

# RECORD OF PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY UNDER LIBERAL RULE

## Some of the Steps Taken by the Laurier Government to Promote Good Times.

**A Story of Constant, yet Wise Progression. A Story of Energetic and Enthusiastic Application of Sound Business Principles, Judgment and Experience. A Story of a New and Greater Canada; of a New Business Age. The Farmers' Wants Attended to. Industries of all Kinds Stimulated. Labor Conditions Ameliorated and Improved. The Facts Laugh Conservative Pretensions and Criticism to Scorn.**

The Conservative Party, with an assurance truly astonishing, claims the credit, through the national policy, for all the prosperity the country is now enjoying, and denies that the Liberal Government has done anything to promote prosperity. In Parliament and out of it, on the platform, in the press—the cry is raised, "The Liberals have not performed a solitary act of benefit to the country. To the R. P. chiefly belongs the credit of the good times."

The cry is a silly and absurd one! The Conservatives themselves in their heated hours do not believe it, and their only possible object in raising it is to divide the electors so that they may not perceive the actual truth, and accord credit where credit is due. The Liberal Government does not claim that ALL our prosperity is the result of its acts, but it does claim, and with justice, that its legislation had administration have been along the right lines—have stimulated and sustained the trade and commerce of the country, and have in a very marked way promoted prosperity.

**WHAT ARE THE FACTS?**  
At the outset of this enquiry into the matter it is necessary to bear in mind the conditions that prevailed prior to June, 1896, when the Liberal Government took office. Business was then practically stagnant, and there was a steady exodus of the cream of our population to the United States; the domestic peace of the country was seriously threatened by an ill-considered measure of coercion; the then Government was corrupt and incapable, and the members of it were at war among themselves; there was even a "nest of broilers" in the Queen's Privy Council; the administration wheels were clogged and the Government was slugging marking time; the corrupt methods that were revealed in the large spending Departments had thrown a dark cloud over the future of the country, and profusionally effected Canada's standing in the eyes of the world. All these untoward circumstances tended to make the business populace feel uneasy and gloomy.

The picture is a dark one, but it is not overdrawn. The darkest pages in Canada's history were recorded during the closing years of the Conservative regime.

The task set before the Liberal Government was, under such circumstances, by no means an easy one. To restore order from practical chaos; to set the wheels of progress and development in motion; to clean out the Augean stable; to stop the exodus and restore confidence in the country; required wisdom, great business experience, ability and courage. Happily for Canada her new administrators were possessed of the requisite qualifications, and their efforts were highly successful, as is evidenced by the condition of the country to-day, and during the past three or four years.

The new Ministry, recognizing fully the greatness of our national inheritance, immediately resolved to make the development of the country their prime aim and object. Enthusiastic Canadians every one of them, they proceeded to their task with great earnestness of purpose and devotion to duty. They had the interests of the people thoroughly at heart, and did not spare themselves in their efforts to advance the common weal. No body of business men ever worked harder than they have done since they took office. Night as well as day the heads of the most important Departments have tolled. Step after step was taken to help along the infowing tide of commerce, to facilitate the transaction of business, to develop the mineral, forest and agricultural wealth, to extend transportation facilities, to populate the country and open up to settlement hitherto unknown sections. The record of the Government in these re-

Articles	Duty Paid on Importations 1898-99.	Duty that would have been paid under Conservative Tariff Rates.
Indian Corn	nothing	\$49,977
Barbed Fencing	nothing	102,300
Wire	nothing	126,888
Galvanized Iron or Steel Wire	nothing	42,989
Cream Separators	nothing	45,000
Forks, pronged	2,763	8,858
Hay Tickers	1,163	1,628

Government, and it has been productive of the most beneficial results alike to Canada and the Empire. It marked an epoch in the history of the Empire. The London Times described it as the most gratifying and remarkable step yet made towards a closer union of the Empire. Kipling—the great and only—burst into verse over it, declaring that we had proved our faith in the heritage by more than the word of mouth. The adoption of that policy, coupled with the visit of our distinguished and talented Premier—the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier—to Great Britain, was the best advertisement Canada ever received. The country was made known to the nations of the civilized world as it never had been, and its status was markedly increased. At one bound it took its position as a powerful factor, with magnificent potentialities, in the world of commerce. Prior to the adoption of that Tariff the reputation of Canada in Great Britain was a mere name, thanks to the small trade in goods of that variety. The corruption disclosed in the large spending Departments under the Tory administration had seriously damaged the country in the eyes of the Motherland, and as a consequence had checked the flow of British capital here which was so necessary to the development of our resources.

