

Commons amidst the loudest acclaims. A servile majority voted the Treaty good without knowing the effect of its composition. A parliamentary Opposition numerically weak raised its timid voice in vain. The chief actor knew best how to appeal to those whose support he wanted; a blatant and blustering gush of loyalty took the place of common sense, and the scruples of a too confiding majority were easily soothed into obedience.

The Opposition had undoubtedly been gaining strength. It was no longer composed of those straggling members that a chance vote was likely to catch. It embraced men of great ability and irreproachable character. With a clear record, and with purity and economy as their watchwords, they were fast gaining the confidence of the country. The Washington Treaty had done much in weakening the Government in Ontario. The policy of putting off and duplicity in the North-West Troubles had a like effect in Quebec. The British Columbia terms—by which was meant the granting of a large subsidy to British Columbia and the building of the Pacific Railway in ten years in consideration of that Province entering the Union—were unpopular throughout the Dominion. After 1879 these were the chief topics of discussion and the prin-