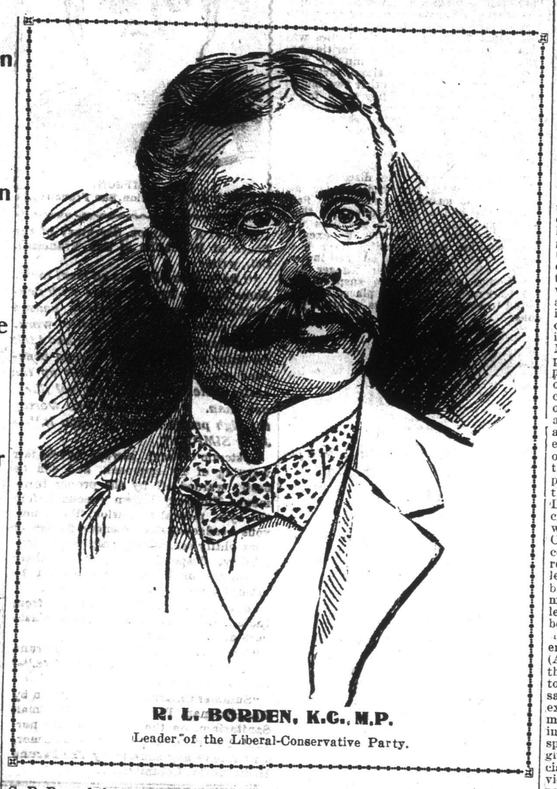
ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME TO CONSERVATIVE LEADER

Bumper Gathering In Theatre to Hear Mr. R. L. Borden.

Eloquent Utterances on Great Questions Before Canada.

Contrasts Conservative Policy With Liberal Shallowness.

Addresses By Other Speakers--Delighted With Victoria.



R. L. BORDEN, K.C., M.P.
Leader of the Liberal-Conservative Party.

Never in its history did the Victoria theatre contain a more thoroughly representative and enthusiastic audience than that which assembled last night to greet the Conservative leader, Mr. R. L. Borden, and his fellow members of the party, and listen to their addresses on the political issues of the day. The boxes and orchestra seats were graced by the presence of a large number of ladies, who took a deep interest in the proceedings and joined heartily in the applause, which punctuated the remarks of the speakers at frequent intervals. There was no attempt at elaborate decoration of the house, a few plants and shrubs were placed at the wings, and the chairman's table draped with the Union Jack proved effective and appropriate. Finn's orchestra was in attendance, and as the curtain rose, strains of the "Maple Leaf" roused the audience to the height of enthusiasm.

H. Dallas Helmcken, K.C., M.P.P., occupied the chair, and among those who were grouped about him on the stage were:

Messrs. R. L. Borden, K.C., M.P., Major George Fowler, M.P. for King's; A. C. Bell, M.P. for Pictou; H. A. Powell, ex-M.P. for Westmoreland; A. A. Lefurgey, of Prince Edward Island; E. F. Clarke, M. P., Toronto; James Clancy, M.P., Bothwell; Dr. T. S. Sproule, M. P., East Grey; W. H. Bennett, M. P., Simcoe East; Richard Blain, M. P., Peel, and W. B. Northrup, M. P., West Hastings, the guests of the evening; Col. the Hon. E. G. Prior, Hon. Senator Macdonald, Thos. Earle, M. P., H. D. Helmcken, M.P.P., Hon. D. H. Higgins, A. E. McPhillips, M.P.P., H. A. Mara, ex-M.P., D. H. McDowell, ex-M. P., Frank Moberly, D. R. Ker, John Black, Geo. Jay, Clive Phillips-Wolley, A. C. Berry, D. B. Bogle, Hon. E. Dewdney, Chas. Wilson, K.C., Capt. Michel, Ridgway Wilson, A. P. Luxton, C. O'Brien, T. S. Futcher, J. P. Burgess, Hugh McDonald, Beaumont Boggs, A. L. Belyea, E. C. B. Bagshawe, and several others.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Helmcken, who expressed his pleasure at the honor of presiding on such an auspicious occasion, the first official visit to British Columbia of Mr. R. L. Borden, the worthy leader of the great Conservative party. It was the opening of a new political campaign, in which the future destinies of the Dominion were involved, and he looked forward with pleasant anticipations to the remarks which would fall from the lips of Mr. Borden, as they would be an exposition of the policy upon which the future of Canada, and of his native province, would largely depend for weal or woe. He dwelt for a few moments on the great achievements of the Conservative party in the past, when guided by the master mind of Sir John Macdonald, would repeat those triumphs under the leadership of Mr. Borden. He then, in a few graceful words, introduced the first speaker of the evening, Mr. W. B. Northrup, M.P. for West Hastings.

MR. NORTHRUP.

Mr. Northrup was greeted with hearty applause as he rose to speak. He welcomed the presence of so many ladies. He regarded it as a happy augury of the future success of the Conservative party, for if it had the ladies on its side, it would be sure to win victory. It was most appropriate that Mr. Borden should raise the standard of the great Conservative party on the shores of the Pacific, the western outpost of the Empire.