The London Times—the great organ of British public opinion, writing the corrupt methods of the Conservative Government, stated:  
"Here in the Mother Country there can be only one feeling, that of regret, for the wrong done to the fair fame of the eldest of our daughter states."  
The London Telegraph said:  
"Enough, unfortunately, is already known in England to make it clear that only the most genuine and drastic purification can restore public life in Canada from the latent corruption, the like of which has not been seen in our own country for hundreds of years."  
The London Echo stated:  
"No country can prosper where public Departments are in league with fraudulent contractors and where Ministers are open to censure which, unfortunately and to our sorrow, were only too well warranted by the facts, unassessably injurious to our country and seriously related to progress."

But, thanks to the Liberal Government, a startling change has been effected. Canada has not only been completely rehabilitated in Britain's eyes, but it has marched to the front and taken the proud position of the most prosperous, the best conducted, and the most progressive of all the British Colonies. It has shown, moreover, to the world that a new power has arisen in the West.  
For substantiation of these observations we have only to peruse the comments of the British Press.

**"THE TIMES," LONDON.**  
"The new departure—the Preferential Tariff—is most gratifying to all who desire to see the Empire knit more closely together. It is the most remarkable step yet made towards the fiscal confederation of the Empire."  
**"THE FINANCIAL TIMES," LONDON.**  
"The prosperity of the Dominion, thanks to a Government which, with Sir Wilfrid Laurier at its head, has reached as near the ideal of a self-governing British colony as it is possible in this imperfect world, has been extraordinary, and yet it has had few of these ephemeral features which will tend to the belief that it is short lived."  
**LONDON CORRESPONDENT "NEW YORK TIMES."**  
"For the first time in my experience England and the English are regarding Canadians and the Dominion with affectionate enthusiasm."  
**"THE FINANCIAL NEWS," LONDON.**  
"We are not gratified merely for what Canada is doing for the Mother Country in the field, or in the less glorious sphere of commerce. What appeals most strongly to our instincts is the credit example Canada is giving to her younger sisters."  
**"THE BULLIONIST."**  
"The English want lessons such as Canada is teaching them to-day, such as we are pleased to think they are learning. The day of a close-knit Empire may be nearer than we dream of, but when Confederation is an accomplished fact the work of Canada's statesman will not be forgotten."

**"THE BRITISH MERCURY."**  
"Apart from the question of sentiment we have an additional interest in the success of the colony through being its best customer. Canadian products are finding a greatly increasing sale, and the preferential reduction upon British goods has also helped to augment the volume of trade."  
"Canada may well look forward with confidence to the future. Secure in the finance of the country and secure in the ties of relationship with the Mother Country, the colony has a prosperous career before it and will find credit to us as well as credit to itself in the race that the world has set."

Let us look now briefly at the actual results of the Preferential Tariff. In the first place, it has effected a large reduction in the duties paid by Canadian consumers as compared with the duties paid by him under the Conservative Tariff. The following figures illustrate this:

Articles	Value of Goods Imported under Conservative Tariff from Great Britain, 1896.	Value of Goods Imported under Preferential Tariff from Great Britain, 1898.
Cotton manufactures	23.50	23.50
Woolen manufactures	22.01	25.91
Silk manufactures	30.33	23.93
Fancy goods	29.87	24.02
Max, hemp & jute	22.19	20.16
Sts, caps & bonnets	30.00	20.50
Gloves and mitts	35.00	26.25
Furs	15.95	13.83
Iron and steel mfrs.	21.02	12.61
Drugs, dyes & chems.	22.57	17.54
Earthware & a d	30.00	22.54
Books and printed matter	23.55	10.98
Glass and mfrs of	23.35	19.35
Leather and mfrs of	19.30	13.78

These articles form the principal imports into the country and they are largely imported from Great Britain. For instance, during the fiscal year 1898-9, 73 per cent of our imported woolens, 88 per cent of Henna, 99 per cent of cottons, and 50 per cent of hats, caps and bonnets, came from Great Britain under the Preferential Tariff. In addition to these direct reductions in the duties collected there have been very large indirect savings to the people in the operation of the British Preferential Tariff. That tariff, as a matter of fact and actual experience, controls the prices on our importations from all foreign countries of such articles as Great Britain can supply us with. The foreign merchant competing with the British merchant in the Canadian market is obliged to reduce his prices to offset the reduction in duty on goods coming from Britain. The Canadian consumer consequently is benefited by the reduction in prices. To illustrate this argument, take the case of woolen clothing. The rate of duty on the article is 35 per cent from foreign countries and 23 1/3 per cent from Great Britain. On \$1,000 of such goods imported from Britain \$233.33 duty would have to be paid; on the same value imported from other countries \$350.00 duty would have to be paid. The Canadian merchant is, therefore, in a position to sell to the United States dealer, or any other foreign dealer, "On \$1,000 worth of woolen clothing which I can buy in Great Britain I would have to pay \$233.33 duty, while on the same value of the same clothing which I might import from the United States I would have to pay \$350 duty, or \$117 more than on the goods from Britain. The British dealer, therefore, will get my orders unless you reduce your prices below his, sufficiently at any rate to compensate for the difference in duty. If you will make me a reduction in your price of \$117 in \$1,000 I might be disposed to give you my order, but under no other circumstances would it pay me to do so."

