

go to the polls in their constitutencies. Having secured the right to serve, they are subject to discipline of their party, and it in turn must seek by such means as it can command the support of the country, that the right to govern may be accorded to it. In doing this, they must run the gauntlet of all sorts of artifices of eager opponents who are seeking to displace them. The fate of Government may hang in the balance through an innocent but foolish blunder magnified by an alert opposition.

If I am approximately right in the foregoing, a man of affairs and not a public man, is asked to express an opinion concerning the action which should be taken to put a political party in power, to indicate in particular what I consider to have been our recent weaknesses as a Conservative party, and how we can improve our organization, and by it, our position.

In what I may say in reply, you will remember my limitations as indicated in the opening paragraphs of this letter and the great difference in the daily judgments which I reach affecting my daily actions, as compared with the daily judgments affecting their daily actions by men who are responsible for the administration of a political party.

In 1896, after the disastrous defeat of the Conservative party, I asked the late W. R. Brock, E.B. Osler, Charles Cockshutt, and Frederick Nicholls, to join with me at lunch at the Toronto Club. I indicated to them that I considered the Conservative party for years prior to the defeat had become ineffective and stale, resting upon traditions rather than constructive capacity, and that