share in the maintenance of the naval strength of the Empire." With all persons animated by the same spirit it should not be hard to find a way. And yet there are difficulties which do not lie upon the surface. It is these which it is now proposed to drag into the light, so that we may see if they are as serious as they seem to be. They arise out of our system of government, and as our institutions are the best which have yet been devised, we must not become impatient of the trials which are incidental to them.

The first business of a politician who leads the minority is to gain control of the government. But once a leader is in control it will not do to enquire too curiously how he achieved it. The defeated must learn to forget, and the victors strive for acquiescence. The victorious leader should be tender of the susceptibilities of his friends and careful of the prejudices of his opponents, as Mr. Borden has been, as some of his followers have not. In so far as parties are divided by principles it may be that no compromise is possible, and that a measure must be driven through by sheer weight of numbers and power; but the wisest politician is he who uses the machinery at his command with the least display of force. In the end it is not one's opponents but one's friends who must be counted.

There are times, of course, when a leader must deal ruthlessly even with those friends who helped him to power, as Macdonald did with the Nationalists of Quebec, after the Riel rebellion, as Mr. Borden recently did with a similar section when it was convenient to him that the alliance by which he gained power should be at an end. A leader may be compelled to turn upon a recalcitrant following and