The American and other foreign dealers have to reduce their prices to offset the reduction in duty on British goods. This applies to very many of the most important lines of goods that we import. More particularly does it apply to cottons, woollens, silks, fancy goods, hats, caps and bonnets, gloves and mitts, furs, umbrellas, drugs, dyes and chemicals, earthenware, glassware, leather manufactures, books and printed matter, paper manufactures, vegetable oils, soap and iron and steel manufactures. The total importations of these articles in the year 1898-9 amounted in value to \$50,000,000. Other articles could be mentioned, but these are the most important. In all these lines Great Britain competes in our markets, and in most of them she supplies us with the largest proportion of our importations.

The business men of Canada who make purchases outside the country know full well that these statements as to the Preferential Tariff controlling the prices of goods sold for the Canadian market by foreigners in competition with Great Britain, are sound and true, but let our good friends, the Conservatives, should desire more testimony on the point, we will call in evidence the Toronto "Mail and Empire" newspaper—the chief organ of the Conservative Party—and an authority whose the Conservatives surely will not dispute. The following editorial was contained in the columns of that newspaper on the 26th June, 1899:—

**"MAIL AND EMPIRE"**  
(Editorial.)  
June 26th, 1899.  
**OPENING OUR MARKET WIDER.**  
Of late there has been a falling off in the quantity of British goods entered for consumption in Canada.  
Importers have been keeping their shipments of British goods back or in bond in order to get the benefit of the further drop in the preferential discount.  
**AT THE SAME TIME, CANADIAN BUYERS IN THE UNITED STATES MARKETS HAVE NOT FAILED TO POINT OUT TO THE HOUSES THEY DEAL WITH THERE THAT THESE WILL HAVE TO LOWER PRICES IN ORDER TO COMPETE WITH BRITISH MERCHANTS ON THE NEW FOOTING THE LATTER ENJOY IN CANADA.**

AND THE AMERICAN HOUSES ASSURE THEIR CANADIAN CUSTOMERS AGAINST ANY LOSS THROUGH BUYING ACROSS THE LINE, PROMISING TO KEEP THE PRICE BELOW WHAT WERE LIMIT THE BRITISH CAN SELL DOWN TO.  
The "preference" opens the Canadian market wider to American goods.  
In its eagerness to score a point against the Liberal Government, the "Mail and Empire" was obliged to admit fully the contention of the Liberals that the Preferential Tariff applied directly and indirectly, so far as the Canadian consumer is concerned, to the total importations of articles such as Great Britain does or can supply us with. The Tory organ, in making that admission, effectively disproved Conservative allegations that the Tariff has not been substantially reduced.

**SECONDLY.** The Tariff has resulted in largely increased sales of British goods to Canada. For years prior to its adoption Great Britain's exports here had steadily fallen off. The Preference has once again created the decline and the decline has been reversed. In 1896 the total importations for consumption from Great Britain amounted to \$43,300,241, while in 1897, the last year prior to the adoption of the Preference, they had fallen to \$29,412,188. The first year of the Preference they increased to \$32,509,917; the second year to \$37,000,123, and the third year to \$44,647,594.  
The figures for the last year are subject to final revision but will be found to be approximately correct.

**THIRDLY.** The Preference has resulted in a wonderful increase in the exports of farm and other products of Canada to Great Britain. The generosity of our policy created a strong feeling of gratitude in the British commercial mind, and, as a consequence, increased the demand there for Canadian products, which, fortunately, our farmers and producers, aided by the excellent cold storage equipment developed by the Liberal Ministry of Agriculture, were able to meet.  
The following statistics in this connection are instructive:—

Articles	Value of Goods Imported from Great Britain since the Preferential Tariff came into effect:
Exports of animals and their produce and agricultural products (all the produce of Canada) to Great Britain:	
1897	147,108,253
1898	67,484,222
1899	60,032,542
1900	72,559,421
Exports Canadian butter to Great Britain:	
1897	10,413,131
1898	10,467,530
1899	10,120,036
1900	21,317,438
Exports Canadian Cheese to Great Britain:	
1897	163,942,040
1898	196,220,771
1899	180,250,089
1900	185,827,797
Exports Canadian Eggs to Great Britain:	
1897	6,522,496

which he put into operation in the year 1897. The result is that Canadian butter for export is kept cool from the moment it is made until it reaches the British retailer. What has been the effect of this? An immediate advance in the price of Canadian butter in the British markets. In the season of 1899 the price of Canadian butter averaged fully eight shillings a hundred more than the Australian butter in the British market, and the price to the Canadian producer at the creamery was fully 2s. per lb. more than at any time during the Conservative regime. The demand in Britain for our butter also increased largely, due to the generous Imperial policy of the Liberal Government and to the excellence of our product.

