

### Mr. Whitney's Acknowledgment.

Mr. Whitney was greeted with loud and prolonged applause and cheering, the singing of "He's a Jolly Good Fellow." followed by renewed cheering. In his opening remarks he acknowledged the honor which he himself, and, he was sure, all others present also felt at the presence of the leader of the Conservative party at Ottawa and Mr. Monk. He referred to the great men of the party who had come from Nova Scotia and Quebec, and desired Mr. Monk to carry down to the people of the latter Province a message of love from those of Ontario. He could not, he said, find words in which to express his pride and pleasure at the honor extended him.

A voice—The Province is with you.

Mr. Whitney said that his unknown friend had a level head. He (the speaker) had addressed over 200 meetings outside of the Legislature since 1897, and he knew well that the people were awaiting the day when they would be summoned to tell what they thought of the men who had maladministered the affairs of the Province for so many years past. (Applause.) He realized his own failings more particularly when he thought of the great

men who had led the party, and in this connection he spoke feelingly of the late Sir John Macdonald, quoting Lord Rosebery's remarks in reference to the dead statesman when unveiling a bust in his memory in the crypt of St. Paul's. Sir John had fought the battle of the country against foreign enemies and domestic traitors. To-day the men who attacked him were humble followers of the policy which he had brought into being, and were toddling along in the footsteps made by him, wearing the pinchbeck and tinsel which they had formerly despised. (Laughter and applause.) They were now arguing that a policy of protection was good for the Dominion and the British people. Even The Montreal Witness did it, and what more could he say on that point? (Applause.) His hearers could easily understand that he often realized the distance which existed and the gulf which lay between the capacities and efforts of those great leaders and himself, but he had the consolation of knowing that he had done the best he could and given the best he had. (Applause.)

### A Loyal Following.

He spoke in warm terms of the support, loyalty and encouragement of his followers. As an instance of their devotion and belief in the ultimate triumph of the cause which the party represented, he begged to recall the fact that Mr. Foy—(applause)—who, after a great deal of urging, had become a candidate, had after his return to the House been offered a Judgeship. That offer had been refused. (Applause.) He did not believe that the history of British North America could show an instance of a gentleman in Mr. Foy's position having the highest possible position on the bench offered him from time to time, and refusing each proposal. (Applause.) The party could not help but succeed with such men as that in its service. (Renewed applause.) Continuing, he turned his attention to some of the political issues of the day. The general duties of a Government, he said, in commencing this portion of his address, was to be responsible for all the material legislation of the country. The duty of the Opposition was to criticize everything that the Government proposed and see that if it went into effect it was shorn of objectionable features, if such were present. But the Government had not acted upon the generally recognized duties of a Government.

### Not Responsible Government.

"For the past three years," he said, "there has not elapsed one week of a session that information has not been brought to me as leader of the Opposition that certain grants were about to be proposed, certain legislation to be introduced, but the Government would not make them or introduce it until they heard what the leader of the Opposition was going to do about it. (Applause.) This is not only entirely contrary to the ideas of responsible government, but distinctly a manifestation of cowardice, and this thing is getting now so that it is almost unbearable." (Renewed applause.)

At the present time, he proceeded, there was a bill on the order paper in the name of a private member of the House to amend the act so that a junior County Judge might be appointed for the County of Leeds. In the days of the Conservative Government at Ottawa the Ontario Government had changed the law so that junior Judges were done away with, on the ground that they were inefficient, had nothing to do, and were often guided by improper motives. Since the advent of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to power they wanted to go back to the old state of affairs. For his own part he had always believed that the doing away with County Judges was wrong.

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