He assured his hearers that they would find in Mr. Borden a worthy and trusty successor to the grand old chieftain, Sir John Macdonald, one who lived up to the famous utterance of that famous man, "A British subject I was born; a British subject I will die," one whose every thought, hope and aspiration was prompted by a desire for the advancement of his native Canada to the first place in the great union of the British Empire. (Applause.) It was a happy incident that Mr. Borden, representing the historic city of Halifax, should inaugurate his campaign here in the capital city of British Columbia in the extreme west of the great Dominion. It inspired every member of the party with a true sense of the vast extent and importance of this country, and the responsibility which rested upon them to see that justice be done to every section of the Dominion from ocean to ocean. It made them remember that they were elected to represent, not their own little constituencies only, but the Dominion as a whole, and it would be their pleasant task to work together hand in hand for the advancement of the interests of that mighty whole. (Applause.)

The speaker recalled the obstacles thrown in the way of the Conservatives when they undertook the building of the C. P. R., and the formulation of the National Policy. How the Liberals had denounced those policies and foretold disaster and bankruptcy, but the Conservatives carried their policy to a successful issue and the result was the present prosperity enjoyed by the Dominion. He criticized the Liberal "British preference" policy, pointing out its weak spots. Sir Wilfrid declared it was given in a matter of gratitude to the Mother Country, while Mr. Fielding said it was granted in order to secure cheaper British goods and because the home government might give Canada a preference in return. The real results of that policy had been to close up several Canadian woollen and other mills out of the country employees of those mills out of the country. Sir John Macdonald would never have made such a blunder. (Applause.)

Drawing a comparison between the social conditions in Europe, the United States and Canada, he deduced the conclusion that Canadians were, as a people, more prosperous and more contented than those of any other country under the sun. Made up as they were from the admixture of the Anglo-Saxon, Celt, Gaul and Teutonic races, they were of the strain which builds empires and they would build an empire, the envy of the world, in this great Dominion. (Applause.)

He was proud to be a Canadian, and he described a true Canadian as one who was thoroughly embued with a sense of the extent and importance of the Empire, of the unitedness and loyalty of the Dominion. He dwelt on the foundation of the Dominion, the faith with which Sir John Macdonald and his confreres had cemented confederation, by securing the admission of Manitoba and British Columbia in the face of discouragement and opposition on the part of the party which was now enjoying the successful results of that union. He concluded a short but brilliant speech with the expression of his conviction that the Conservative party, led by Mr. Borden, would shortly succeed to power, and by a wise and comprehensive policy secure prosperity and progress to all parts of the Dominion.

MR. BENNETT.

M. W. H. Bennett, M. P., East Simcoe, followed Mr. Northrup. He prefaced his remarks by thanking the people of Victoria for the hearty reception accorded Mr. Borden and his fellow-Conservatives. He paid a very high compliment to Mr. Borden as a man and a leader, declaring that he was in politics not for the fame or profit to be gained, but from genuine love of country and a desire to advance the general good. He pointed out that the determination and pluck of the leaders of the Conservative party, in the crisis of her history, had saved British Columbia to the Empire in spite of the discouraging attitude of the Liberals of those days, which amounted almost to fierce opposition, and felicitated the people of British Columbia that today the province was one of the most loyal and important in confederation. He spoke of the magnificent resources of British Columbia, her mines, forests and fisheries, awaiting the touch of a master hand to make her a great manufacturing and industrial province. He recognized the fact that British Columbia had been rather shabbily treated by the Dominion government in late years. Little, if anything, had been done for her, and her future hope must rest in the policy of the Conservative party—protection and stability.

He accepted the result of the recent general election in Ontario as the handwriting on the wall, which portended the victory of the Conservative party at the next Dominion general election, and urged his hearers to rally as one man to the old Conservative standard and assist in planting it firmly at Ottawa.

Mr. Bennett is a forcible and pleasing speaker, and roused his audience to frequent outbursts of applause.

MR. BORDEN.

Mr. Borden, who was greeted with loud applause said: Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am sure that I have to add my thanks to the speakers who have gone before me, and to the ladies for their presence here tonight. I think it is a good omen to us on this our opening meeting in the province of British Columbia, that we should have so many of the fair sex present. To the married men who are here tonight, I may say that I have in the past been a leader of the opposition in the government capacity, I have been a leader of the opposition in my own household, as every erratic man is, and also a leader of the opposition in the Conservative House of Commons, and I also say it, that while as far as my own household is concerned I believe the case is hopeless, yet I trust at some future date, and at no distant date indeed, I may be able to change places with my good friends at the right of me in the House of Commons. (Applause.) I may, I trust, be able to change my position of affairs there, and occupy my position at the right of the Speaker, and not at the left, as at present. I may say in that connection, that some time ago I visited a town in the western part of Ontario, and after speaking to the people at some length, I had the pleasure of being asked to a banquet, which began at 11.30 o'clock at night, which banquet I may say was given by the Liberal-Conservative association. In the course of the proceedings a friend of mine, a very good friend of mine, who was with me in the House of Commons, but who sat on the opposite side to me, was good enough to propose my toast, and he said that he had got along very nicely with me in the House of Commons, and that he would not mind seeing me Premier of Canada, but he said that he did not expect to live to see it. I could only retort by saying that I always regarded him as a man of excellent health, and I regretted very much that he looked forward to so early a demise. (Laughter and applause.) Now, so far as that is concerned, I will not say any more.