In 1896, the total exports of butter amounted to six million pounds; in 1898, 11,253,787 lbs.; in 1899 they had jumped to twenty millions, and in 1900 to 23,220,737 lbs. In 1896 the value of these exports was \$1,062,080; 1898, \$2,044,086; 1899, \$3,700,873 and in 1900 \$6,122,655.

There were also increases in the price and great expansion in the quantity of other perishable farm products exported, largely owing to the success mentioned.

Take eggs as another illustration. In 1896, the total exports amounted to 6,300,078, while in 1898 they had jumped to 19,309,996 dozens; in 1899 they were 9,622,312 doz., and for the last fiscal year they amounted to 13,328,220 doz. The price in 1898 was 12s. per dozen; in 1899, 12s. per doz., in 1900, 14 1/2s. per doz. The value of the eggs so exported was in 1896 \$67,086, in 1898, \$1,555,304, in 1899, \$1,267,063, and in 1900, \$1,457,228.

Apples exported 1897-4, 577,130 bushels, value \$1,416,470.  
Apples exported 1898-4, 1,075,000 bushels, value \$2,621,363.  
Apples exported 1899-1900, 659,598 bushels, value \$1,578,083.  
Nearly the whole of these exports of Butter, Eggs and Apples went to Britain.

The smallest cold storage system was supplemented by practical efforts of the Liberal Ministry, to advertise Canadian farm products in Great Britain. He personally visited the Motherland, and by addresses to Chambers of Commerce, and a free use of the press, he did much effective work in the interests of our export trade.

Special experiments were made respecting the curing of cheese. The results thereof which are quite important, have been published for the information of cheese producers and if followed up will enable them to command even a better price than they now obtain for their product in the British market.  
Last year, a quantity of 10,000 lbs. of cheese exported from Canada was valued at 5c. per lb. higher than for the year previous. In 1898, the last year of the Conservative administration, the exports of cheese from Canada amounted to 164,859,123; last year they jumped to 185,954,430.

There were also great increases in other lines. Take Bacon, Hams and Pork for instance, in 1899, our total exports of these products amounted to \$5,078,082; last year they amounted to 136,141,126.

The development of cold storage, the practical energy infused into the Department of Agriculture, coupled with the Preferential Tariff, have very largely brought about a new era, and have been most successful in the farm life of Canada.

"Ice and Cold Storage," the leading British paper of its class, declared in May, 1900, as follows:  
"When the history of Canada's export culture interests comes to be written up, 'the progress of a trade most dead from the year 1898.'"  
"There are very few people who will not agree that the Minister of Agriculture has done something at least to 'qualify his office and benefit the Canadian farmer.'"

The United States Consul at Liverpool, England, reporting lately to his Government, found it necessary to warn the farmers of the U.S. about the great strides Canada was making in the British market, as in farm products.

Canada, he said, is now the leading competitor of the United States in farm products.  
On the 14th November, 1900, the Butter and Cheese Association of the Montreal Board of Trade passed the following resolution:—  
Moved by Mr. Francis, and seconded by Mr. John McKergow:  
"That the thanks of this Association are hereby tendered to the Department of Agriculture, for arranging for EXCELLENT COLD STORAGE SERVICE on the steamships from Canadian ports, and also for regular refrigerators on our railroads, and for assistance to owners of creameries in providing cold storage in creameries."

So well were these gentlemen satisfied with that system that they expressed a wish for its further extension.  
In the London Times of November 10th, 1899, Mr. Sampson Morgan, editor of the fruit department of that great English paper, writes: "It is my decided opinion that at present the Canadian fruit exports are more efficiently handled than those from any other colony shipping"

**STEP NO. 4.—THE ABOLITION OF THE QUARANTINE ON CANADIAN CATTLE EXPORTED TO UNITED STATES.**  
This very important act was brought about through the good offices of Hon. Mr. Fisher, the Liberal Minister of Agriculture, and it has proved a great boon to the farming community. The abolition of the quarantine opened a fine market for a class of young stock, which would otherwise have been practically unsalable. The actual benefits derived by the farmers from this step are illustrated by the following figures:  
During the four years and a half that the quarantine was in operation 3762 cattle of a total value of \$22,006 were exported to the United States from Canada, whereas during the three years following the removal 254,503 cattle of a total value of \$3,710,000 were exported there. The average price for the eighteen months immediately prior to the removal was \$8.22 per head, while for the eighteen months to end of December, 1899, after removal, the average price was \$15, an inflation of \$6.68 per head.

**STEP NO. 5.—THE DEVELOPMENT OF COLD STORAGE FACILITIES.**  
When the Liberal Government assumed power, cold storage was in its infancy, so far as Canada was concerned, and a puny infant it was, although for some time previously the Australians and Americans had been using a thorough equipment of mechanical cold storage. The Liberal Minister of Agriculture, a practical farmer, boldly asked his colleagues for \$100,000 a year for three years, got it, and as soon organized a thorough equipment

NEW ... .. 6,522,496



to the United Kingdom, including Tasmania.

