

# Gouin Government Exposed

SPEECH BY

Mr. J. M. Tellier

Leader of the Opposition in Montreal, April 23.

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*Light Shed on the Autocratic Methods of Administration  
at Quebec.*

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*Platform of the Opposition for Much Needed Reforms  
in Governing the Affairs of the Province.*

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## Mr. Chairman, Ladies' and Gentlemen :

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My heart is filled with emotion in the presence of this splendid demonstration, and the numerous evidences of sympathy which you have given me to-night.

I realize fully that all your applause is directed more to the flag and the cause I represent, rather than to my unworthy person, but I am none the less happy thereat.

Permit me to offer you this poor expression of my deep-felt gratitude. I would wish especially to thank the members of the Cartier Club and other kindred organizations, and to felicitate them on the success which has attended their efforts. It has pleased the Government to dissolve the House and to make an appeal to the people. On this score we are ready to meet the Government. (Cheers.) However, I cannot but express regret that Sir Lomer Gouin has seen fit to choose such an unpropitious time of year to make such an appeal to the electors. In this the Premier, it seems to me, has been guilty of an unpardonable disregard of the convenience of the rural electors. Is it possible that the Leader of the Government thought that the impassable condition of the roads would act as a deterrent to prevent us from going before the people—his judges. If that is the case, let him disillusionize himself. For it is our unalterable intention to arraign him on all sides. He might well have remembered that the time of bad roads is also the time of floods, and that it was not beyond the realm of possibility that his Government would be swept from power on the wave of popular opinion next month. This is the fate which awaits him, if he gets his deserts at the hands of the people. (Cheers.)

At the Decarie banquet, held last week, the Prime Minister delivered a speech, in the course of which he rendered an account of his administration. I find the text of this utterance in the "Canada" of the 16th inst. With your permission we will examine together the account which he presented to us for our edification. You will soon see that his account of his actions, though rendered with consummate skill, is quite calculated to deceive the public and to lead it into error. It is a rather harsh thing to say, but it is none the less true.

CONSOLIDATED DEBT

Sir Lomer opens his speech by boasting of the manner in which he has administered the finances of the Province, and he gives one to under-

stand that he has enriched the Province by about a dozen of millions of dollars. This he attempts to prove by saying that, from 1905 to 1911, the Consolidated Debt was reduced from \$9,185,024.01, or \$7.30 per inhabitant, which would mean that the expenditure under the heading of annual interest charges has been reduced by \$448,763.52. If it is true, this is, indeed, a superb showing. Only—it is not true, or, at best, it is but a half truth. Sir Lomer gives you one-half, now what is the other half? Here it is. During the time covered, the Government drew two amounts which were owing to the Province, and which were bearing interest at four and one-half per cent. These amounts were:

1.—The sum of \$7,000,000 received from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company as the balance on the sale price of the North Shore Railway, disposed of in 1882.

2.—\$2,394,000.00, which was due to us in virtue of a Federal law passed in 1884.

The Government has thus drawn a capital sum of \$9,394,000.00, with which it has paid off \$9,138,693.33 of the Public Debt. Naturally, we are paying less in interest charges, but we are receiving less under the same heading.

#### THE WHOLE TRUTH.

Now you have the whole truth. What do you think of it? Do you consider that there was need of making such a hub-bub, to speak vauntingly of the enrichment of the national domain, and to figure down just what that enrichment meant, calculated per inhabitant?

#### ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

In order to get an exact idea of the finances of the Province, it is not sufficient to look to the statement of the National Debt. We must go further and look to the assets and liabilities of the Province. This, the Prime Minister knows as well as I or any one else. Why is it that he at times seems to ignore it?

Thus, he often speaks of the many loans contracted by the last Conservative regime, which he represents as one disastrous to the interests of the Province. To hear him speak one would think that from 1892 to 1897 our liabilities were increased to the extent of \$22,916,770.35. That's all bosh. According to the official figures, the increase of liabilities over assets was \$1,203,619.96 during the last Conservative regime, and it was reduced by \$4,481,717.04 from the 30th of June, 1897, to the 30th of June, 1911. (See Public Accounts of 1911, page 670, and Legislative Assembly Papers, 1910, page 492.) Behold, the Whole Truth. (Cheers.)