I want to say to you ladies and gentlemen of Victoria on this Island of Vancouver, why we are here, and to tell you about the visit of my good friends and myself to this part of British Columbia. We have not come here to make a political campaign among you. It will be necessary for us, it will be desirous for us to hold meetings, and to address meetings in order to present to you the platform and the principles of the Liberal-Conservative party, but our main mission to the West is one of education. We want to learn something of this Western country. I myself live in the city of Halifax, at the Eastern gateway of Canada. This splendid City of Victoria, which has developed a good deal I am glad to say since I first visited it, some eight years ago, is at the Western gate of Canada. Between those two cities is Canada. I left Halifax, and I came across this continent, a distance which separates Halifax from the Motherland we all love so well, and this Canada of ours, which stretches a thousand miles towards the setting sun, and I do not think there is any thought—to one living as I do—that impressed us so greatly as the magnitude, and the greatness of the territory in this country, as that one thought, that standing here in Victoria tonight I am still in Canada, as I am when in my home in Halifax, and I am nearly one thousand miles further away from Halifax than if I were in London. Now, we have felt in the House of Commons that we do not know enough of this country; that we did not know enough of this great West. I have preached to this great country whenever I had an opportunity of addressing you on the public platform, and I have told you as Canadians the principle to adopt is one of unity in thought and sentiment, and that is the principle which should guide the people of this country, and particularly the public men of this country. They must get to know each other and get better acquainted, and having preached that doctrine to my fellow citizens in the East, in Ontario, and the Maritime Provinces, I thought we could not do a better thing than by putting that in practice by taking a tour through this Western country, and I believe this visit will not be without great benefit to ourselves. I am speaking in that respect not solely from a political standpoint, not solely for the interests of the Liberal-Conservative party, but from the interests of the Conservative party as a whole, because we, as the opposition in the House of Commons, have duties to perform in connection with the country, as well as those who sit at the right of the Speaker, and it is right that we should know something of the country, and in a good effective way by learning something of your needs, your requirements, your hopes, and your aspirations in this Western country, and to go back and tell the people of the East, and tell the House of Commons, when we deal in these matters, what it is we learned in the West, and what is to be hoped and expected of the Western future development of this country. (Applause.)

Now, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I occupy in connection with the Liberal-Conservative party a somewhat peculiar position. In the election of 1900 our leader, Sir Charles Tupper, a grand old man of Canada (applause), was unfortunately defeated and many of his lieutenants, notably the Hon. Geo. E. Foster, also failed to secure their election. It was supposed by our opponents that we were hopelessly disorganized. It then became necessary for the Liberal-Conservative party to elect a leader. I may tell you in all confidence that I was not particularly anxious to undertake such a great responsibility as that. It is a very great responsibility for any man to undertake as one of the political corners of his party. I felt at the time I had all upon my shoulders I could possibly attend to, and I don't think I have had the political yearning for political life which is supposed to be a part of gentlemen who are in public life in this country. However, I suppose he is not the first of a man, who when called to the front at a time like that will not make such a sacrifice. I did make some sacrifice in answering to that call. I told my friends they might have made a better choice, but having been called upon to do the best I could in that capacity, I have done my duty, and I am bound to tell you, as I have told the people before that no leader of the Liberal-Conservative party, not even those great men of whom I have spoken tonight, they have never had, I believe, a more loyal, or a more cordial or loyal support than that which I have had, from the gentlemen who sit beside me. (Applause.)

