

the hose and sprinkler of minor agricultural benefactions. Elections came and went, but Mr. Fisher remained undisturbed. Not so this time. The constituency witnessed the sudden onslaught of a young Montreal lawyer, Baker by name, untried as yet in politics, whose father had been one of the strong men of the Macdonald *regime*. Confident of his cause, he canvassed the broad riding from house to house, with an impetuous ardour that turned the hesitating support of his adherents into a flame of enthusiasm. When, midway in the election returns, the news was flashed from city to city that the hitherto impregnable County of Brome had fallen, it was felt that the Liberal *regime* was at an end.

The interpretation of the great election in Canada is of supreme import to the whole Empire. In its narrower sense it means much, of course, for the two great political parties of Canada. It places the Conservative Party not only in office, but in a position of advantage which will last for years to come. They are elected upon a negative question. In assuming control they reinherit their own national policy. Their great majority will enable them to disregard the importunities of factions and place-hunters. The splendid campaign and the indomitable pluck of their leader, Mr. Borden, sets him in the light of the standard-bearer of the whole nation on the path it has chosen. In opposition Mr. Borden has had his detractors. Now that he is in office the country is making discovery of the fact, patent enough long since, that his sterling honesty, which even the most virulent of his adversaries has never dared to impugn, and his unwavering courage of conviction, will make him the ideal head and centre of a truly national Government.

Of necessity the election carries with it the entire discomfiture and disorganisation of the Liberal Party of Canada. As a factor in Opposition the party is weakened by the discredit of its leaders. Mr. Fielding's bid for the succession to the leadership as the man who made Reciprocity has ended in his eclipse. His wreath of laurel is exchanged for a tin extinguisher. Reciprocity, of course, must be thrown overboard; indeed that awkward ballast is already being weaved up to the bulwarks of the dismantled ship by the few navigators who remain on deck. In addition to that the advantage of a solid French vote is lost to the Liberals