

## HIS MAGNIFICENT APPEAL

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take part in the political affairs of Canada by affiliating with the Liberal party—with whose principles he did not altogether approve—than to see him stand aside and take no part at all. If he was too good a young man to take part with any political party because it was so bad, then let him join the party that appealed to him as the best and exert himself in righting that which he considered wrong. It was the highest compliment that could be paid to Mr. H. S. Clements that he was a young man. Any young man who intended to do his duty and act according to his conscience was to be admired. If he acted solely for his own selfish interests he would keep out of politics altogether. No man would be justified in putting aside a call of the kind Mr. Clements had received, a call which could only come from either one of the political parties and the people of Kent ought to be proud that Mr. Clements, a young man, had come forward in response to the summons to serve his country. Mr. Borden was glad to see his friend Mr. E. W. Wilson, the Liberal-Conservative candidate for East Kent on the platform. He was a man also well worthy of support.

Mr. Borden had come a long distance to speak upon the public questions of the day. He would say that the issues between the two political parties were never more clearly defined than at the present time. Never had the conservative party better battle cries nor better politics than they had on the eve of this contest. One reason that they had so much to say was because there was so much that might be said. In the course of a single evening it was almost impossible to deal effectively with all. One part had been referred to by the speaker's friend Mr. Clements and he desired also to impress upon the gathering that it was not wise to support men who made promises which they never carried out and in fact never intended to.

Everyone knew of the pledges the Liberal party had made in the good old days regarding navy matters. It was not necessary to remind anyone that Sir Richard Cartwright, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the late Hon. David Mills had promised a reduction of from one, two, three, even five millions in the public expenditure. They had declared that the fifty-eight millions spent by the Conservatives during their last year was excessive. Compare this with the sixty-six millions spent by the Liberals in 1903 and seventy-eight millions spent in 1904. They had accomplished this by bringing down the estimates at such a time as to render discussion almost impossible. Now, as to the old professions of the Liberal party. They had often, when in opposition, expressed a desire for purity in politics. Their motto had been "Trust in the machine." They had also cried that the senate should be reformed, that the cabinet should be reduced in members, that the relatives of the cabinet ministers should not be appointed to public offices. One of the Liberal cabinet ministers, who used to do most of the complaining, now had his relatives enjoying government offices to a number not expressed by single figures—the number required double figures to express it. When Hon. G. W. Foster called attention to this, the answer from the government had been, "We are here, you are there, what are you going to do about it?"

"The Government have not only the opposition to face," said Mr. Borden, but they have also got to face the people of Canada and they have to give an account to the electors of Canada of how they have kept the pledges they made when they came into power. What is the difference between the pledges of a private citizen and the pledges of a political party? If a party goes to you with certain pledges and fails to fulfil their promises when you return them to power, what can you expect? Can you expect them to respect their own pledges when after they do not fulfil

their promises you treat them as honorable men and continue them in power."

Mr. Borden then referred to the Liberal system of appointing men to public offices. "I do not deny," said he, "that there are many measures advocated by the Liberal party upon which they failed to act, and it is well for them that they did not. —Laughter. For instance, their policy of Free Trade. In their neglect to act in this measure and others, they remind me of the Irishman who went to work as a gardener. He got along well and the lady of the house advised him to get married. He deferred and she instigated the case of Adam in the garden who shortly after he was placed in the garden, took Eve as his wife. 'Yes,' replied the Celt, 'but you notice that he didn't hold his job in the garden long after he took her' (laughter) and so the Liberals might not have held their jobs so long if they had carried out all of their pledges, and the Liberal party realized this."

He then referred to McKenzie and the good promises that he had made. He respected such men, but he did not respect the frauds that have been smothered by the Laurier government.