Now, I hear throughout the country, and I hear in the West here, the story that there is really no difference between political parties in the country, so far as policy is concerned at the present time, and I want to say a word to you tonight about that. If there is at the present time no difference between the Liberal-Conservative party and the Liberal party, is it simply a question between those two parties in this country as to which shall begin and which shall shape it. Is it simply a question of the administration of the public affairs of this country without any regard to principle or policy? Well, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, we do not so regard it. I will take up in the first place the question of the fiscal policy of this country, and I will propound to you this proposition, that the Liberal-Conservative party's policy in Canada today is a plain and distinct policy, upon which it is prepared to go to the people of this country, whether in the Maritime Provinces, whether in Ontario, whether in Manitoba, or whether it is in this great province of British Columbia. (Applause.) It is not a policy for one section of the people. It is not a policy for one class of producers. It is not a policy for one part of the country alone, but it is a policy and it is a principle which we are prepared to advocate in any and every province of Canada, and one which our friends in other public positions in the different provinces of Canada propound, and put forward as the policy of the country. I ask you, and I ask any Liberal in this hall tonight, whether that can be said of the Liberal party. If you will take the debates in the House of Commons, I venture to say you cannot come to the conclusion as to what is really their policy today. I will challenge any Liberal to take the tariff debates in the last two sessions of parliament and read the utterances of the leader of that party, that he will not be able to tell them when he has got through what is the policy of the Liberal party in Canada as regards tariff. (Applause.) In each of the debates in the House of Commons which I submit to you you will find the result is just the same. I do not wish to worry you with extracts from the speeches of Liberal members, but you may remember reading in the lines of your press the Laurier speech made by Mr. Tarte at a banquet given in Montreal of the Liberal Association, and you have no doubt read his views thereon. Now, Mr. Tarte has never disguised from the people of this country the fact that he is a protectionist. He claims to have been a protectionist at all events. He went into the Cabinet with Sir Wilfred Laurier as a protectionist, and he is a protectionist at the present time. Mr. Tarte at that banquet, used very strange and expressive language. He used it after the Minister of Finance had spoken. The Minister of Finance is opposed to speaking on matters of that kind. Sir Wilfrid Laurier told him that the tariff was as good a tariff as you could get for Canada under all conditions. Mr. Fielding spoke afterwards and said he hoped and almost believed that the question of tariff was practically out of politics in Canada today. Mr. Tarte was remarkably uneasy during these utterances of his leader, and after he had concluded he got up, and made perhaps the most extreme protectionist speech I have ever heard in my life. He said: "There is a crisis at hand. Our American friends are endeavoring to make a slaughter market of this country. In a tariff that will protect our national industries and waterways, that will protect our national trade. Our American friends are making tremendous efforts to crush this country. We, who are in office, know that they are leaving no stone unturned to crush this Dominion, both industrially and commercially. I have been accused of talking too much, but I may tell you that it is never a crime to speak the truth, and I do not believe in secrecy in public affairs."

Now, Mr. Tarte did not stop there. In Toronto, in June, 1902, he said, speaking on the Canadian tariff and free trade: "We must have a Canadian tariff. Free trade may suit certain countries; it suits England. Another system, the protective system may suit other countries. I suppose that we have made up our minds to suit ourselves. There is a French proverb that 'charity well ordrined begins with itself.' It is the same as our English proverb, which says 'Charity begins at home.' We must fight our opponents with their own weapons. I cannot understand why Canadians are obliged to give free markets to a people who raise barriers against them. Down with theories. Theories are no good. Business is business. That is to say, if my honorable friends and neighbors want to strangle me, my first duty is to prevent them. Canadians must have a tariff to suit themselves. If 25 per cent. is not enough, speaking for myself alone, I would have no hesitation in raising it to 30 per cent. or 40 per cent."

Then at Halifax he states in his speech: "The country must have the protection of a tariff ample for its needs." The Leading Ordinance of Nova Scotia, said that if Mr. Tarte really meant what he said, then the proper place for him was not at the right of the Speaker, but at the left of the Speaker. That is, ladies and gentlemen, the protectionist view. This is Mr. Tarte. He goes to the manufacturers and makes strong protectionist speeches; he goes to the manufacturers throughout Canada, and tells them: "You need not be afraid to open tariff, we will keep to the protective tariff, and we will increase that tariff if it is necessary for a preferential proposition." What is the other side of the story. Sir Richard Cartwright in the last session of Parliament made a speech, and Mr. Tarte sat taking notes of that speech, and told certain gentlemen in the House of Commons that he intended answering Sir Richard just in that way. Well, Mr. Tarte did not answer Sir Richard. His colleagues got hold of him and sent him down to Montreal to examine a bridge there, and without his making any of these strange protective utterances that he made throughout the country. But Sir Richard Cartwright did make a strong speech on protection and perhaps it will interest you to know just what he did say with regard to that subject. He quoted from Sir Wilfrid Laurier just two years before the last general election, when he spoke as to bondage and slavery, and when he spoke on bondage and slavery he meant as it applied in the sense of slavery which had prevailed in the United States of America before the war. He said there could be no true freedom in Canada while protection remained, and he told the people of that country he came to preach a new gospel, the gospel of free trade. When Sir Richard concluded these remarks he turned to his leader, and said: "This was expressed by a gentleman who expressed it more forcibly than I am able to do it, and he said that he believed those words to contain good and sound advice then; "And I believe them to contain good and sound advice now." He went on to say you will notice that Mr. Tarte wants protection. He is not satisfied with what he has now, and this is Sir Richard Cartwright's view on the same subject: "Human nature being as it is, it is almost impossible for a government to be protectionist and escape being corrupt. "While I think protection and corruption are practically inseparable, I likewise believe for my part that protection and true freedom are all but absolutely incorruptible." Now, Sir Wilfrid Laurier has given his ideas to the same effect in the House of Commons. Mr. Sifton recently has said that Mr. Tarte speaks only for himself; that it is only a small portion of the Liberal party that is in favor of free trade, and that he, Mr. Sifton, will see to it that the people of the West are not to be subject to any of his views, and that no change of tariff will be made in the present government. Now, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I submit to you as to whether a party that puts forth such views to the country of such a character can be said to have any real character with regard to the policy of the country today. It is true that Liberal speakers will tell you that tariff does contain protection, but I say if Canadian industry is to be protected it should be based upon principle, and should not be the result of an accident—a tariff that is not made by Mr. Tarte on one hand and Sir Richard Cartwright on the other hand, and it is to be based upon the true principle of the interest of this country.

