

ing. Is fault to be found with the fishers? Certainly not. They are engaged in a praiseworthy work, and the Liberal party wish them well in their enterprise. If there is wrong-doing—if men of the scheming mould, whose acquaintance with honesty is but casual, have designs on the strong-box in which is kept the money of the people—if men of the speculating pattern who by 'ways that are dark and tricks that are mean' feign would blossom out as millionaires by gambling with the inheritance of every Canadian, and become as bats in our legislative halls, let them be exposed to the bright glare of that Canadian patriotism which has the golden ring, and none will with greater alacrity proceed with the work of purifying our body politic than the members of the Liberal party, from its chief to the most humble in the rank and file.

Complaint is sometimes heard that our expenditures are too great and professions made many years ago in this connection are quoted against the government, but the fact is ignored that expenditure and expansion must necessarily march hand in hand.

Public buildings must be erected and those in existence must be enlarged to accommodate the greatly increased business of the country.

On every hand the action of the government is guided solely by those business principles which would be called into action by any enterprising manufacturer in the Dominion.

It will be remembered that some years ago it was the proud boast of the party now in opposition that many tall chimneys studded the land, and, for this evidence of prosperity, they justly claimed a meed of commendation and gratitude from the people of the country. But why deny the Liberal party the credit of quadrupling the number of chimneys great and small, from which arise that volume of smoke betokening a manufacturing life and activity of the booming, bustling variety. But it were next to impossible to hear words of praise from our political foemen. Some of them—those of the carping sort—will look at the work of the tall chimneys, and will tell you that the smoke is a nuisance. That is all.

One of the most momentous problems of the day is the settlement of differences between capital and labour; and it must be

said for the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier that it has used its best energies to the purpose of bringing about better conditions between the workers and the employers. The disturbing elements are not now as numerous as they were some years ago, and let us hope that in the near future some system will be devised to settle at once and for ever all differences which may arise. Capital and labour are found to be not so far apart when the best minds on both sides approach one another with a sincere desire to make a treaty of peace.

Most praiseworthy action of the government is to be found in the earnest effort to protect our people from companies which are oftentimes unreliable and frequently controlled by masters of finance who worship only at the shrine of the bag of gold. The sooner we rid the country of these men the better. Perhaps the most pitiable sight imaginable is to see the humble wage-earner swindled by these well groomed criminals, who, when want pinches the widow and the orphan because of the removal of the husband and father by the hand of death, tells them that he will not carry out his obligations.

I feel hon. gentlemen, that I should make some references to a matter which has been very much discussed the past month—the election trial in Toronto. I think my honourable and honoured colleague from London—that venerable statesman who has given half a century to the service of his country and who wears unsullied the badge of honour bestowed upon him by his sovereign—will agree with me that London's fair fame has suffered in too great a degree because of a lack of intimate knowledge of all the facts connected with recent elections therein.

Let the constituency which is without election sins cast the first stone at London. It is patent to all that unlawful methods have for long, in a greater or less degree, been the rule, in too many sections of the country, when the tocsin of political warfare has been sounded.

It is to be regretted that the speech of the honourable the leader of the opposition was tinged with a party colour. His charges, however, against the Liberal party were of such a general character that it were difficult to know where to strike back. It

Hon. Mr. COFFEY.