### HE LOOKS BACKWARD.

But, since the Prime Minister seems to like to look backward so much, instead of fairly and squarely facing the problems of the present and the future, why does he not speak to us of the Mercier regime, whose successor he claims to be, and under whose aegis the net liabilities of the Province were increased by \$12,898,000 within a space of five years? (Legislative Papers, 1910, page 492.)

Why does he not explain that, thanks to this policy, good or bad as it was, our revenue became insufficient to pay interest charges and to carry on the administration, and that it became necessary to levy taxes. Why does he not confess that he has himself imposed taxes instead of affirming that he has not done so? Why does he hide the fact that the taxes, which were so much denounced in 1897, now bring him in an annual return of \$2,069,000 instead of \$463,000 in 1897?" (Cheers.)

### HE IS A LEVYER OF TAXES.

Sir Lomer it is who was the father of the tax on corporation and municipal bonds. From this source he draws an annual revenue of \$65,000.00. He it was who fathered the tax on insurance companies, making an annual revenue of \$22,600.00 from this source. He it was who forbade municipalities to impose taxes on automobiles, and who himself derives the tidy sum of \$26,000 from taxes on automobiles.

He it was who so manoeuvred the taxes on commercial corporations that the revenue from this source alone has more than doubled since 1905. He has, furthermore, increased year by year the taxes imposed on liquor sellers. He has imposed a tax on the registration of contracts, and he caused autocratic power to be conferred upon himself, whereby he can impose additional taxes at his discretion, without obtaining the consent of either Lower or Upper House. And after all that, he now comes before us and tells us that he did not impose any taxes. I cite his own words: "Is it necessary for me to repeat that we have arrived at this satisfactory result without taxing the people?"

What do you think of this assertion?

### SUCCESSION DUTIES.

It is true that in the case of Succession Duties on Estates, wherein the succession is in a direct line, as in the case of husband and wife, the duties have been removed, when the estate does not exceed \$15,000, but it is long since that the Opposition has been pushing the Government to take such a course.

As early as the 26th of January last we came forward with a motion as follows:

1.—To exempt from all duties successions in a direct line, as in the case of husband and wife, when the net value of the estate did not exceed \$10,000.

2.—To exempt from dues, all portions of inheritance in a direct line or between husband and wife, where the net value of each share does not exceed \$3,000, in cases of the division of an estate worth more than \$10,000.

#### IN CASES OF NUMEROUS FAMILIES.

We thought, as I still think, that it was quite apropos to give this encouragement to families with numerous offspring. This would, in a certain degree, replace the old law concerning families with twelve children, to which Mercier attached his name and which the Gouin Government ruthlessly abolished in 1905.

#### REDUCTION AND READJUSTMENT.

There are also other taxes, such as the taxes on commercial corporations and the taxes imposed on municipalities in connection with the payment of the upkeep of insane patients in asylums, which it would be well to reduce, or at least to readjust in such a manner as to wipe out the abuses and legitimate complaints of those at present interested.

We have put it up to the Government to go ahead with such reduction or readjustment, but without avail.

I promise that, if the people will confide to me the administration of the affairs of the Province, I will see to it that justice is done on this point.

#### DISGUISED LOANS.

The Prime Minister asserts that, under his regime, the Province has not contracted any loans. It is an error. Loans have been contracted, but they have been loans in disguise. The School for Higher Commercial Studies and the two Technical Schools were built with the aid of borrowed money. These three schools have at their head purely fictitious corporations, which are nothing more or less than Government committees. These committees borrow money, but it is the Province that stands guarantee. The interest and the sinking fund are paid annually out of the money of the Province. Loans contracted under

this head total \$1,775,000, and this represents money which we in reality owe. (See Statutes of 1907, and the Minutes of the Legislative Assembly, 1912, pages 182 to 228.)

#### PRETE-NOMS.

And this is the way that Mr. Gouin contracts these loans. It is indeed ingenious and handy to borrow money without having the fact shown. The invention of prete-noms is, of course, not a new one, but up to this I had never seen it applied to public affairs. It seems that Mr. Gouin is satisfied with the process, for we again see him making use of it in his law on good roads, passed in 1912.

He tells municipalities: "Borrow \$10,000,000 and the Province will pay. Not only will the Province pay the capital amount, but it will also pay one-half of the interest."

Thanks to this method of procedure, the debt of the Province will not be shown in its list of liabilities, but in the liabilities of the municipalities, and Mr. Gouin will continue to cry out: "We do not borrow money. The Province of Quebec is the only one of Confederation which is not floating any loans."