Now, Mr. Chairman, what is the Conservative idea? The Conservative idea of the Conservative principle as moved in the House of Commons in the last two sessions is this. There should be adequate protection to the farmers of this country, to the laboring industries of this country, and to the manufacturing industries of this country. (Applause.) Now, I will not say in applying a policy of that kind will not meet with difficulty. I recognize the fact that what is one man's raw material in this country may be another man's manufacture. It is a matter of adequate protection. That is a policy which is held to be the policy of the Liberal-Conservative party. That is the pronounced and declared policy of the people of this country—adequate protection of Canadian industries, a protection which will insure to Canadians of this country their own markets at all price and under all circumstances. (Applause.) I have also to submit to you that the policy is not less a policy of the Empire, because in Canada the principle laid down is the principle of right and duty in benefitting and developing the interests of this country, just the same as the people of Australia, are also committed to safeguard the interests of this vast Empire. Now, this policy has been the policy of the Liberal-Conservative party for years, and it is a policy which suits the people of this country. (Applause.) It is a policy which suits this country, a country possessing many valuable resources. Every Canadian will agree with me when I say that the development of this country should proceed along legitimate lines. We have great resources in this country. We have great iron wealth, and a wonderful supply of minerals in this country, and we have also wonderful agricultural wealth, but we do not want our agricultural industries to develop alone. We do not want our iron manufactories to develop alone, but we want the development of Canada to proceed on fair and legitimate lines, and the policy advocated by the Liberal-Conservative party is the policy to accomplish that great result. Our country is enormous as far as area is concerned. It lies 4,000 miles along probably the greatest manufacturing country in the world, which has increased in the past 50 years from 1850 to 1900 from one billion to thirteen billion of dollars, and a market that had only 3 per cent. of their manufactures exported three years ago; a country whose agricultural resources are so great, with although merely a thousand million of dollars of valuable agricultural exports, that amount is but a trifle of the total product of the country in that respect. Now, lying as we do for 4,000 miles along that country, and possessing as we do this great market, it is absolutely necessary that our industries in Canada should have protection from the competition which even in times of prosperity, and which in times of depression will undoubtedly come, and even more severe to all the industries of this country. In that connection we must bear in mind if we once allow the Americans to obtain possession of our markets and dominate our industries, which at the present time supply the people of this country, we will have to face the American trusts. We have been told that these trusts possess enormous powers in the United States that one controls it in no less than four of the State legislatures so that these legislatures do not represent the true will of the people, but merely the industrial interests of this great concern. Now I say as far as our own trusts are concerned, our parliament and our legislatures, while they cannot deal with the trusts across the line, they can deal with the position of affairs in this country, but we do not want to place ourselves in the hands of the great American trusts. We do not want our industries crushed down by this great American capital. We want them for the purpose of keeping our population at home, for the purpose of developing Canada along legitimate lines, and for the purpose of bringing this country that destiny which every Canadian believes that he is designed to achieve, the destiny of a great, free people holding the northern part of this continent to the Empire and preserving their own interests and their own industries free from any interference by our neighbors to the South. (Applause.)