STEP NO. 6—IMMIGRATION.

A vigorous and progressive immigration policy has been pursued by the Government with the object of having the fertile lands of the West, taken up for cultivation. In the three years, 1897 to 1899, inclusive, 100,000 hardy settlers arrived in the country, and are now engaged in developing its resources. During the preceding three years, the immigrants totalled only half that number.

At a low calculation 10,000 actual farmers located in the West during the year 1899.

For the last FIVE YEARS of Conservative Government the total net entries for lands in the West were 9038 as compared with 10,000 under TWO YEARS of Liberal Government.

Another test of development of the West is the record of land sales made by Railway and other companies holding land—the most of which by the way, was given to them by the Conservatives. The values of sales so made during the three years 1894 to 1896 inclusive—under Conservative rule—was \$719,953. In the three following years the value amounted to \$4,022,004.

Hon. Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Department of Immigration, understands the West thoroughly. The policy inaugurated by him made it infinitely easier for the settler to get along, and therefore, ensures permanency of settlement, a thing greatly to be desired. Immigrants too, are properly looked after on arrival and are treated with kindness and consideration. It is not now, as in Conservative days, when "the trails from Manitoba to the States were worn barren and led by the footprints of departing settlers. The immigrants brought into the country are staying here. To that end, land regulations have been simplified and made easier upon the farmer.

If space permitted a score of measures that have been adopted with the object of facilitating settlement could be mentioned. The Department of the Interior has been managed on sound business lines, and with remarkably good judgment and common sense.

STEP NO. 7—CONSTRUCTION OF THE CROW'S NEST PASS RAILWAY.

The prompt construction of this road through the assistance afforded by the Liberal Government in the shape of a subsidy of \$1,000,000 a mile, or a total of \$3,650,000, opened up one of the richest mineral sections in the whole country, and diverted the trade connected with it, which was largely controlled by American, to Canadian channels. The building of that work developed industries which today are expanding between three and four million dollars annually in wages and necessities for the enterprises. Unhoped wealth is being accumulated in the fastnesses of the Kootenay Mountains, which will be the result of the construction of this railway. Not only was a great impetus given to development, but the opening of the railway enabled the farmers of the North West Territories to provide the food supply for the Kootenay miners, and also greatly assisted the manufacturers of Eastern Canada, to secure the general trade of the district. These were objects of the Government, and that they have been attained in a large measure is amply demonstrated by the fact that the postal facilities had been very largely increased, the deficit in the finances of the Department was only \$38,017, whereas under the Conservative administration, when the higher rates prevailed, and there was consequently no corresponding loss of revenue, the deficit averaged annually about \$800,000. In the last year of Tory rule the deficit was \$781,152.

These figures speak eloquently for themselves and require no comment.

With an annual deficit of about \$800,000 staring him in the face, the Hon. Geo. E. Foster, Finance Minister in successive Tory Administrations, was obliged to relegate the question of reducing the postage rates to the distant future.

The Hon. Mr. Mulock by the application of proper business principles and sound economy, cut down the deficit of about \$800,000, to \$17,000 in two short years—thereby making possible the reduction in the rates which quickly followed.

Another gratifying feature in connection with the subject is, that the loss in revenue through the reduction in the rates, is being rapidly made good by a more extended use of the mails. These cheapened rates have brought the Post Office nearer to the people of all classes. The farmers and the business men alike have availed themselves of the cheaper rates—the same steady growth in the use of the mails being observed in the rural as well as the city offices.

It should be particularly noted that since the reduced rates from Canada to Great Britain and her Colonial possessions have been in operation there has been an increase in the volume of correspondence of 150 per cent.

STEP NO. 9—INCREASED POSTAL FACILITIES.

The Hon. Mr. Mulock, as administrator of the Post Office Department, has been indefatigable in his efforts to serve the public well, and to promote and stimulate the business of the country. His policy has been one of constant, yet wise progression.

He established a Postal note system, which affords a cheap and convenient means of remitting over very small sums of money.

A special delivery system was inaugurated which ensures letters upon a special stamp, costing ten cents, is affixed, being immediately delivered by a special messenger upon arrival at the office of destination. In some cases this is equivalent to the telegraphic service.

STEP NO. 12—CANADIAN GOVERNMENT SECURITIES FAVORED IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Through the efforts of the Liberal Minister of Finance, Hon. Mr. Fielding, aided by our excellent High Commissioner in Great Britain, Lord Strathcona, Canadian Government securities are to be admitted to what is known as "The Trustee List" in Great Britain, which comprises only the most gilt-edged investments. The legislation for this purpose was just passed by the Imperial and Canadian Parliaments. It is called the Trustee List and one shut out from it, all holding moneys as Trustees are restricted in their investments to the securities included in this favored list. The advantage to Canada in this matter is shown by the fact that the difference between the price of a security admitted to the Trustee List and one shut out from it is from two to three dollars in a hundred. Calculating on the median estimate of a two per cent. advantage, the saving to Canada will in the next ten years be not less than two and a half millions of dollars. Later on, as a result of this step, Canadian securities may approach very nearly the value of British Consols, which are recognized to be the most gilt-edged of all investments. The fact that Canadian Government securities are now admitted to the most favored list in the British money market, can not doubt operate advantageously to other Canadian securities, which may be offered from time to time in Britain.

