

THE ERA OF FULFILLMENT, 11 YEARS UNDER LIBERALS

A Glance at the Big Things Which Have Been Accomplished Under Laurier.

ACTION HAS REPLACED TALK

As Illustrated by British Preference, Filling Up the West and Many Reforms.

It is a characteristic of the last twelve years, the years of Liberal administration, that things have been done which were formerly talked about or promised. Take the question of the British preference. For many years this was talked about. Everybody said that it would be a fitting thing to show some friendship for Great Britain by our tariff legislation, to admit British manufactures at a lower rate than the product of foreign countries. But nothing was done. Fifteen years ago, Mr. Davies, then a prominent member of the Liberal Opposition, now a Judge of the Supreme Court, moved a resolution to the effect that the tariff ought to be framed as to give a preference to imports from Great Britain. The Conservatives met the resolution with an amendment to the effect that Canada should give a preference to Great Britain "if and when" Great Britain gave a preference to Canada. The amendment was carried, and the result was that both countries marked time, and nothing was done.

Action Replaced Talk.
When the Laurier Government assumed office, the policy of marking time, the policy of "if and when" was discarded, and a bold, decisive step was taken. A British preference was not merely talked about, but placed on the statute book. The legislation attracted the attention and caught the imagination of the British people, and was one of the leading subjects of discussion in the English newspapers during the Jubilee celebration of 1897. One of them stated up the situation when it said the Laurier Government had "taken the bull by the horns." In our total trade with Great Britain, imports and exports, was less than one hundred millions. In 1907 it was more than two hundred millions. The effect was to increase the volume, not only of British imports into Canada, but of Canadian imports into Great Britain. An immense extension of the British market for Canadian grain, cheese, fruit, and meat, is a direct result of the British preference granted by the Laurier Government.

But Industry Prospered.
When the Fielding tariff was introduced, Sir Charles Tupper said that he said "the wall, the sorrowful wall," the manufacturers of Canada, lamenting the coming downfall of their prosperity. This is what industrial Canada says to-day: "During the past decade all have enjoyed expanding prosperity. Workmen have been paid well, and farmers have received big prices for their grain and produce. There has been no complaint from either that clothing costs a few cents more than if there were no industries here, or that their implements and household effects were a fraction higher in price. The price of farm products has increased decidedly more than that of any manufactured article. As a result of the presence of the factories they have wherewith to pay the price, and the savings banks of the country amply show that they have somewhat more. The N.P. was introduced with many promises of prosperity, and for a few years the country prospered. But in the long run, as the census of 1901 showed, the results were disappointing. The manufacturers of Canada never before enjoyed such prosperity as they have done during the twelve years of Liberal administration. The phenomenal growth of the city of Toronto is mainly due to the growth of manufacturing industry. The whole surrounding country, a whole Province of Ontario, has felt the same life-giving impulse. The conservative party used to claim to be the only friend and protector of Canadian industry. But the solid facts show that in this respect as in others, the twelve years of Liberal administration have been years of fulfillment.

The West Went Ahead.
For many years Canada fixed its

hopes of national expansion and prosperity upon the West. Both parties were sincere and earnest in their desire to have this country peopled and developed. If we give credit to George Brown for his persistent and unwearied advocacy of the addition of the West to Canada, we must give credit also to the Conservative Government of a quarter of a century ago for its boldness in pushing forward the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Yet we know that for many years the re-



SIR WILFRID'S "SUNNY SMILE."

The Story of the Golden West

Did Not Begin Until Laurier and a Business Administration Came Into Power.

The marvelous growth of the West in the last twelve years is one of the stubborn facts which confront the Conservative campaigners. It is easy to say that the prosperity of the West is due to the fertility of its soil. But why, with its extraordinary natural resources, did the West remain for so many years unpeopled, and of little practical benefit to Canada or to the world? Why, in a short time after the Liberal Government came into power, did the stream of immigration begin to flow in a volume commensurate with the resources of the country? The figures of immigration, of homestead entries, of population, of the Western yield of wheat and other crops, have been repeatedly given, and they tell a wonderful story. But it is not necessary to prove the prosperity and growth of the West by statistics. Anyone who visited the West in 1896 and again in 1908 will tell you that the districts, few and far between. To-