Now protection brings me, ladies and gentlemen, to a subject which has had some attention in this province during the last few years, in fact, for a great many years, and that is the subject of Oriental immigration into the province of British Columbia. (Applause.) One would suppose that the province of British Columbia had not any very great sentiment regarding that subject at the present time. I know that there has been a sentiment in the past, because we have been told by your representatives in the House of Commons of that fact. We have been told, and it is a fact, that petitions have been signed by thousands of your people and have been sent forward to the government, but have been disregarded, while exclusion and redistribution bills passed by your legislature, have been disallowed. I believe, however, that statements have been made by the present prime minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier—that he has given his assurance upon this subject—and I only say this because I know that in the House of Commons, on the 16th day of September, 1896, the statement was made by Col. Prior—he stated to the House of Commons on that date that the prime minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, had sent a telegram to a gentleman in the city of Vancouver, which contained the following words: "Chinese immigration restriction not a question in the East. Views of Liberals in the West will prevail with me." Well, Sir Wilfrid Laurier has at his back a fairly representative majority from British Columbia at the present time, although I am led to believe this condition may be altered later (laughter and applause), and if that telegram contains any pledge to the people of British Columbia—and it appears to me it does, because it was sent during the progress of an election—why has not that pledge been redeemed? Has any answer been given? Has this question been put? "The views of the Liberals of the West will prevail with me"—does that mean that the Liberal representatives are not in favor of some action in regard to this subject? I don't believe that is the state of affairs, if we are to judge from the speeches of the Liberal members—and then I ask why was not that pledge carried out, because that telegram contains a pledge from Sir Wilfrid Laurier to this province? Why is it not carried out? I think is a fair and legitimate question to ask now. Now I venture to say with regard to this subject that it is a subject which invites the attention of the parliament at Ottawa. I know that there is a good deal of diversity of opinion in regard to the question in Canada. I know that a good many gentlemen in the East do not sympathize with the views which prevail in the West, but I have also learned that when men from the East have lived in British Columbia a year or two they have been known to alter their opinions in regard to this particular matter. I venture to think that so far as this province is concerned, and dealing with the question of the disallowance of your statutes, there is no Imperial consideration which should prevail against your views on your wishes, as there was no Imperial consideration to prevail against similar legislation in Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand and Natal. Why was not the Natal Act disallowed? And if there be no answer to this question, why should the federal authorities disallow your act? It may be stated that it was beyond the powers of your legislature to pass that enactment, yet why not leave that question to the courts to decide, in the same way as other statutes of Canada and of the various provinces are dealt with, and have it determined whether it was within the powers of the British Columbia legislature or not? Upon this question there is a great deal to be said in favor of the views which prevail in this province. In the first place, as I understand it, the Oriental emigrant is not permanent. He does not come to this country for the purpose of making a permanent settlement. I am told he comes only for the purpose of making money to go home again and live upon, and, as was pointed out in the House of Commons by one of the Liberal speakers upon the question, suppose we have sixteen thousand Chinese who are not permanent settlers, and suppose we can accomplish the same amount of work with eight thousand white immigrants, who, with their families, will represent forty thousand of a population, which will be better for British Columbia, the sixteen thousand who will not be assimilated and become of our people, permanent settlers, or the eight thousand white people who will? (Cheers.) There is another consideration, and the evidence which I have been able to gather supports this, that the rate at which Chinese labor works in this province, is not a fair living wage for the white labor which in many instances has to come into competition with it. Now, I understand that white labor does not compete with Oriental labor all along the same lines, but I also understand that Chinese labor can be obtained at less than the living wage for white workers in the same lines, and surely we cannot expect the English-speaking laboring men of this country to advance, to grow to that standard of citizenship which we ought to expect from every man in this country, if they don't get that full living wage to which they are entitled. (Applause.) Now if I were to follow Sir Wilfrid Laurier's example, I should say that when I am called upon to assume the responsibilities of government, that the views of the Conservative members from British Columbia from British Columbia would prevail (laughter), but I will not tell you anything of the sort; but I do say to you that this is a question upon which the views of the people in the West, whether they be Liberal or Conservative, should prevail. (Loud applause.) It is a question upon which the views of the people of the province it affects should prevail (renewed applause), and I am willing to say, and do say, that as far as I am able to deal with the question, I would give effect to the views of the people of this province as a whole in regard to this particular question, whether they be Liberal or Conservative. (Applause.)

Now I have one or two other remarks which I wish to make before closing, because I know that my friend Mr. E. F. Clarke will be welcomed by you, and I do not wish to infringe upon his time. Some things have been said to me in the West about the so-called preferential tariff, and as to the attitude of the Conservative party with regard to it. I want to tell you that the idea of granting a preferential tariff to the Mother Country was first brought forward by the Liberal-Conservative party in 1892, but it was not brought forward in the shape in which it was finally adopted. It was brought forward with the idea of granting a preference and obtaining a preference (Hear, hear!), and the Liberals told the country in 1896 that they were prepared to carry that plan out, but Sir Wilfrid Laurier went to London in 1896 and told the people of Great Britain that Canada did not want anything of that kind, and that the Liberals had granted the preference to the Motherland solely and simply as a return for the freedom which had been conferred upon Canada, that Canada did not want the Motherland to venture into that policy of protection, which had been a curse to Canada. Now I think that Sir Wilfrid Laurier's view of this preference was entirely too generous. It is true that he represented to the people of Toronto that that was incorrect, that he would have been agreeable to get a preference if he could get it, but that he couldn't get it, and therefore he made the best of the situation. (Laughter.) The position of the Liberal-Conservative party on this question is that nothing will be regarded as final and satisfactory in this matter short of obtaining a preference by the Motherland in return for a preference by Canada in favor of the Motherland (Applause.) In other words, we believe that the preference should be mutual, that it should work in the interests of Canada and the Motherland alike. (Renewed applause.) We pointed out as well that in the near future, when Canada would be in a position to deal with this question of a preferential tariff, it would be found that by this so-called preference Canada had given away the key to the position, the very thing which would enable her to accomplish that upon which we all agreed; and in that connection I want to point out that the policy of the Liberal party has been the cause of very great disaster to Canada in one respect, at least. The Conservative party in Canada had been endeavoring for years to secure the abrogation of Great Britain's treaty with Germany, which prevented Canada dealing with the preferential tariff question, but had been unsuccessful because, in the language of Lord Salisbury, such a step would not be in the interests of the Motherland as a whole. but since the action of the Liberal government and the denouncing of that treaty under the so-called preferential tariff, Germany-made goods had been coming into Canada by thousands and thousands worth every year, being shipped to Great Britain, and from there imported into Canada, as British-made goods, so that Germany, and not Great Britain, was reaping the benefit. I should have said previously that when that so-called preferential tariff was adopted, Canada, under the "most favored nation" clauses, was an open market to the world, and it was only after this mistake was pointed out by the Conservatives, that in 1897 or 1898 an amendment was passed, restricting the benefit to the Motherland. Thus Germany has now a preference in Canada, and what does Germany give us in exchange? This tariff was adopted in the interests of the Motherland, according to the Liberals, but the result had been that under the most favored nation clauses, Canada was excluded by preference from the German markets while Germany took the benefit of our reduction; and as far as the records of parliament at Ottawa are concerned, the government of the day has permitted this to pass without a protest, and the only information that Canada had upon the subject is contained in correspondence between the Motherland and the Commonwealth of Australia, the latter government not being afraid to put its foor down and resist the imposition.