"We well remember the promise from the Liberal leaders that these frauds would be investigated, and that this investigation would be speedy, and judges were appointed. Looking back on the light of the last eight years we say that the promise of the Liberal party has increased. I claim that the appointment of men to the judicial bench should not be the subject of intrigue. That is one thing which we must place to the credit of Sir John A. Macdonald. He always sought the best man for any judicial position which was vacant. This was as it should be. The judges on the bench have our lives, liberties and our fortunes in their hands and we must choose the very best men for those positions that we can find. Judges are but human and men who have faults at the bar will have faults on the bench, and the client must suffer in silence any shortcomings on the part of the men at the bar or on the bench; therefore we must select the best men. I do not say that we should overlook party services, but there are good men in both parties."

"There are two judicial appointments vacant at the present time, one of them in my own province of Nova Scotia, and the Liberal government is afraid to make these appointments. This is not to their credit. I ask you is it any credit to have J. R. Jackson representing us in the Mother Country? This Jackson has been charged openly of frauds and upon the oath of three men he has gone to them and offered them money for evidence to unseat a Conservative member, and of intimating to them that they would not necessarily have to swear to the truth. Sir Richard Cartwright, in the House, said that he knew nothing about this and said that Mr. Jackson might have been indiscreet. And in the face of this Mr. Jackson was appointed to the position he now holds. The motto of the Liberal leaders seems to be, 'If you are not indiscreet you will not be found out.'"

"You find no reference of this in the Government proceedings. At that time I made a motion that should have been received with favor by every Liberal. It was to the effect that in making appointments to offices, party services should not alone be considered, but some attention should be paid to capacity and personal character. Is that not a resolution which even if it is moved by a Conservative, should be received with favor by the Liberal Government? What was the answer? The resolution was voted down by 30 or 40 of a majority. That is not too high a standard for public officials. It is an ordinary plain standard of every day life, but these gentlemen who are the leaders of the Liberal party and the followers of the old school of Liberals say that party services shall come first and no matter what man's personal character is he shall receive favor if he has been a good worker for the Government. This is not a principle which will commend itself to the people of this country, and I would say that the Conservative party are prepared to appeal to the country now on this question.—Applause."

"Another matter on which I wish to speak is the contrast between the Liberals to-day as compared to the Liberals of by-gone days. Let it be understood that by the Liberals I mean the Liberal leaders in the House. I should despair for this country if I did not believe that there is a majority of the Liberal members of Canada who do not approve of the methods followed by the present Liberal leaders.—Applause. And of the men who have received stolen goods brought by machine men whose operations have been altogether too prominent in the management of the affairs of this fair province.—Applause. All Conservatives recognize that Alexander McKenzie, apart from his shortcomings and we all have our shortcomings—was at least a true Canadian. He did one great thing. During his regime between 1874 and 1878 he established certain safeguards in the treasury department in appointing a man to watch the Government. This man was not to be under the control of any party. He appointed a good man to this position, John Lorne McDougall, a Liberal of the old school and able man. When Sir John A. Macdonald came into power he had no desire to dismiss Mr. McDougall, as he was always cordial with him, and Sir John knew the worth of a man like Mr. McDougall's stamp, to a public man."

"I do not deny that Mr. McDougall had a few frictions with the Conservatives, but he entered upon his thorny path in 1896 when the Liberals came in power. Soon afterwards he recommended to the Liberals that he should have greater powers, and that in 1904 he said that if he did not have more power he would be forced to resign his position, as he felt that he could not, under present conditions, safely guard the public treasury. What was the result? More restrictions were added to his office."

"I looked into the matter and asked the Government to submit the following resolution: 'Resolved, That in the opinion of the House the Auditor-General should have more powers, and ample to allow him to protect the public treasury.'"

"Is there any Liberal in the audience who will speak against this motion? Is that not fair and just? What was the response? The division bell rang. The Liberal who would not even listen to the debate trooped in and the motion was voted down by their full majority.—Applause."

"I ask you to send Mr. Clements and Mr. Wilson to Ottawa to help the Conservatives to protect the treasury.—Cheers."