STEP NO. 10—GOVERNMENT LOAN SECURED IN BRITISH MARKETS ON MOST FAVORABLE TERMS.

The best evidence that under Liberal rule the status of Canada politically, commercially, and otherwise, has been raised to a very high standard, particularly in Britain's eyes, is afforded by the strength of our credit in Great Britain—the world's money market. While the Conservatives were in power, our securities were never offered in the British market at a lower rate of interest than 3 per cent. The Liberal Government, in the fall of 1897, put a loan on that market bearing 2 1/2 per cent, and were successful in placing it at an advance over the minimum price. The actual rate of interest payable on this loan is 2 7/8 per cent, whereas the best actual rate obtained under the Conservative regime was 3 1/4 per cent. This must surely be a matter of great gratification to the people of Canada. The advantage it is to us cannot be better illustrated than by quoting the remarks of the Hon. Mr. Fielding, Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech of 1898. He said:

"Not only was it desirable that we should have our loan placed on a 'B' 1/2 per cent basis, if possible, for the sake of the transaction itself, but such a change to the 2 1/2 per cent rate 'became of further importance in view of the early maturity of a large amount of our existing loans.'"

"By reference to page 147 of the Public Accounts, it will be found that between the years 1903 and 1910, we shall have loans maturing to the amount of \$24,443,136, or \$167,623,292. To assist in meeting the payments of these liabilities, I estimate that we shall have accumulated sinking funds to the value of \$66,971,181. So that we shall have to renew or convert the balance of these maturing loans to the amount of \$100,000,000. The net rate of interest on our last loan, taking into account all charges, was 2 5/8 per cent. At the rate of interest which these loans that are to mature now bear, it would take about \$4,000,000 to pay a year's interest on the \$100,000,000; but at the rate of 2 5/8 per cent, the interest on the \$100,000,000 would amount to \$2,850,000 or a difference of \$1,140,000."

The adoption by the Liberal Government of the policy of preferential treatment of the trade of the Motherland, and the business-like administration of the affairs of Canada by that Government of the trade of the Motherland, in raising the standard of our credit among British financiers.

STEP NO. 11—DENUNCIATION OF BELGIAN AND GERMAN TREATIES.

The denunciation of the Belgian and German Treaties, which, as every reasonable Canadian knows and admits, was the direct result of the preferential feature of the Trade Policy of the Liberal Government, removed a strong impediment to trade negotiations between the Motherland and her Colonial Possessions, etc., to bring all to take sole advantage of the preference we accorded, and through which both countries have reaped so much benefit. To the Empire, too, the benefits which will in course of time result from the denunciation of these treaties will undoubtedly be very great.

Here again the Tories tried their utmost by Parliamentary resolution, Colonial Conferences, etc., to bring about the termination of the treaties. The Liberals went at the business in the proper way, and succeeded.

Cecil Rhodes, who, whatever may be thought of his policy in some respects, is admittedly one of the leading Colonial statesmen, spoke warmly of the services Canada had rendered to the Empire by persuading the British Government to clear the Belgian and German Treaties out of the way of future inter-Imperial co-operation.

These Treaties formerly were in his way in tariff arrangements in South Africa. "Sir Wilfrid Laurier," he said, "has got rid of them for us and the whole of the Empire."

STEP NO. 13—EXTENSION OF INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY TO MONTREAL.

When the Liberal Government took office, the Western Railway, which was a branch of the Grand Trunk, was in the south shore of the St. Lawrence, opposite the City of Quebec. There it had been for twenty years. The connection at that point was with the Grand Trunk, so that the intercolonial was dependent entirely upon that Railway for the distribution of its West-bound traffic and for the picking up of East-bound freight. But without competition, the Grand Trunk quite naturally controlled the rates, and under such circumstances it is not surprising that "through business" should have formed but an insignificant factor in the earnings of the Government road. The Hon. Mr. Blair, the Liberal Minister of Railways, saw that the intercolonial would always continue in the old Conservative groove, with large annual deficits, unless it could be extended 175 miles west to the City of Montreal, the chief distributing centre of the Dominion. He promptly began negotiations with that end in view, and successfully carried them to completion.

STEP NO. 14—DEVELOPMENT OF IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES OF CANADA.

