

Chronology of Laurier's Life

Events in Career of Liberal Chieftain from Birth to Death

- 1841—Born at St. Lin, Quebec, November 20, of Acadian descent on his mother's side.
- 1847—Went to school in New Glasgow, 1850 to l'Assomption College, and 1857 to McGill University.
- 1860—Became a law student.
- 1864—Took degree bachelor of civil law at McGill. Called to Quebec bar.
- 1866—Served against Fenian raid.
- 1868—Was married to Miss Zoe Lafontaine.
- 1869—Ensign in Arthabasca Infantry Company.
- 1871-4—Member of Quebec Legislatura for Drummond and Arthabasca.
- 1877—Elected to Commons for Drummond and Arthabasca.
- 1877—Sworn in as privy councillor and appointed minister of inland revenue in the Mackenzie cabinet, but was defeated in the by-election.
- 1878—Elected to House of Commons for Quebec East.
- 1880—Made queen's counsel.
- 1887—Elected leader of the Liberal party.
- 1889—Batonnier of the bar (Arthabasca).
- 1889—Spoke in Toronto for the first time.
- 1896—Came into power as premier of Canada.
- 1897—Established the British preference. Knighted at Queen Victoria's jubilee. Visited Washington in the interest of seal fisheries and better trade relations.
- 1898—Member of joint high commission to consider trade with Britain and United States.
- 1899—Made an honorary colonel. Dispatched the Canadian expedition to the South African war.
- 1900—Inaugurated the Western Canada immigration policy.
- 1901—Received the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and accompanied them across Canada.
- 1902—Attended the Colonial Trade Conference.
- 1903—Introduced the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway scheme.
- 1904—Elected member for Wright (also for Quebec East).
- 1905—Established the new Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta.
- 1907—Attended the Imperial Conference.
- 1908—Elected member for Ottawa. Received the Prince of Wales at Quebec Tercentary.
- 1909—Voted with the whole House on the "unanimous resolution" re Canadian navy.
- 1910—Passed the Canadian naval service act.
- 1911—Represented Canada at coronation of King George and Queen Mary. Liberal Government defeated at the polls on question of reciprocity in natural products with the United States.
- 1912—Toured Ontario.
- 1913—Led the Opposition in the "naval blockade" in Parliament.
- 1914—Co-operated with Sir Robert Borden in the "Councils of War."
- 1915—Maintained a parliamentary truce in the House during the war session.
- 1917—Was asked by Sir Robert Borden, after the premier had proposed conscription, to enter a Union Government, but declined.
- Led the Opposition forces in the general election in opposition to the conscription issue. Opposition was defeated, and Union Government elected by a large majority. Sir Wilfrid personally was elected in his old seat of Quebec East, but was defeated in Ottawa.
- 1918—Led the parliamentary Liberal Opposition to the Union Government in the House of Commons. Attended organization of the new Liberal Association in London and Ottawa.