

the last days of the dying Parliament by Sir Charles Tupper. In taking this step he ran a tremendous risk of alienating the Roman Catholic Liberals of Quebec. In the end, however, by one of those peculiar currents of popular thought which sometimes run through the minds of a people, the electors of his native Province seemed to feel that the time had come for them to have a French-Canadian and Catholic Prime Minister. He accordingly surprised his friends and astonished the country by sweeping Quebec with a majority which placed the Liberal Party in power after 18 years of Opposition. It is impossible in this connection to avoid some feeling of admiration for both of the leaders in this contest. Sir Charles Tupper had fought the battles of Canada for over 40 years and had come out from London during a crisis in the history of his party to try and weld together what looked very much like the shattered remnants of a once great organization. In doing so he not only took his political life in his hand, but commenced a most arduous Parliamentary and national campaign at an age when most men desire a considerable measure of rest. He also assumed the burden of defending what seemed to him, and to a large proportion of his party, to be the rights and privileges which had been guaranteed to the small Catholic minority of the Province of Manitoba by the pact of Confederation. He made a brave fight both to organize his party and to do what he believed to be justice in the vexed and tangled Manitoba School question. Mr. Laurier on the other hand reached at this time the crisis of a career which has been characterized by a great measure of personal popularity and respect, and marked by a very wide appreciation of his powers as an orator in both the French and English languages. Whatever may have been the faults of his party during past years, and in connection with problems of Imperial expansion and Canadian development, it was felt during this election that he now represented a very strong Canadian sentiment, as in his speeches he had long indicated an intense admiration for English