Do you not think that the regime of fraud has lasted long enough, and that it is time to return to honest and straightforward methods of public administration (Cries of "Yes, yes.")

Mr. Gouin still speaks of the bonds negotiated by Hon. Mr. Taillon at 77 cents on the dollar. Why does he not take the trouble to add that these bonds were payable only at the end of 60 years and that they bore interest at only 3 per cent?

Does he ignore the fact that the price obtained was about equal to that secured when 4 per cent. bonds are sold at par?

#### THE CREDIT OF THE PROVINCE.

He boasts of the good credit which the Province at present enjoys, and he would lead one to believe that such a gratifying condition of affairs is due to the Liberal regime.

Why does he not recall that at the close of the last Conservative regime in 1897—that is to say, after the loan which he so strongly denounces, the Province obtained \$105.00 for 4 per cent. \$100 bonds, and, somewhat later, \$90 for 3 per cent. \$100 bonds, payable at the end of 40 years? (Document No. 58. Session of 1911.)

Mr. Gouin did not obtain such favorable terms for the disguised loans which he contracted. (Public Accounts, 1911, page 672.)

Thus all this talk of the credit of the Province having been ruined under the last Conservative regime is nothing but calumny.

Pardon me if I have devoted so much time to that part of the Prime Minister's speech which deals with the finances of the Province. I firmly believed that it was my duty to do so, as our adversaries have now been a long time deceiving the public on this question and their reputation as consummate financiers is based solely on error, prejudice, misrepresentation and falsehood.

I will at least have the merit of having spoken the truth and of having re-established in their true light facts which had been distorted in the mind of many.

With more time at my disposal I could show you that our adversaries have, during the last few years, cooked up incomplete and fantastic financial statements which are at variance with the official statements and which are calculated to spread error. You will find many of these in the Minutes of the House, for the year 1912, these taking the form of answers to questions asked during the session. I would wish particularly to point out a statement on page 514, showing the assets and liabilities, which is flatly contradicted by the statement given by the Treasury Department and by another statement given by the Treasurer himself, and which can be found on page 492 of the Legislative Assembly Papers of 1910.

Many others you will also find, so be on your guard.

#### PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Sir Lomer Gouin poses as the champion of education, and he speaks to us of the great sums of money which he has spent in this connection. What seems to cause him great joy, apparently, is the fact that his budget is greater than those of his predecessors—just as if the merits of an administration were to be regarded as resuming itself into a simple consideration of the amount of money expended.

Instead of standing in awe in front of great school buildings, I, for my part, prefer to enter the buildings themselves in order to ascertain just what progress has been made in the teaching methods there in vogue.

Are we more advanced in matters of education? Are the academic and model courses more numerous and better followed? Has the average attendance at the schools increased? Has the number of illiterates diminished?

I must confess that these questions, and others of the same nature would interest me infinitely more than a mere consideration of a long list of school grants.

Mr. Gouin has spent more money than his predecessors. That is.

an understood thing. In the first place, our needs increase in proportionate ratio to the increase in our population. Then, again, our revenues have increased. A Government cannot give, except within the measure of its resources.

In 1899, Mr. Marchand did not give any more than his predecessors for the very good reason that he did not receive more than they. Mr. Gouin followed a similar course at the opening of his regime. But to-day, when the federal subsidy is increased by \$800,000 per annum and the revenue from taxation has increased by \$2,000,000, and we have no further subsidies to pay railways, it is an easy matter to make generous grants of money and to satisfy all legitimate demands. Everybody would do the same thing, and I would be one of the first to do so. The main thing is to spend the money judiciously and with profit. I will be just to the Premier in this connection—he has done things of which I approve. On the other hand he has done things which I cannot too strongly condemn.

Thus, I am one with him, when he gives bonuses to municipalities which have distinguished themselves in the matter of education, and when he works sincerely to improve the lot of teachers and inspectors. I am with him, when he comes to the assistance of poor municipalities for the maintenance of their elementary schools and for the establishment of commercial academies. Again, I approve of his actions, when he founds normal schools for girls, in all the dioceses of the Province, whilst at the same time, I regret that the grants of money which he has made for this purpose are insufficient. The Opposition has approved of the Government in all these measures. But I condemn and denounce the Government, when it diverts to the use of rich municipalities the money which was destined for the poorer municipal centres.

