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THE

VIGOROUS AND PROGRESSIVE

WESTERN POLICY

OF THE

Borden Government

Introduction

That Western Canada occupies the proud position it does today is largely due to the Conservative party. It was the broad-minded statesmanship of Sir John A. Macdonald and his colleagues which made Western Canada a part of confederation. It was through the courage and the foresight of the Conservatives that the C. P. R. was built, enabling the West to enter upon its great development period. It was Conservative statesmanship in the part which gave Western Canada its opportunity and its status. Today a Conservative administration is in power, and, as before, special attention is being given to the West and its problems are being carefully studied and satisfactorily solved.

In the formation of his cabinet, Sir Robert Borden recognized the growing importance of Western Canada. The Laurier cabinet contained but two western ministers. Sir Wilfrid refused to increase the number. The Conservative leader, upon coming into power, doubled the number of western ministers. He appointed Hon. Robert Rogers Minister of Interior, and later promoted him to the important portfolio of Public Works. Hon. Dr. Roche was made Secretary of State, and subsequently given the wider portfolio of Interior. Hon. Martin Burrell was made Minister of Agriculture, while Senator Loughheed was made Minister without portfolio. Under Sir Wilfrid Laurier the three prairie provinces had but one cabinet minister. Sir Robert Borden gave them three. Since then Sir Robert has made Hon. Arthur Meighen Solicitor-General, so that the West now has no less than five ministers, and of that number the three prairie provinces have four. Sir Robert Borden, at the very beginning of his ministerial career, showed that he appreciated the importance and the needs of the West. This fact his policies since have more than emphasized.