

Tuesday reference will be made to the death of the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Do I understand my honourable friend to say that that will be done before the Address?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes.

The Senate adjourned until Tuesday, the 25th instant, at 3 p.m.

### THE SENATE.

Tuesday, February 25, 1919.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

#### POLLUTION OF NAVIGABLE WATERS BILL.

##### FIRST READING.

Bill B, an Act respecting the Pollution of Navigable Waters.—Hon. Mr. Belcourt.

#### THE LATE RIGHT HON. SIR WILFRID LAURIER.

##### TRIBUTES TO HIS MEMORY.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I should like, with the consent of the Senate, to make a few observations touching the lamentable death of the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

The custom of our parliamentary institutions, and which in the Senate has been peculiarly observed, of making mention of the death of those who have been directly associated with the business of Parliament, is one possessed of great moral value. It reminds us that in the midst of life we are in death; that we are here to-day and away to-morrow; that the place that knows us to-day may know us no more forever.

The passing of Sir Wilfrid Laurier is peculiarly illustrative of this great fact in life. A week ago last Sunday a living and active and leading factor in the activities of Canada and of the Empire, the following day he lay dead never again to appear before his countrymen. The difference between his disappearance from the stage and that of others is so peculiarly marked that we readily accord the intense impression left in our mind to the great public figure he was in our national life. During the present generation he filled as large a space in the public eye as any other man in Canada. His role always seemed to be

among the leading ones on the public stage of Canadian affairs. The spot-light seemed to grow more intense as he appeared before the people of Canada. He has made his exit from the stage. The curtain has fallen. The memory of the many leading parts which he played will linger long in the minds of his countrymen. For nearly fifty years he was actively identified with the public activities of Canada. His name has been closely associated with all the great leaders of Canada from Confederation down to the present time. For over thirty years leader of his party, and over fifteen years Prime Minister of Canada, he united in his own personality all the great events and activities which make up the history of Canada since that historic day when Canada became a confederated unity. Scarcely any historic event can be recalled, or the name of any great political leader mentioned, from Confederation down to the present time, without suggesting to the mind the name of and the part played by the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier. His presence, his voice, his personality, were peculiarly suggestive of Canada's political history. To analyse or explain to ourselves why he left deeper impressions on our minds than other men would be difficult. There was about him that indefinable charm not possessed by many other men, that excited our respect and admiration, no matter to what extent we may have differed from his views. He was unique and more striking in his personality than other men. In his appearance, in his poise, and in his public attitude, he more peculiarly answered the ideal of a public man. Though of French descent and association, and the greatest representative of his race, yet there was that peculiar faculty about him that he left the impression, while in contact with the English sections of the Dominion, of striving not only to unify racial differences in Canada but to exalt British institutions entirely irrespective of the admiration he possessed for those institutions of the race from which he had sprung. Though he may not have succeeded, in what apparently was always his desire, to harmonize those racial differences which lay so heavily upon his mind, yet to him has always been attributed a supreme desire to reconcile the discords of race and religion in Canada.

For nearly fifty years Sir Wilfrid gave his exclusive time and the best of his life to the public affairs of Canada. For a period in his younger years his voice was heard in the Legislature of his native province. Recognizing that a larger sphere