I wish to say, in conclusion, that we tonight, when we leave your beautiful city, are going to say, not good-bye, but au revoir. (Applause.) We know that this visit will be of great benefit to us. We believe it will be of benefit to us all. We believe that the people of this country should become better acquainted with each other, and we believe particularly that the people of this country should possess the greatest possible confidence in their undoubted future. (Applause.) The Liberal-Conservative party has been a party that has been built up on faith and confidence in the destiny of Canada. (Renewed applause.) If it had not been for that gigantic undertaking, the building of the C. P. R., those grand prairie provinces and British Columbia would never have become part of Canada. That hope and that faith in the future still exists, aye, and I believe, is greater and stronger than ever. The great resources of the country in agriculture, in fisheries, in mining, in lumbering and in manufacturing, have still to be developed—all these are open to development for the people of this country, who possess a great heritage, and this heritage possesses a great future for all, if the people of Canada will only have that confidence which they have had in the past, and of which they have displayed so much. (Applause.) Especially to the young men of Canada I appeal to take an interest in public affairs. Do not assume that one is as good as the other, as far as your interests are concerned, that it is merely a question of which side is in and which out. If there are public men who have no higher sentiments than that, then your young men should fall in line and turn them out. Our material prosperity is a matter of moment, but continued prosperity cannot be maintained unless there are high standards of public life. (Applause.) We want the young men to help us to raise them, and to create them, and I would sooner see a young man in active alliance with the Liberal party, to which I am opposed, than to see him stand supinely by doing nothing. To these the destinies of this country will shortly be confided, and those destinies will never have their proper result, unless the young men of the country actively exert themselves in public affairs, and give to the country their best efforts and their best intelligence, not only in connection with their individual business, but in connection with the carrying on of the business of the country. (Loud applause). I thank you for the attention you have given me and sincerely trust that this will not be the last occasion on which I shall have the pleasure of seeing you. (Cheers.)

MR. CLARKE.

Mr. E. F. Clarke, M. P., was the next speaker. He referred to the cordiality of the reception tendered to Mr. Borden and his party by the people of Victoria. Of all the nice things he had heard of Victoria, he could say that the half had not been told. If the people of the East visited British Columbia they would return home, as he would, prounder of Canada. He paid a high tribute to the institutions and beauty of the city of Victoria. The visit of the party was an educational one. He asked if the two-sided policy of the Liberal party was a satisfactory one, and spoke of the cry of free trade of the Liberal leaders in 1896. If today Canada was in the wave of prosperity, it was because the Liberals had not carried out their promises to the people in that year. It had never been and never would be, the policy of the Conservatives, no matter how long they remained in opposition, to decry Canada. They would always do their best to induce people to come in and help Canadians to develop the Dominion. There should be a policy of stability in respect to the tariff, and this could not be the present government in power. Mr. Tarte himself had admitted that the members of the cabinet fought like "blazes" over it. The Liberals promised to open the markets of the United States to Canadians, but according to their own authorities they had not done so; in fact, Canada now sold less to the United States. The policy of the Liberal-Conservatives would give protection to the industries of Canada and would shut out the manufacturers of the United States, causing the removal of the factories and the artisans to this side of the line. If the natural products of Canada could not find a market in the United States, the manufactured goods of the United States would not be allowed to flood the Dominion. The so-called British preference was a fraud. It had not worked out to the benefit of British workmen, but to the advantage of German and other foreign workmen. The Liberals made too many promises; they could not live up to them. The premier had said he would be guided by the British Columbia Liberals in respect to Oriental immigration. If the B. C. Liberals were sincere on this question, they should force the hands of the government by the introduction of a resolution in the House of Commons. The increase of the head tax to $100 would not do. It did not keep them out. The legislature of British Columbia had shown how they could keep out. An alien labor law was passed unanimously by the Commons and Mr. Scott, secretary of state, refused to sign it. It was passed by the Conservative Senate, however, but the government had never enforced it. When the Conservatives came into power they kept their pledges and in 1896 the people expected the same from the Liberals, but they could not keep all their promises, as they were so divergent. The farmers had been promised free trade and the manufacturers protection. The Conservative policy was one of moderate protection, which was fair to the whole of Canada. The lumber and salmon of British Columbia should find a market in Canada, and the ores of the province should be smelted on this side of the line. The policy of the Conservative party would bring this about. If the people of the Northwest had to pay a little more for their lumber they would have the satisfaction of knowing that a market was being created in British Columbia for their products. (Applause.) The Conservatives made no sectional appeals. They made the same appeal to the East as to the West. The National Policy had made the people of Canada self-reliant and independent, and instead of us looking to the United States they now look to us. (Applause.)

