

Whilst differing from that great Canadian, the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in matters of public policy, I yet held him in high esteem and do so still. I like to remember him in the following, uttered in old Quebec many years ago:

"And in all the difficulties, all the pains and all the vicissitudes of our situation, let us always remember that Love is better than Hatred, and Faith than Doubt—And let hope in our future destinies be the pillar of fire to guide us in our career."

"You are faced with some difficulties," interrupted a leading laborite in the House of Commons in London, addressing himself to that much-badgered, overworked and altogether devoted Minister, Sir Auckland Geddes.

"Faced with them!" said the Minister. "They surround me—they encircle me everywhere."

Character is developed by contact with hard and harsh things as well as with smooth and soft things, for Sir Auckland has been chosen for what is perhaps the most important ambassadorial post under the British Government—that at Washington.

Talking of convention the other night a distinguished speaker said in my hearing:

"Not so the little girl who, upon being asked by a friend of mine 'How old are you?' replied: 'I'm not old at all. I'm nearly new.'"

Too many Canadians have been imitators—great Conventionalists. We need more Canadians of the sort that went and did big things in quite a new way over there in France and Flanders. The creativeness and ready initiative of our troops were factors in war-winning. Our men were handy men and resourceful to the point of audacity.

They bodied forth the fact that the Canadian has an identity distinguishable in a crowd.

To be the "spearhead" of great allied armies is a distinction that must ever mark our citizen-soldiers in international history. We should emblazon it on our national coat of arms.

It were time for our men of affairs to display more of the originality of our overseas men in the freshness of attack of our manifold national and international problems.

It won't do gentlemen parliamentarians of Canada to ask: "What are they doing in the United States, or England, or elsewhere." It must be, "What must we do in and for Canada now?" It was indeed refreshing the other day to get that breezy and altogether manly message from Ottawa telling our critical neighbors that "What we'd won, we'd hold" in the matter of our national position as a signatory to the Treaty of Versailles and the Covenant of the League of Nations.

Be it remembered that Canada was the first representative of the Western Hemisphere in this World War and helped to finish at Mons in the last hours preceding the Armistice.