

of his party and he was making a last appeal to them and it was a clever one. He said, referring to the opposition.

But, Sir, are those gentlemen opposite playing a part? I do not ask that in any offensive sense. Are they playing a part? Let us see. I think they are, and I submit my opinion. The stake that they are playing for I know, and so do our friends here. They are playing for power. They are desperate players. I do not play myself, but I take leave to ask those who do a question. If they had been playing all night and had been losing continually and had got to the last cent they had in their pockets, would they not become desperate? Cards up their sleeves, cards in their laps, cards all around—anything to win. These hon. gentlemen have been out for over eighteen years. They have been playing for power and they have lost every time. Their last nickel is invested. If they are desperate players, can we wonder at it?

I think the hon. gentleman was really expressing his own mind at that time, and with a slight transposition these words would now probably represent the ideas of the hon. member for North Toronto and many of those who are supporting him. Speaking for the opposition the hon. member for North Toronto would say about this: 'But, Sir, we of the opposition are playing a part. Let me see. I think we are and I submit we are. The stake that we are playing for I know and so do our opponents. We are playing for power. We are desperate players and I am a player myself. We have been playing for the past eight years, and have been losing continually, personally, I lost in St. John in 1900 and North Ontario in 1902. We are up to the last cent we have in our pockets, and we have become desperate. We have cards up our sleeves, cards in our laps, cards all round, conscience cards in Quebec, a provincial rights pack of cards in Ontario, and Mr. Rogers is making cards for Manitoba. The premier of the Northwest Territories is now designing cards for the two new provinces. Anything to win. We have been out for over eight years. We have been playing for power and have lost every time. Our last nickel is invested. I can turn myself inside out or eat myself if necessary. We are desperate players and can you wonder at it?'

Now, I say that I have not the slightest doubt in the world that the hon. gentleman who was the Minister of Finance was really speaking his mind at that time, and I have no doubt that what I have just read really represents his own mind to-day and also that of hon. gentlemen supporting the opposition. But, there is another portion from the very same speech which I wish to read to show also what the political ethics of that hon. gentleman were in 1896 and I read it also in the complimentary sense, because it was a courageous statement to make. I wish to read it so that I may contrast it

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with the position taken by the hon. gentleman who now leads the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden). He was appealing to the Conservative party to stand by the ship of the administration. He negatived the old scriptural interrogation: What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul. I hope I have given the quotation correctly.

Mr. DERBYSHIRE. All right.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN. If my hon. friend from Brockville (Mr. Derbyshire) says it is all right I have no doubt it is all right. He spoke as follows:

You see the Liberal party utterly discredited in the country. You see that party without any policy which can appeal to the business interests and the solid common sense of the electors of Canada. You see that Liberal party to-day, marching up to a test before the people of this country, and their whole hope of victory—I say it earnestly and honestly—is that they may get into power, not because of the strength of their own arms and batteries, but because they hope for some desertions from the citadel of their opponents, which shall sally out to their help and enable them to take the position to which they aspire.

This is the portion to which I particularly desire to refer:

What answer is it to the country's best interests, if we go back to them with a defeated policy and a defeated government, putting into power a policy and a government in which we do not believe, but which we do believe will not be for the best interests of Canada. If we have nothing to place against such action but this one question, upon which we hold honest beliefs, maybe, can we not to some extent subordinate one opinion, strong though it be, for the greater good, the larger policy, the more valuable and the more precious interest of the whole. What will it have profited us, even if we gain a point of sentiment or of principle in one respect; what will it have profited us if we lose the soul of a progressive policy and a wise administration of affairs.

In other words the hon. Minister of Finance in 1896 said: Sacrifice principle to keep our party in power and there can be little wonder, of course, that to-day he has stated that so long as water runs and grass grows he will not bind himself to adhere to that which he thinks is right.

There is one thing about this speech which claims the admiration even of the friends of the present administration, and it is, that the hon. member for North Toronto was making a splendid effort to induce his party to stand together. He did it cleverly; I give him all possible credit for it, but I say the position taken by the hon. leader of the opposition stands in sorry contrast with the position then taken by the hon. member for North Toronto. Before I proceed let me first refer to one or two things. When this measure was first