I condemn and denounce the Government when it permits that schools funds be so manipulated as to serve electoral purposes or when these funds are allowed to reach the hands of other than interested parties.

If the people entrust us with the Government of the Province we will keep in force all of good that the present administration has done, but we will, at the same time ever work in order to cause all abuses to disappear. We will maintain the existing bonuses, and we will give additional ones, with a view to encourage, even more, the attendance at the schools of the Province, and to render the teaching more efficacious and profitable to the children of the masses. Furthermore, we will do away with the appeal to the Judge, as, under ordinary circumstances it is ruinously expensive, and we will substitute therefor an easy, summary and much less costly appeal, along the lines already many times suggested by the Catholic Committee of the Council of Public Instruction.

## BIG BUILDINGS.

I condemn the policy of Sir Lomer Gouin in connection with the School for Higher Commercial Studies, and the Technical Schools at Montreal and Quebec.

I say that it is scandalous to spend for one school such as the school of Higher Commercial Studies a capital sum of \$600,000 and in addition to this an annual sum of \$50,000, which represents, calculating the interest at 4 per cent, a yearly expenditure of \$74,000.

Listen well. This school is now attended by 37 pupils, which means that each individual pupil costs the Province an annual sum of \$2,000.

Instead of sanctioning such foolish expenditure, would it not have been better to have entrusted Laval and McGill Universities with the providing of such instruction for Catholics and Protestants respectively, on the understanding that the Province would accord an annual grant to these institutions for the purpose?

Our School of Surveying at Laval costs us only \$5,000 per year, our school of Forestry \$5,000, and up to this year Laval University, Montreal, received only \$8,000 for the teaching of Medicine and Law.

The Technical School of Montreal will cost \$800,000 with an additional annual grant of \$40,000; that at Quebec will cost \$500,000 with an annual subsidy of \$30,000. These are instances hardly less striking, of the extravagance of the Government.

Why, I ask, sacrifice so much simply to gratify a vain ambition to have one's name attached to large and pretentious buildings?

I am strongly in favor of technical education, and I wish to have it as efficiently imparted as possible; but I contend that such education could have been provided for, just as efficaciously, in much less pretensions and possibly more practical surroundings.

With the sums which have been spent in the establishment of these two great schools, the Government could, by acting with moderation and good sense, have instituted technical schools in every manufacturing centre of the Province. All that was needed was to secure the services of competent professors and to set up the schools as dependancies or additions to manufacturing or industrial establishments in actual working order. This is the way in which the thing is done in many progressive countries, and the plan has met with unbounded success. This is what we proposed to the Government and this is the plan which we will set on foot provided the people signify their willingness by entrusting to us the administration of the affairs of the Province.

But, I suppose, it could not be helped. The Government was laboring under the mania of big buildings, fat contracts,—and the Province was footing the bill.

## THE MONTREAL JAIL.

It was, no doubt, this mania for big buildings which instigated the Government to erect, at Bordeaux, a grand palace, star-shaped, which is destined to be the jail for the district of Montreal.

Do you know what that palace is to cost?—Only \$2,800,000 and it is the Hon. Mr. Taschereau himself who says so. (Minutes of the Legislative Assembly 1912, page 181.)

This palace is destined for the use of the prisoners of the Montreal district—that is for the use of murderers, robbers, incendiaries, vagrants, and probably, for some unfortunate newspapermen who are not spineless enough to suit the tastes of certain politicians. (Laughter.)

\$2,800,000, taken as a capital sum, calls for an interest charge of \$114,000 at four per cent. That is to say, that the prisoners, granting that there will be 500 of them,—and it appears that this is the maximum accommodation afforded by the building—will cost the Province an annual sum of \$228.00 per head, for lodging alone.

What do you think of it? Is that scandalous enough for you?

## AGRICULTURE.

I am firmly of the opinion that the Government is not doing all it should do for the advancement of agriculture.

The grants have increased, it is time, but where is the progress manifest since the days of Mr. Beaubien?

Agricultural schools, societies and kindred organizations are subsidized it is true. So far so good, but that is not sufficient. It is necessary to instill mere life into such organizations, to infuse new blood into them, to render them more popular, and to make them do all the good which they should do.