To the Government and the Liberal party belongs much of the credit for the great development now going on in these industries. The extensive works now in course of construction at Sault Ste. Marie, which when completed will be one of the largest iron and steel plants in the world, were undertaken chiefly through the measure adopted by the Government, which assured the permanency of the bounties for a term of years on a sliding scale, ceasing altogether in seven years. The men who are at the head of this great enterprise are the same men who founded the great Dominion Coal Company, which was brought into existence by the legislation enacted by the Government of Nova Scotia, of which the present Finance Minister of the Dominion was Premier. The development of the Coal industry was the founder and fore-runner of the present enormous development in the iron and steel industries. It is worthy of special note by the electors that the earlier enterprise was bitterly opposed by the Conservative party.

STEP NO. 15—THE LAND FOR THE SETTLER.

The policy of the present Government is, and has been, to dispose of Dominion farm lands to actual settlers only, and not to speculators, as was the case under Tory rule. The granting of large tracts of arable land for railroad purposes has been abandoned, and similar grants to colonization societies have also been discontinued. The public lands are now held for entry as homestead, and for sale subject to homestead conditions. In the case of lands, the sales of which have been cancelled, they are offered and held for ordinary sale to settlers who wish to acquire a larger area than the homestead quarter section, but not exceeding one section to each individual.

STEP NO. 16—BETTER TRADE STATISTICS.

A new branch has been added to the Department of Customs with the object of furnishing business men with a month's report showing, with a much detailed as possible, the movements of foreign trade in the various lines of business engaged in in the country. This will enable business men to watch their foreign competition closely and with promptitude, which they were unable to do under the old system. The monthly trade report heretofore published was very meagre in detail, and was of no practical value to the commercial interests of the country. Under the old system business men had to wait until the Annual Trade and Navigation Returns were published, which was, as a rule, about six or seven months after the close of the year before they could get information of any real value as to foreign trade. The new monthly report will contain the same detailed information given in these annual returns, and it will be published promptly after the close of each month. This will undoubtedly be a great boon to the commercial men of the country. It is a step in the right direction which has been warmly appreciated by many business men, and especially by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, which passed a resolution thanking the Minister of Customs for establishing the new branch.

STEP NO. 17—FAIR WAGES TO LABOR.

Through the instrumentality of Hon. Mr. Mulock, Postmaster General, a resolution was adopted by the House of Commons, at the recent session to the effect that every effort should be made to secure to workmen engaged on Government works, and works aided by grant of Dominion public funds, the payment of such wages as are generally accepted as current in such trade for competent workmen in the district where the work is carried out. The resolution also provided that all Government contracts should contain such conditions as will prevent abuses which may arise from the subletting of such contracts.

STEP NO. 18—ABOLITION OF THE SWEATING SYSTEM ON GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

In 1897, a Commission, appointed by the Liberal Government to investigate into the sweating system, reported in effect that practically all the clothing manufactured for the Government of Canada, during the last five years of the Tory regime had been manufactured through sub-contractors, who employed women and girls to do the work in their own homes, for a very meagre pittance, and under improper and unsanitary conditions. Two profits were made, and the poor work people were "sweated" to make one of such profits. As an illustration of the low wage paid, it might be mentioned that in Montreal, women manufactured heavy Government clothing for the pittance of 2 1/2c. an hour—25c. a day of ten hours.

STEP NO. 19—FAIR WAGES TO LABOR.

As a direct result of the legislation of the Government, great development in the iron and steel industries has also been witnessed in the Province of Ontario. Large works are now in course of construction and will soon be completed at Midland, by the Canada Iron Furnace Co'y. The output of these works will be 45,000 tons per annum, and 200 men will be employed. It is expected by the Company that through the development of the Michipicoten Iron mines, by Mr. Clergue of Sault Ste. Marie and his associates, they will be able to use Canadian ore solely, which will be a new and gratifying feature in the iron industry of Ontario. Additional works have also been erected at Deseronto.

STEP NO. 20—CONCILIATION FOR SETTLEMENT OF LABOR DISPUTES.

The efforts put forth by the Department of Agriculture towards the establishment of Creameries in the Northwest Territories have met with a large measure of success. At present there are thirty creameries and skimming stations in the Territories, turning out annually a large quantity of good butter, a considerable proportion of which is sold to Japanese and other foreign markets. An attempt was made by the Conservative Government to establish Creameries in the Northwest Territories, but without success. Through the encouragement given by the Liberal Government they have been established on a paying and satisfactory basis.

shall not assign or sublet the contract or any part thereof.

2nd.—That the workmen to be employed shall be residents of Canada.

3rd.—That the wages current in the district where the work is to be carried on shall be paid. Such current wages are specified in each contract and made a part of the contract.

4th.—That no portion of the work shall be done by piece work. (Piece work was found to be a fruitful source of abuse and sweating.)

5th.—That the number of working hours in the day or week shall be determined by the custom of the trade in the district where the work is performed, and workmen shall not be required to work longer hours.

6th.—That the contractor shall not be paid until he has fully satisfied the Government that he has paid the fair wages included in the contract and complied with all other conditions.

