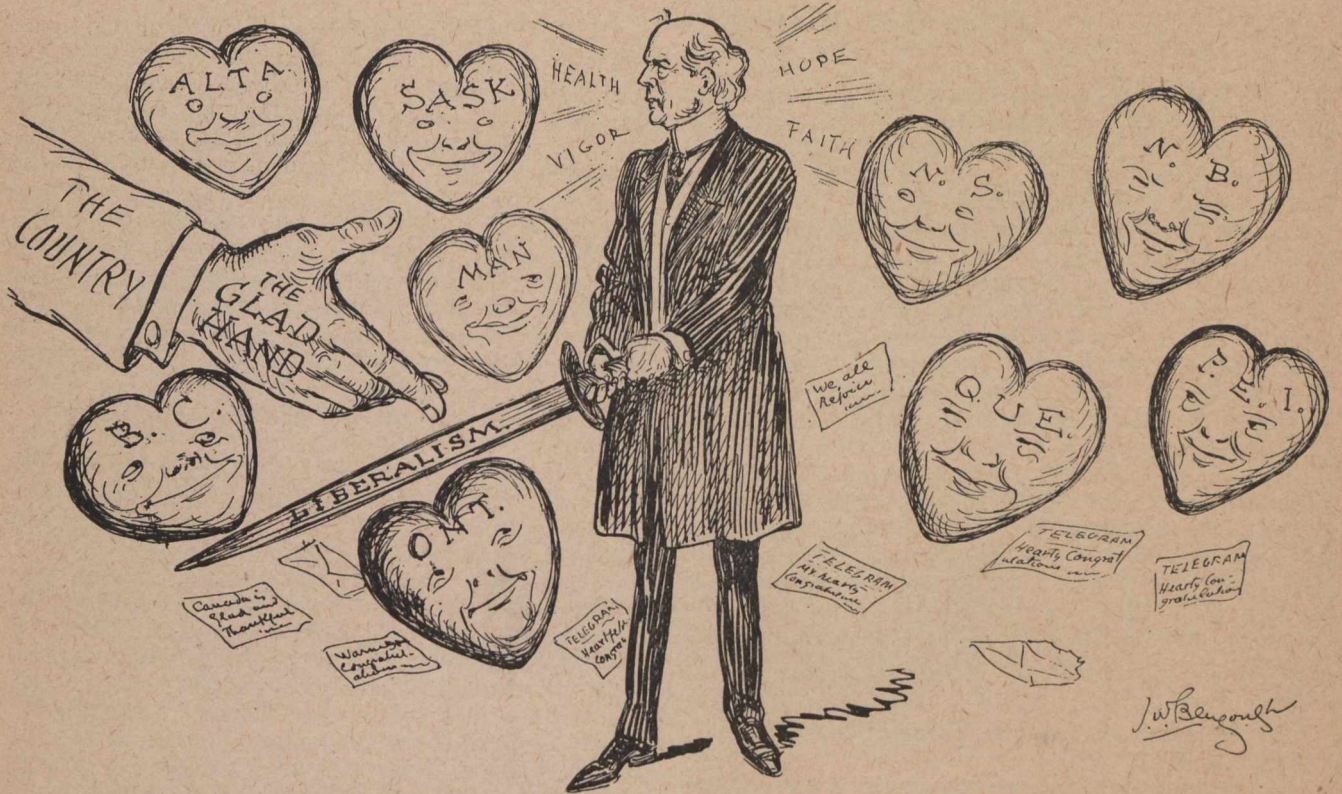


HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS.



The whole Dominion rejoices at the restoration to health of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

A CONSERVATIVE TRIBUTE TO THE LIBERAL LEADER.

THE recovery of Sir Wilfrid Laurier from the effects of the operation which he underwent some weeks ago has brought from the press and public of all shades of political opinion throughout Canada a flood of expressions of gratification and relief. Probably no public man in the history of Canada has ever received so many genuine testimonials of esteem and concern for his welfare as poured in to the bedside of Sir Wilfrid while he was in hospital. Letters, telegrams and cablegrams from all parts of the Empire brought heartfelt messages of sympathy from friends, both personal and political and there was no stint of similar messages from political opponents who have known the Leader throughout his life as always a fair if a hard fighter in the cause of the Party and the principles which he represents. The news of Sir Wilfrid's convalescence brought a similar outpouring of congratulatory messages and press editorials. Of the latter, the tribute of the *Montreal Star*, one of the leading Conservative newspapers of Eastern Canada, may be quoted. The *Star*, in its leading article on October 2nd, said:

"The recovery of Sir Wilfrid Laurier from his tedious experience in the hospital will be a matter for genuine rejoicing throughout the Dominion. Sir Wilfrid is a great, a potent and a striking figure in our public life. Even the temporary incapacity of so important a factor in our national affairs creates

a feeling of uneasiness—a sense of something lacking—which has been happily relieved by Sir Wilfrid's return to health.

"Sir Wilfrid's attitude during the war has been a subject of especial pride to his friends and of comfort and satisfaction to the whole country. Whatever lesser men have said or done, Sir Wilfrid has laid aside all party feeling or manoeuvring during this menacing crisis in our history. He has stood squarely and publicly behind the Government in its preparations to put Canada with the fighting forces of the Empire, and he has raised his eloquent and persuasive voice, again and again, to assist recruiting—even at times of keen physical suffering on his own part. He may be said to have gone straight from the firing-line of the recruiting platform to his hospital bed.

"As a life-long lover of liberty and a devotee of democracy, Sir Wilfrid was constitutionally prepared to fight Prussianism with all his strength. He put the case in a nut-shell at Sherbrooke: "This war is," he said, "a contest between German institutions and British institutions. British institutions mean freedom. German institutions mean despotism. That is why we as Canadians have such a vital interest in this war." At the very outbreak of the war, speaking in the House of Commons, he described the Allied cause as a fight for freedom and democracy against tyranny and autocracy. The whole Canadian people will be glad that so valiant a soldier for constitutional liberty is once more able to bear arms."