How many agricultural industries are neglected in this Province and what a great asset they would be towards the enrichment of the whole Province if the Government would only take the interest in them which they would seem to demand.

Is it not principally to the initiative of the Government that we owe the giant strides made in the dairying industry? Why could we not attain similar results in connection with the tobacco industry, the bacon industry or in the food products industry?

## RURAL ROADS.

All are united in admitting the necessity of improving rural roads.

The present Government has put forward efforts along this line since 1907. On its side the Opposition has done everything in its power to aid the Government.

Only . . . the Government does not always follow the good advice which is given to it.

The law of 1907 is producing but few results along the line of permanent works.

## THE GOOD ROADS LAW OF 1912.

Will the Good Roads Law of 1912 be productive of the results which the Government is reputed to expect from it? I am inclined to doubt it.

For, the working of the law is left to the initiative of the municipalities and it is not the Government which has control of the situation. One refractory municipality in a county can destroy the whole plan d'ensemble; and in that case we may have odds and ends of improved roads, but no complete system open to general traffic.

I think that there is a way to remedy this, and my plan is as follows:

1. I would classify roads according to their relative importance and I would charge the Government with the task of carrying out the improvement of all roads regarded as main arteries of traffic in each county or district.

2. As to roads of secondary importance, I would favor the keeping in force of the bonus system inaugurated in the law of 1907 and its amendments.

It is better that the Province itself take over the task of improving roads which are the principal arteries of traffic. For the Province can, with greater facility, and with a chance of obtaining better terms, contract for loans, and it can follow more consecutive methods in the carrying out of the actual work.

And, furthermore, such a plan would not be more costly for the Province, as it would not be called upon, as in Mr. Gouin's plan, to pay for the improvement of roads of purely secondary importance.

## IRON BRIDGES.

I am of the opinion that the Province should continue to subsidize iron bridges. .at least as long as its finances will permit it to do so. In this connection it is again simply a question of seeing to it that such subsidies do not be made to serve electoral purposes, as has happened under the present Government. It would also be a wise preceeding to have all bridges municipalized before having a Government subsidy granted in their favor.

## TOLL BRIDGES AND ROADS.

The Gouin Government has made a lot of noise, with but little actual result, in the matter of abolishing toll gates within the limits of the Province.

The toll gate of the Dorchester bridge in Quebec has been set back to the city limits, in consideration of a reduction of the tolls, whilst the tolls of the Viau and Lachapelle bridges in Laval County disappeared some months back.

But the great question, namely, the maintenance of bridges and roads, is as yet unsolved. Mr. Gouin adjourned consideration of it till after the elections. In the law presented by the Government this year to provide for the abolition of other toll gates in the Province, there was a clause which was combatted as dangerous by the Opposition. This is that portion of the law wherein the Public Utilities Commission was granted the power to distribute the works on such bridges and roads, instead of having the municipalities vested with such power.

In this, as in other respects, I believe that municipal autonomy should have been respected.

## LEGISLATION IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKINGMAN.

Mr. Gouin boasts over-much of all that he has done in the interest of the working classes. In all justice to the Opposition he should have confessed that whatever good had been done by the Government along this line had been, generally speaking, inspired by the efforts of those at the left of the Speaker. He should have explained that the more unjust clauses of the Workmen's Compensation Act had been bitterly combatted by the members of the Opposition.

We know that the workingmen is not satisfied with this law and that he has in vain appealed to the present Government for redress. It is in us that the workingman will find his true friend and it is from us that he will receive a full measure of justice.

## COLONIZATION.

How is Colonization going in this Province? It is in a prosperous condition? The settlers themselves do not think so, for we hear their complaints from year's end to year's end. They complain of the negligence, the utter disregard and even of the ill-will of the Colonization Department. They are forbidden from buying more than one lot, and in order to obtain even that one lot they have all the trouble in the world. They are forced to submit to aggravating delays, sometimes lasting for weeks and months, and once they have secured the lot, they are continually harassed by the tactics of the Department. Thus, if, after finally having established themselves, they desire to change location, they are prevented from disposing of the buildings, improvements or other works, which they have set up on the land.

That is what is going on, and it can be easily proven by a reference to the hundreds of reported cases, which we have placed before the House.

My friends, the Hon. Mr. Provost and Mr. Armand Lavergne could speak to you at length on this point, for they have been the most intrepid champions of the oppressed settler.

