

Why the College Student Should Support Mr. R. L. Borden

Because he typifies the genius and spirit of a party which has been identified with the best phases to Canadian progress and has contributed most to the constructive development of our great Dominion.

Under Cartier and Macdonald its members were the firm friends of Confederation. With far-sighted vision, and unflinching faith in the future they purchased the Hudson Bay Company's territorial rights in the Northwest, erected the first province therein, and pledged a transcontinental railway in the interest of the development of the Northwest and as a condition of the union of British Columbia. This pledge they fulfilled in 1886, and the new Great West with its exhaustless agricultural resources and a contented and rapidly-developing Pacific province are the results.

The general transport system of Canada has been their especial work. Generous aid to railways by substantial subsidies has resulted in a network of land transport of great utility and ex-



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cellence, whilst the splendid steamship service from Vancouver to China and Japan, and Australia, and the West Indian service are their special creations.

The present industrial development of Canada under a system of judicious protection is entirely due to their efforts so far as legislation is concerned. In 1878 they fought out the question to a successful issue and triumphantly and consistently maintained it until 1896; since when, though they have suffered defeat at the polls, their policy remains firmly imbedded in the polity of the country.

Strongly contrasted with the unswerving and consistent attitude of the Liberal-Conservatives is the fickle and unsteady course of the Grit party. Beginning as free traders in theory but revenue tariff men in practice, they violently opposed protection in 1878 and thereafter, but for eighteen years they have boxed the trade compass in their search after policies. They followed Erastus Winan into the devious paths of Commercial Union and Continental Free Trade, fought for a quinquennium under the flag of Unrestricted Reciprocity, declared for discrimination against imports from the Mother Country and preferen-

tial admission of imports from the United States, and finally in 1896 wound up with the slogan cry of "Death to Protection," and reciprocity with the United States. The responsibilities of office, the ascertained protectionist sentiment of the country and the coolness of Uncle Sam purged them of the worst of their trade heresies, and they have quieted down into quite a respectable body of protectionist irregulars, who have abjured reciprocity, abandoned Free Trade, purged themselves of discrimination, and concluded a halting preference with the Empire.

Though no party in Canada has a monopoly of patriotism, it can be fairly said that the Liberal-Conservatives are never open to doubt and that their patriotism extends unreservedly into the wider scope of the Imperial, whilst abating nothing of its devotion to Canada.

The Liberal-Conservative leader is less mercurial than his distinguished opponent, but he is more reliable, has less rhetoric but more logic, uses words to explain and vivify his meaning not to obscure or conceal it, and is frank and courageous and uniform in the expression of his policy. From him the man in Quebec hears exactly the same as the man from Ontario. His personality is not so picturesque, but his force of character is greater. By temperament, by development, by education, he is eminently sane and safe. He stands for every constitutional liberty enjoyed by Canada, at the same time he is a whole-hearted Imperialist. The steadiness and consistency of his public course stand out in bold relief against the facile opportunism of the leader of the Government.

He is not afraid to take forward steps. His declaration for the sacredness of the ballot and the purity of politics, for the elimination of partisanship from the public service (notably in the management of the Intercolonial Railway), for fitness and cleanness as indispensable requisites for public appointments, for adequate checks and powers in expenditure and audit, and for Government railway ownership in contradistinction to railway-owned governments, are instances of this.

There is a wide and deep feeling that public men should be held strictly to principle and should honor the pledges they publicly make, and that the iniquities of the machine should be punished and suppressed. Untrammelled by the past the Conservative leader appeals to all men of honest heart and strong will to strengthen his hands in the effort to rehabilitate old-fashioned honor and wholesome integrity in high places. To the young men he especially appeals. Let them rally around his standard and uphold his arms and warm his devotion by their sympathy and their assistance.

With a clean, able, young leader the Liberal-Conservatives confidently appeal for the enthusiastic support of the young, the high-minded and the strong.

F. B. Doherty, Arts '05.