suits were disappointing, and that in its celebrated letter of 1891, the Hon. Edward Blake spoke of "a North-West empty still." Of the present immigrant population of the three Western Provinces only 45,360 had arrived in Canada prior to 1891; 76,380 arrived between 1891 and 1901; and 233,457 came in the five years between 1901 and 1906, when the immigration policy of the present Government was in full swing. It is not a mere accident that the Canadian West under Conservative rule was a land of the hope deferred that maketh the heart sick, while to-day it is a land of fulfillment. The Railway Commission talked of under the previous Administration became a fact under the Laurier Administration. Civil service reform has been removed from the realm of dreams into the realm of action.

WISE PROGRESS DEMOCRACY AND LIBERTY

The Principles That Have Guided and Now Guide the Liberal Party.

EXPLANATION OF SUCCESS

Policy of Opposition Little More Than One of Negation and Abuse.

If the Liberal party were merely a political faction, standing only for office or spoils, or even if its claim for support were simply the record of past achievements and traditions of honor and usefulness, there might be reason for challenging its request for a further lease of power. When, however, it comes before the people as the exponent of sound principles, and the active agency promoting and guiding successful national development actually going on, there becomes manifest the absurdity of the proposal to replace it by another party whose policy is little more than negation and abuse.

The progressive political vitality of this new country demands a leadership of men who can be relied upon to do things. What does the other party propose in the way of national development, except to continue the great undertakings which they have criticized and opposed? No one takes seriously Mr. Foster's talk about a tunnel under the Straits of Northumberland. What else does his party present, except the recollection of Sir John A. Macdonald's performances. The Liberal party has always stood for personal liberty. To an earnest desire for the development and application of these great principles it owes its origin and success. Its history in Canada, as well as in Great Britain, is a history of effective opposition to every repressive, oppressive, and unsocial attempt to subvert the welfare and advancement of the community. In the interests of the privileged classes. Nowhere have those great principles found fuller exemplification than in the administration of the present Dominion Government.

Hence it is, that in our Parliament to-day, we find no Socialist faction, no element representing discontent with our form of government, no representatives of any sections of the community that consider themselves treated with injustice. What a contrast in this respect is the Parliament of Canada to the Legislature of nearly every other country in which constitutional government prevails. This is because Canadians are well governed, prosperous, and satisfied with the prudent guidance of their young country's rapid development. It is largely because of that large-visioned guidance that the Dominion is now so attractive to the best and most intelligent immigrants from other lands. To it, we owe the filling up of new territory with a population of the finest character, that will maintain the ambitions which impel them and the conditions that attract them. The worthy representative and well qualified leader of this great Liberal national life is the statesman who now asks the electors of Canada to pass judgment upon his record and his proposals.

Donald was indifferent to the value of the West, except from the point of view of military defence. It can be shown that the bringing in of the West was a plank in the platform of a Liberal convention held in Toronto in 1857. But we live neither in 1857 nor in 1882, but in 1908. We are dealing with the present, and with the work done in the development of the West in the last twelve years, under the present Administration. If the Government had failed in the West, no excuse would have saved it from public condemnation. As it has succeeded beyond all expectation, it will receive credit from all fair-minded men.

What There is to Show for It

Where Increases in Expenditures Have Taken Place and the Returns Obtained Therefrom.

Expenditures on the public services of the country have been increased under the Laurier Government.

This, in varying forms, is one of the chief charges preferred by the Opposition against the Administration of the day.

The fact is admitted. Expenditures have grown. The amount spent on the ordinary running services is larger than it was twelve years ago; more has been spent, also, on what is called "capital account"—i.e., the construction of permanent public works.

But have the people been burdened by the taxation imposed? Has the future of the country been darkened by the piling on of a load of debt? Are there returns to show for the money spent?

These are the questions in which the country is chiefly interested. These are the questions to which answers are herewith submitted.

THE ORDINARY SERVICES

Let us take first a few of the ordinary services of the country and see why increases in cost have taken place in these.