Now this is not a clap net resolution for election purposes, as the Conservatives are fond of calling it, nor are these clauses put in Government contracts for show purposes; they are being lived up to the very letter, as laboring men and mechanics throughout the country have good reason to know.

Mr. D. J. O'Donoghue, a prominent labor man of Toronto, who is also well known in labor circles throughout the Dominion, was appointed by the Government as a Special Officer, clothed with power, to give practical effect to the terms of the resolution. In the short space of time, since April 20th last, when he took office, he has travelled 15,000 miles through the country from Halifax to Victoria, in the performance of his duties, and he has accomplished a great deal of good work—work which is of the greatest benefit to the workmen.

Subletting of contracts has stopped—has been killed. Government contracts are provided particularly against it, and the Government Agent, Mr. O'Donoghue, takes pains to see that this provision is observed.

The practice of subletting contracts was a most hurtful one to the workmen, inasmuch as through its workings, it was possible, in many cases, to provide a profit to the sub-contractor. In these days of keen competition, contractors have to figure very closely. It follows, therefore, that when a contractor, who figured on a small margin of profit, sublets any portion of his contract (which he will of course do at a profit) the sub-contractor has little or no legitimate profit. To make a profit on his transaction his usual practice was to employ men at the lowest possible wage. In short, he "sweated" the workmen to obtain his profit. This great abuse, thanks to the Liberal Government, has been stopped, so far as Government contracts, or works, aided by Government funds, are concerned.

Not only has subletting been killed, but the government has secured the payment of fair wages on contracts awarded since April last. Mr. O'Donoghue has ascertained and definitely determined the wages accepted as current for competent workmen in several districts, in respect to the following government works now being carried on or about to be written in the contracts, and the payment thereof is made obligatory on the contractors.

Place of Construction. In the Province of Ontario: Drill Hall . . . . . Windsor Harbor Dredging and . . . . . Owen Sound Pile Work . . . . . Meaford Harbor Dredging and . . . . . Brockville Pile Work . . . . . Picton

Marie St. and Chaudiere Iron Bridges . . . . . Ottawa In the Province of Quebec: Harbor Works . . . . . Montreal New Post Office . . . . . Hull Citadel Repairs . . . . . Quebec

In the Province of Manitoba: Locks and Canal . . . . . St. Andrew's Rapids. The policy of the Government outlined above, is intended to be uniformly pursued.

STEP NO. 21—DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND LABOR GAZETTE.

With a view to the dissemination of accurate statistical and other information relating to the conditions of labor, the Postmaster General and Minister of Labor acting for the Government, introduced and carried through Parliament last session a Bill establishing a Department of Labor, which shall collect, digest and publish in suitable form statistical and other information relating to the conditions of labor, and shall institute and conduct enquiries into all important industrial questions, the publication to be called the Labor Gazette, and to be issued monthly.

A similar Gazette has been published in Great Britain for some years with very beneficial results.

STEP NO. 22—ALLEN LABOR ACT.

In further protection of Canadian labor the Government has appointed a permanent officer, attached to the Department of Labor, to prevent any infringement of the act, and in pursuance of the Government's policy in this direction, a large number of workmen, introduced into the land grants and for the money subsidies granted to tender services to the Government in the way of transportation of mails, men, supplies and materials up to an amount, if required, yearly, equal in value to 3 per cent per annum on the amount of the subsidy.

Had this policy been adopted in the early history of the construction of railways by the Conservative Government, it is estimated that the annual saving today to the Government in the cost of transporting the mails, etc., would exceed \$1,200,000.

STEP NO. 24—YUKON.

The development of the Yukon, and the establishment of liberty, law and order, upon the principle that the Yukon should pay for the Yukon, was a wise administrative action. That rich new section has been opened up to the advantage of the manufacturers and traders of Eastern and Western Canada, without cost to any of the territories. It is estimated that in the three years from 1897 to 1899 there was introduced into the Yukon district by the Government the total sum of \$2,728,000, and revenue was obtained from the District to the amount of \$267,846.

Today there is a population in the Yukon district and frontier of not less than 25,000 people.

STEP NO. 25—COLD STORAGE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BAIT FOR THE FISHERMEN OF THE MARITIME DISTRICTS.

The provisions made by the Liberal Government for the export of farm products by cold storage having proved eminently successful, it was considered wise to establish a similar system for the preservation of bait for the fishermen of the Maritime Districts.

ests in Parliament, speaking in the House of Commons on March 22, 1900, declared that a good deal of the evils of the sweating system had been wiped out by the regulations adopted by the Liberal Government.

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Herring and squid form the chief bait for the great cod and haddock fisheries. These bait fish, however, cannot be captured at all times, and as a consequence the fishermen lost many days employment during the year. The aggregate loss annually to the fisheries through lack of bait is estimated at one million dollars, which is equivalent in value to \$1,500,000.







