

the other side of the House; the Conservative party, which is represented on this side of the House; and the Progressive party, which hardly knows where to find a seat in the House.

However, as I pointed out, the Progressive party made great inroads in the other House. Let us see for a moment what has been the cause of the growth of the Progressive party of late years. It started first many years ago. I had the pleasure of going out to the western country 44 years ago. At that time the whole of that country was practically Conservative. The policy of protection did not appeal to the farmers of the West; so after being a few years on the prairies, they gradually drifted over to the Liberal party which advocated a lower tariff. The first thing that started them organizing was the trouble that they laboured under owing to the combine of the grain buyers. After that was remedied to some extent they felt the pinch and the burden of the high protection that made the cost of everything they used in growing grain or raising cattle so high that they got no advantage from their products. Then there was quite a growth of Liberalism in that country. So I consider that what has been the cause of the growth of the Progressive party, more particularly in Western Canada, is first the policy of our friends on this side of the House, and secondly, not the policy of my honourable friends opposite, but the manner in which they carried out or did not carry out that policy. That condition forced hundreds and thousands of farmers in the West, who originally had been Conservatives or Liberals, to the conclusion that there was no hope at all of them getting what they wanted from either of those two parties. They felt for many years after the Liberals came into power in 1896 that they had not been given the redress that was promised them, and that therefore there was nothing much to hope for. I am free to admit, honourable gentlemen, that the late Liberal Government did attempt to do something for the farmers when they introduced the reciprocity proposal on which they were defeated. But, honourable gentlemen, by whom were they defeated? The Conservative party voted against it. We did not expect anything else from them, because the Conservative policy was a protective policy. But what defeated reciprocity very largely was the vote of the Liberals. If all the Liberals had voted for reciprocity in 1911 we would have had reciprocity; but many of my

Liberal friends went back on that proposal and voted against it, with the result that although the West went pretty solidly for it, it was defeated and we did not get it.

This in my judgment, honourable gentlemen, is a pretty fair explanation of the reason for the Progressive party and the causes that led to its growth. And one can understand fairly well how deeply the Progressive idea has taken hold on the Western people, when we come to realize that in the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta—three large provinces that are now entitled to twelve or thirteen more members than they have in the House of Commons at the present time—not one member supporting honourable gentlemen on this side of the House was elected, and that only two members supporting my honourable friends on the other side of the House were elected, one in Winnipeg and one in Regina. The movement has spread to Ontario and there has been a good representation elected to the House from that province. East of the Ottawa river only one Progressive has been elected; but that is a matter which I expect we will be able to remedy to a certain extent in the future, although I am not overly sanguine that in my own old native province of Quebec there will be any very large number elected, but I have no doubt there will be some. There are a good many more or less dissatisfied people in the province of Quebec at present, and I look for the Progressive party to make a start in Quebec and to attain some considerable growth. Whether or not we will be able to do anything in the lower provinces I do not know. We have only one member from New Brunswick, and none at all from the other provinces.

That is the position to-day. And I want to say here, honourable gentlemen, that I think the Progressives have something to complain of at the attitude taken by the supporters of the Government, and also by the supporters of the party on this side of the House. In the last campaign, the misrepresentation that took place, and the policy pursued towards the Progressive party were somewhat extreme. From one end of the country to the other it was heralded abroad that if the Progressives should come into power there would be a general upsetting of things, and that the tariff would be wiped out overnight. If those are not the exact words, that is the exact meaning of what was said by many of the speakers,