<p>THE POSTAL SERVICE. The expenditure on the postal service in the nine months ending with March, 1907, was \$300,000 greater than for the whole year of 1896. But this does not mean an added burden for the people. The domestic rate on letters has actually been reduced in the interval from three to two cents, and a letter can be sent from Vancouver to London to-day for two-thirds the charge imposed for sending from Toronto to Richmond Hill in 1896.</p>	<p>SUBSIDIES TO PROVINCES. The sum of \$4,235,000 was transferred in the form of subsidies from the Dominion treasury to the treasuries of the various Provinces in 1896. In the short year of 1907 (nine months) the sum so transferred was \$6,745,000. Part of the increase was due to the creation of two new Provinces. Part of it followed upon an increase in the subsidies to the older Provinces. A portion of the surplus of which Mr. Whitney boasts comes from this source.</p>	<p>LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE. On lighthouse and coastal service \$466,000 was spent in 1896. In the nine months ending with March, 1907, \$2,000,000 was expended. As a result of the increased outlay in lighting, coupled with the deepening and improvement in our waterways, the St. Lawrence route is capturing trade which formerly went via New York and Boston. More grain passed through Montreal in the last three months than through the combined rival American ports in the same time.</p>
<p>IMMIGRATION. The expenditure on immigration in 1896 was \$120,000. In 1906 it was \$842,000. Largely as a result of the greater outlay the number of farms in Western Canada increased from 54,000 in 1901 to 120,000 in 1906.</p>	<p>AGRICULTURE. The outlay by the Agricultural Department was \$210,000 for the full year of 1896. In the nine months forming the short fiscal year of 1907 no less than \$625,000 was spent by the same department. But in the same time, and partly as the result of the increased spending, the value of farm exports increased by \$41,000,000.</p>	<p>MORE FOR QUARANTINE SERVICE. The cost of the national quarantine service has grown from \$95,000 in 1896 to \$624,000 in 1906. Could money be better spent than in guarding against the invasion of disease from abroad? The close of the fiscal year of the Dominion was changed in 1907 from June to March. Thus the statement of expenditure for the last year for which official figures are available covers nine months only.</p>

THE LARGE EXPENDITURES

The chief explanation of the increase in the total disbursements of the country is found in the outlay on great public works—works which will be of lasting benefit to the country.

