

We should not have had any waste or misapplication of public money. We should have greatly less debt and greatly less taxation. We should have had no war of tariffs. We should have had no Northwest outbreak of our Indians and halfbreeds. We should have had no abnormal exodus of our people.

Let me recount some of the recent events in our history.

UNRESTRICTED RECIPROCITY.

In consequence of the depressed condition of Canada, in common with all the countries in the world at the time, such depression having arisen from causes common to all, the people of Canada were induced by the Conservatives in 1878 to try the experiment of a protective policy, contrary to your advice. The promises and expectations which induced that experiment have since been demonstrated to have been mistaken. A protective policy has been shown by experience to afford our people no sound or permanent advantage. On the contrary, it has directly and indirectly added to the burdens of the great body of our people; and our people have become less able to bear those burdens by reason of several successive years of bad crops, and by the further injury which has arisen to our farmers at the instance of our neighbors through the operation of the McKinley tariff. As a remedy for existing evils, the Liberals in the Dominion Parliament, including yourself, adopted as a plank of the Liberal platform Unrestricted Reciprocity of trade in the products natural and manufactured of Canada and the United States. This was a substitute for the so-called National Policy, the McKinley tariff, and other unfriendly devices on the part of the two countries respectively in relation to their mutual intercourse. The adoption of this article of the Liberal platform was approved of by the party generally, including those who had the strongest attachment to British connection.

Our esteemed friend, Mr. Blake, your first successor in the leadership of the Liberal party, and the admired of all Canadians, was almost if not quite alone among Liberals in objecting to the adoption of this plank of the Liberal platform. In his address to the electors of West Durham, he has given powerful reasons