Thanks to the unfortunate and anti-patriotic policy of the Government in this regard, the sale of Quebec lands has considerably decreased, as it attested by the report of the Minister of Crown Lands, and our people are going away to settle in Ontario.

Such a condition of affairs must change, for the Province has too vital an interest in the colonization of its lands, and in the keeping of its own inhabitants at home, and in bringing back those who have left for other climes.

Our policy is to push forward colonization as much as possible and to assure to the settler easy access to arable land, assistance and protection.

We have often proposed the separation of the domain of colonization from that of forestry and we still believe it to be a good plan. It can, moreover, be carried into effect, without encroaching upon the rights of any party.

## FIXED DATE FOR ELECTIONS.

The Government has fixed the date of the present election to suit its own good pleasure, and it was guided therein solely by a consideration of the welfare of the party which is supporting it. What motive of public interest could there be to dictate the fixing of an election date

at this season of the year, and a full twelve months before the expiry of the usual life of a Parliament?

The Government gives none, and there is none to give. Do you think it right that the law permits a Government to act thus? However, there are many precedents of this nature in the history of this Province.

We have been, and are now of the opinion, we of the Opposition, that it would be well to have Provincial elections held at a date fixed and set apart by law, just as in the case when municipal or school board elections are involved. This we have already proposed in the House.

It is one of the articles of our programme and we firmly believe that its bringing into effect would work out to the general interest of the public.

#### MUNICIPAL AUTONOMY.

One of the articles of Mr. Gouin's programme which he has most frequently and most flagrantly violated, is that dealing with the autonomy of municipalities. Under his Government, municipalities have been despoiled of the control of their streets, their franchises and of times, even of the power to carry on their own affairs.

"The city of Montreal has been treated as if it were an interdict, with the Provincial Government appointed its curator. How often have we seen the Government practically carrying on the administration of this great city, disposing of its franchises, spending its money, just as if the city were unable to look after such matters on its own account. We of the Opposition have never lost an opportunity to register the strongest possible protest against such a condition of affairs. We have qualified such conduct on the part of the Government as a wholly uncalled for infringement upon the rights of the metropolis. The very day when we are brought back to power, we will give the city of Montreal the right to govern itself, and once this right is granted, we will see that it is respected." (Cheers.)

#### REFORMS TO BE SET ON FOOT.

How many great works there are to be carried on in the arena of Provincial politics, for a Government which is disposed to work for, and is sincerely devoted to the interests of the public.

As a Province we are endowed with immense natural resources which remain unproductive, for the simple reason that they have not been fostered. We must take steps to regularize the course of our rivers by the preservation of our water powers. This is a task which should be undertaken by the Province and not left to private initiative. The

Province could easily reimburse itself for all expenses by exacting from the proprietors of exploited water powers, an annuity corresponding to the amount needed to pay interest and charges and to provide for the establishment of a sinking fund..

We must see to it that private individuals do not set up on our rivers toll gates somewhat after the fashion of those which we have heretofore met with on land. Many of our laws in this respect, have need of serious modification and modernization. It would be necessary to provide for the institution of a serious and efficient inspection of all companies or societies, to which the people have entrusted their earnings, and to make severe laws to punish and prevent fraud or trickery.

I could go on indefinitely, were I to enumerate all the good and wise laws which might be enacted in this connection.

#### THE OPPOSITION.

The Province will be called upon to choose, on May 15th, between the present Government and the Opposition for the administration of its affairs during next term of Parliament.