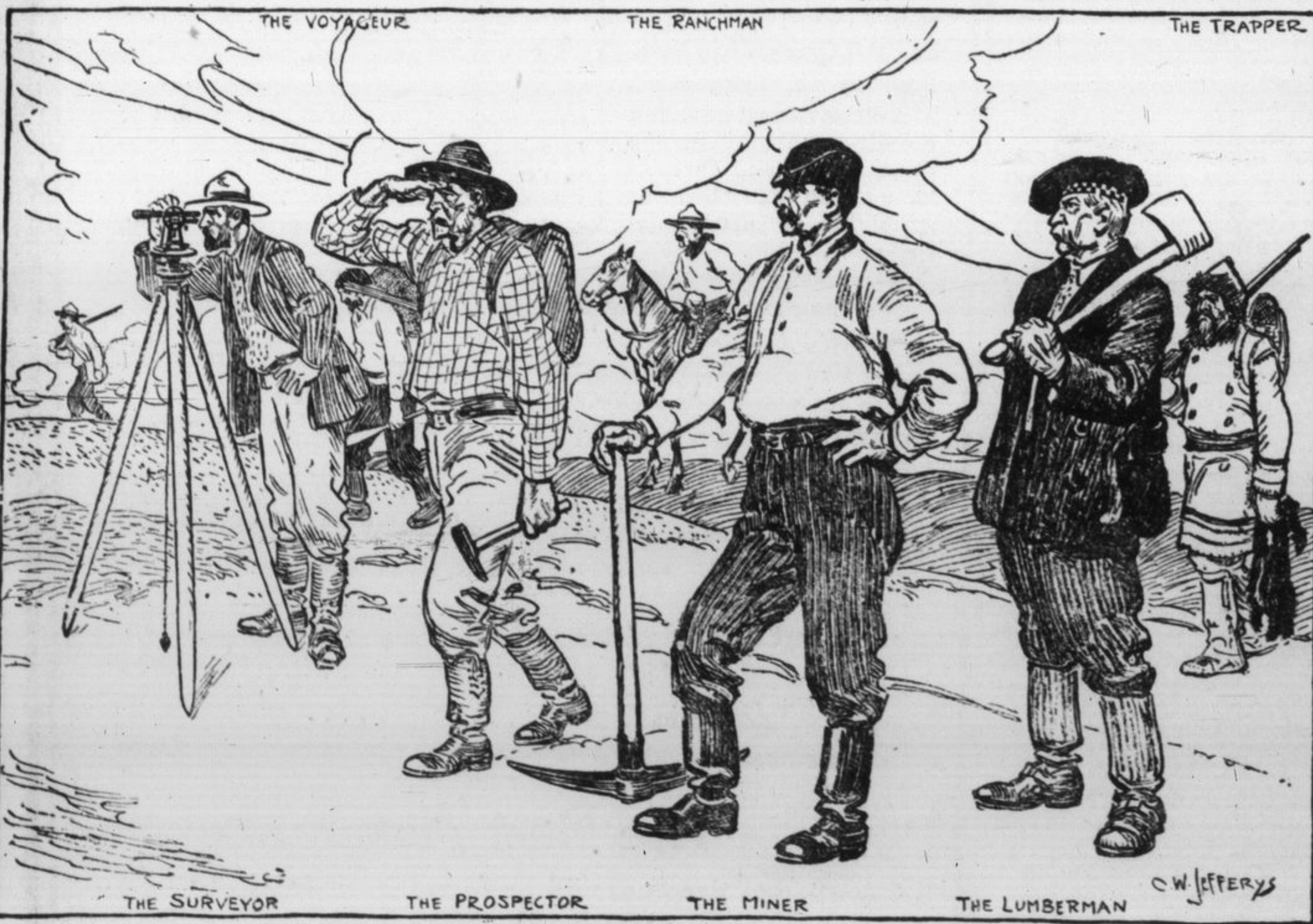
<p>PUBLICLY-OWNED RAILWAYS. Between 1896 and the end of the fiscal year of 1907 over \$27,000,000 was expended on construction account of the Intercolonial and connected railways. Up to the end of the same year over \$8,000,000 had been spent on the portion of the Transcontinental owned by the people. The spending of this money has not only added to the country's transportation facilities, and so helped general trade; it has also increased the value of publicly-owned revenue-producing properties.</p>	<p>AID TO PRIVATE RAILWAYS. In addition to the sums spent on publicly-owned railways, over \$18,000,000 has been expended in the form of subsidies to private railways. Some of these roads are providing transportation facilities for territory which otherwise would still be unoccupied. As a consequence of the liberal policy pursued by the Government, the length of all the railways in Canada has increased from 16,270 miles in 1896 to 22,452 in 1907, and the total of the capital invested in railways from \$890,000,000 to \$1,285,000,000.</p>	<p>CANAL EXPENDITURE. Over \$20,000,000 was spent in the ten years ending with 1906 on the St. Lawrence, Williamsburg, Welland, Trent, and Soulanges canals—an expenditure which, with the improved lighting service, is helping to make our waterways the great commercial artery of North America. About two-thirds of the capital expenditure on the Soulanges Canal, which has made it navigable for heavy freighters, has taken place under the present Government.</p>
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WITHOUT ADDED BURDENS

And, in accomplishing all this, only a trifle over five million dollars has been added to the public debt. In the previous eleven years over sixty-two millions was added to the national obligations.

While, too, more money has been spent, the rate of taxation has actually been lessened. In 1896 the average rate of Customs taxation on dutiable imports was nearly 30 per cent.; in 1907 it was 26 1-3 per cent. More money has been collected, but with less burden upon the taxpayers. A parallel case would be afforded by a growing town which, while actually lowering the rate on the dollar, increased its total revenue as a result of additions to the number of taxpayers and taxable property.

The money has been spent, but the country has obtained returns for the spending and the public burdens have been lessened rather than increased.



THE CONQUERING OF WESTERN CANADA—NO. 2—THE SCOUTS.

A Series of eight cartoons drawn by Mr. C. W. Jeffreys, representing the Conquest of Canada for civilization and the men who are engaged in it.