Senator Macdonald moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Borden and his colleagues for their speeches. This was seconded by Mr. A. E. McPhillips, M.P.P., and carried with cheers.

"God Save the King" brought the meeting to a close.

THE ARRIVAL.

R. L. Borden, K.C., M.P., the Conservative leader, accompanied by Mrs. Borden, and several members of the House of Commons, arrived in the city on Sunday night. The Charmer was late in arriving and consequently, when she docked a little after 10 o'clock, there was only a small gathering present to greet the distinguished party. A great many had assembled at the wharf earlier in the evening, but grew weary of waiting and deferred paying their respects till Monday. The officers and members of the executive of the Victoria Conservative Association were there in force, however, and gave Mr. Borden and his confreres a hearty welcome, after which they were escorted to the Driard, where rooms had been engaged for them.

Yesterday morning the visitors were taken in hand by leading citizens and were driven to Esquimalt, where they inspected the Imperial dry yard, dry dock and other points of interest.

THE RECEPTION.

After luncheon an informal reception was held in the Driard parlors, from 2 to 4 o'clock, which was attended by several hundred ladies and gentlemen, who were introduced to Mr. and Mrs. Borden and the other members of the party. Finn's orchestra rendered a programme of excellent music during the reception, and many of the callers brought gifts of flowers, which were very much appreciated by the visitors.

After the reception the party drove to the parliament buildings and Beacon Hill park, returning to the Driard for dinner. They, one and all, expressed their appreciation of Victoria and its many beautiful scenes, its substantial, handsome buildings and its industrial appearance, regretting that the time at their disposal would not permit of more thorough enjoyment of all the attractions of the city.

The party consists of R. L. Borden, K.C., M. P., and Mrs. Borden; Major George Fowler, M. P. for King's; A. C. Bell, M. P. for Pictou; H. A. Powell, ex-M. P. for Westmoreland, and Mrs. Powell; A. A. Lefurgey, of Prince Edward Island; E. F. Clarke, M. P., Toronto; James Clancy, M. P., Bothwell; Dr. T. S. Sproule, M. P., East Grey; W. H. Bennett, M. P., Simcoe East; Richard Blain, M. P., Peel, and W. B. Northrup, M. P., West Hastings, and Mrs. Northrup.

LEFT FOR VANCOUVER.

After the meeting several members of the party took a walk through Chinatown, to see for themselves the habitat of the "yellow peril." At midnight they boarded the Charmer for Vancouver, where Mr. Borden and others of the party will address a public meeting tonight. Hon. Col. Prior and Mr. G. A. Stewart Potts accompanied them.

Derangements of the liver, with constipation, impure the complexion, induce pimples, sallow skin. Remove the cause by using Carter's Little Liver Pills. One a dose. Try them.

Certificate of Improvements.

NOTICE.

Rambler, Thorn, Rose, Jen, Puffing Billy and Pig Iron Mineral claims, situate in the Victoria Mining division of Renfrew District. Where located: Gordon river, Port Sandman.

Take notice that I, H. E. Newton, F. M. No. 72436, and as agent for C. J. Newton, F.M.C. No. B 72431, R. A. Newton, M. C. No B, 72433, R. T. Godman, F. M. No. 72435, intend, sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the Mining Recorder for a Certificate of Improvements, for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant in the above claims.

And further take notice that action, under section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such Certificate of Improvements.

Dated this 13th day of June, A. D., 1902.

MINERAL ACT.
Certificate of Improvements.
NOTICE.

Old Ireland Mineral Claim, situate in the Alberni Mining Division of Clayoquot District. Where located: On Broughton Peake, Barclay Sound.

Take notice that I, A. S. Going, as agent for Wm. H. Plett, Free Miner's Certificate No. B70473, intend, sixty days from date hereof, to apply to the Mining Recorder for a Certificate of Improvements, for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant on the above claim.

And further take notice that action, under section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such Certificate of Improvements.

Dated this 3rd day of July, A. D. 1902.
A. S. GOING.

MINERAL ACT.
Certificate of Improvements.
NOTICE.

Bald Eagle No. 2 Mineral Claim, situate in the Alberni Mining Division of Clayoquot District. Where located: On Broughton Peake, Barclay Sound.

Take notice that I, A. S. Going, as agent for Timothy O'Connor, Free Miner's Certificate No. B70472, intend, sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the Mining Recorder for a Certificate of Improvements for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant on the above claim.

And further take notice that action, under section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such Certificate of Improvements.

Dated this 3rd day of July, A. D. 1902.
A. S. GOING.

MINERAL ACT.
Certificate of Improvements.
NOTICE

Victoria Mineral Claim, situate in the Alberni Mining Division of Clayoquot District. Where located: On Broughton Peake, Barclay Sound.

Take