

the effect upon the North-west, the effect by reflex action upon the rest of Canada, could not be considered too serious or grave, and that an attempt is now being made to create a sort of boom, in the expectation that you will get your railway finished in the course of a few months, and that a new era of prosperity is about to set in. I wish I could tell you that I think there will be that era of prosperity. I am content that what I said should be recorded, that it should be read, and that in the course of a few short months, and after a year's experience of the road in actual use, you should judge whether I am right or wrong in advising what I did. I feel that the condition of the country is serious. I do not feel that we have cause for despair. I hope never to despair of my country. But we have cause for serious alarm. We ought to endeavor to awake our country from its lethargy, to show how far performance has come from promise, how woefully it has fallen short. We ought to show the real situation, exaggerating nothing, believing that our country will see that a policy of reduced taxation, of readjusted taxation, of economy in administration, of recognition of the Federal principle, and of Provincial rights; saving what remains to be saved, is the policy which ought to be adopted. She will see that the men who now govern her have proved unsafe guides, have proved unjust stewards, and that she will be prepared to remove from them the power which they have abused and to place it in the hands of men who

have shown themselves, when they had it, faithful to their trust, and declining, under difficult circumstances, to retain power by gulling the people. (Loud applause.) Who never said they would achieve for the country prosperity by the fiscal policy, and declined to endeavor to instruct the people in the doctrine that they could grow rich by taxation, whose thought rather was how to confine the limits of the Government within its proper scope, and told the people that upon your labor, intelligently, liberally, industriously and freely applied, you must depend for your wealth and prosperity. (Cheers.) I trust that this will be the verdict of the country when it shall be called upon, (Cheers.) I trust the young Men's Liberal Club have seen this night, I hope, notwithstanding its feeble advocacy, that their cause is good, that the issues are momentous; the propositions that they are to advocate are such as they can maintain on any platform that they are propositions in the interest of this country; not the propositions of charlatans, who pretend to be able to heal by quack remedies, but of men who point to the true sources of the evil and give the true remedy, which lies with the people. And so may I not exhort them:—

" Press on ! the triumph shall be won,
Of common rights and equal laws,
The glorious dream of Harrington,
And Sidney's grand old cause.

Blessing the cotter and the Crown,
Sweetening worn labor's bitter cup,
And plucking not the highest down,
Lifting the lowest up."