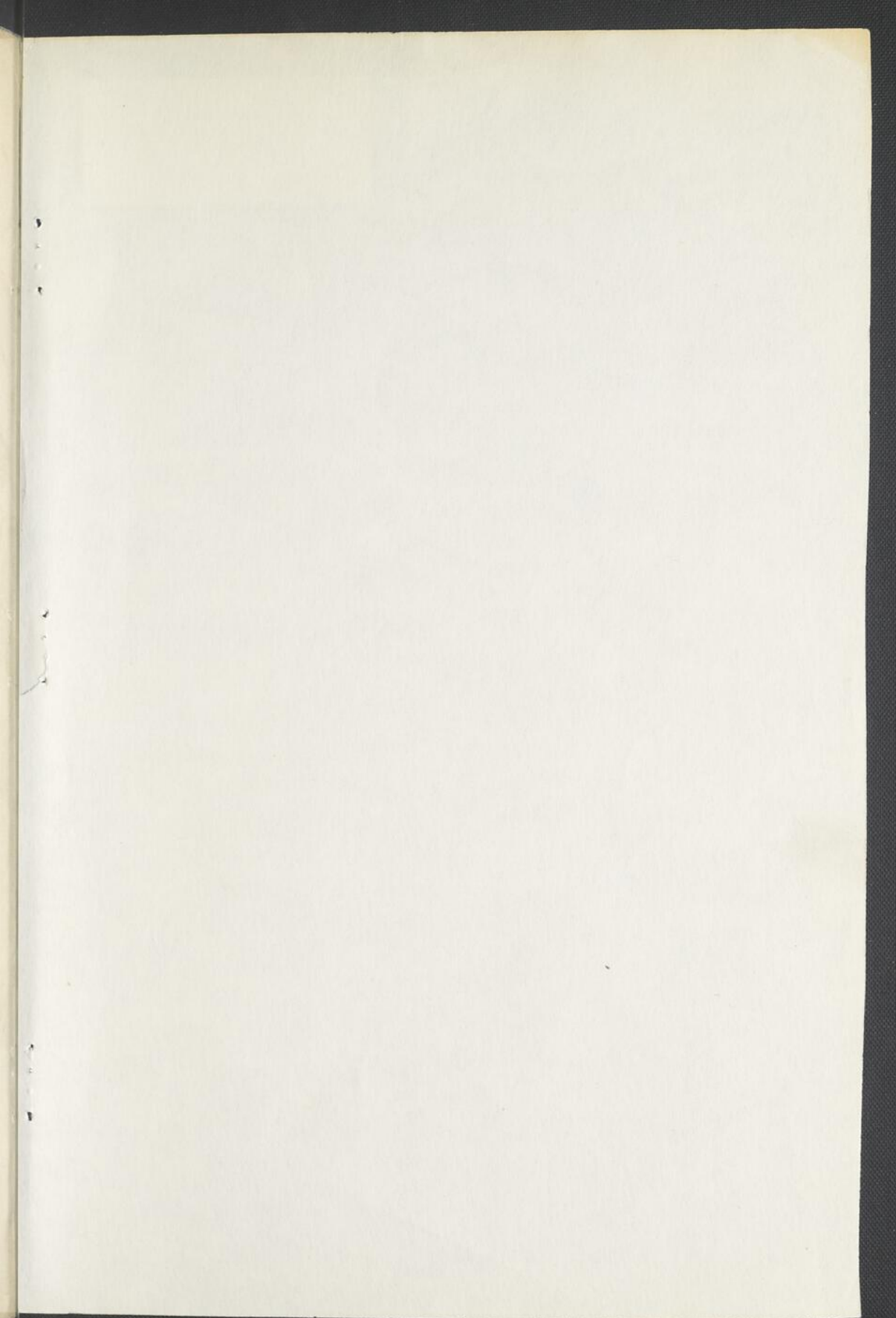
The programme and the ideas of each of the two parties in the contest are known for our utterances and our acts are public. The men who found themselves on the side of the Opposition in the late Parliament came from opposing parties, but they gathered together actuated by a motive of public interest and because there was amongst them a community of ideas, sentiments and convictions. It was I who had the honor and the responsibility of leadership.

I must say that I am wholly satisfied with the work which has been accomplished by my friends as well as with the cordial relations which have ever existed in our ranks. We have been animated with one ideal—one object—and that was to defend our native Province each and every time her interests were placed in jeopardy. Our work has not consisted in embarrassing the Government but in stimulating it towards good, in keeping it in the path of duty, and in combatting it, ever, when it was tending towards evil. I pride myself in the fact that I was surrounded by men, of the high calibre of those whom I had as supporters and lieutenants. One of these latter, Henri Bourassa, saw fit to sever himself from our ranks. Notwithstanding the deep regret which his departure has caused me, I have the satisfaction to know that the most cordial relations exist between us and that I enjoy his esteem, just as I esteem and admire him.

## TO MEN OF GOOD WILL.

I now appeal to all men of good will, and I ask them to help us endow our Province with an administration which will be honest, healthy and progressive. In making this request, I am not animated by personal interest but by a sincere desire to be of service to our Province, to see it prosper and to see its inhabitants, my fellow citizens, share in the prosperity which will accrue to it.

(Applause.)



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