"There is another question which is occupying the public mind that I wish to speak on, and that is the so-called trans-continental railway. In 1903 Sir Wilfrid Laurier introduced the question. I suggested in the interests of Western Canada that a commission be appointed to consider the question of transportation, which is of vital importance to this country and especially to the Northwest. In May, 1903, in the address from the throne they said that they would, and that the question was such a complex one that no scheme could be carried out until such a commission was appointed. At that time Mr. Laurier was in negotiation with the Grand Trunk Railway. I asked him to say against the Grand Trunk, but I do say that if the Government have a railway the Grand Trunk should not have free access to it."

The Liberal leader had drawn an alarming picture of the state of affairs under present conditions. He said Canada was at the mercy of the great republic to the south through the privilege they had of carrying goods in bond through Canada. Mr. Borden didn't think this worth a great deal, as he knew that the United States was good at making a bargain, and if they were at any great disadvantage through the agreement, they would have repealed the argument long ago. Sir Wilfrid had entered into a bargain behind the back of his Minister of Railways and the latter had resigned his seat rather than support the argument. The Government was now in a peculiar position in regard to the Hon. Mr. Blair.—Laughter. Sir Wilfrid Laurier had given him a very high certificate as a man high in the knowledge of transportation matters. The Liberal-Conservatives criticised the scheme which the Government brought down in reference to the Grand Trunk Pacific, but it was possible in one evening to enter into the details of that criticism. It was pointed out that the scheme would involve an expenditure of one hundred and fifty millions of dollars, at least, in return for which Canada got no control of the railroad. The province of Manitoba was held up as an example where assistance was granted, but where laws were passed giving the province control over the railroads so that excessive freight rates could not be charged. The G. T. R. with terminals at Portland and Chicago, was owned by the G. T. R. of the Pacific and without one line of a written agreement compelling them to prevent them carrying freight from Northern Canada to the terminals of the G. T. R. at Portland and Chicago, that place as they had done at the past.

Canada was a young country, it was urged, and the prospect of it should go by an all-Canadian route to the coast. How could Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a man of such experience in transportation, be expected to make a good bargain with the men at the head of the G. T. R., men who had spent their lives in the trade of transportation. He had warned Sir Wilfrid in 1903 or 1904 of the danger that the freight arriving at Quebec would go to the seaboard via Portland instead of via St. John or Halifax. Mr. Borden had, at that time, told Sir Wilfrid Laurier that Portland was nearer than St. John. Mr. Borden, by the Grand Trunk time table, had shown that it was only 317 miles to Portland. Then Sir Wilfrid, when shown his mistake, had said he was very sorry, "but the geography could not be helped." The contract had been made so that the G. T. R. might not be hampered so far as the Portland traffic was concerned. At North Bay, Winnipeg and Quebec the Grand Trunk will continue to pick up the freight from Northern Canada and carry it to Portland, Me. In the past even if the Grand Trunk Pacific was built, then it was learned that twenty-five millions of common stock had been handed over to the G. T. R. for their financial support. This, too, after the Liberal-Conservatives had argued that this stock should be paid for in cash. The Liberals said in 1903 that the G. T. R. would not be allowed to part with this stock. It was well known what took place in 1904. The contract was altered in the interests of the corporation and not once in the interest of the country, and by no means the least alteration was the permission given the G. T. R. to dispose of that twenty-five millions of common stock. What financial service did the G. T. R. give that enterprise? He had the statement given by Sir Charles Rivers Wilson, in which he declared to the shareholders that he would assure them that the guarantee of five million dollars that the Grand Trunk Pacific would be built through Canada, would not cost the G. T. R. a farthing. Furthermore the G. T. R. was not paying any interest.

Cash and credit to the amount of between one hundred and fifty-five millions and one hundred and seventy millions was furnished by the Government. The G. T. R. were to supply only fourteen and a half millions, while Canada had to supply between one hundred and fifty-five and one hundred and seventy millions. How much of the twenty-five million common stock did the country get? Why should not the people of this country who were providing nine-tenths of the cash and the credit for building the railway—why should the country not provide the other one-tenth and control the railroad? That was the proposal which the Conservatives had submitted to parliament

and that was the proposal which they submitted to the country.

When the Government were charged with changing the original agreement, the Hon. Mr. Fielding had said that he would very much have preferred to have left the original agreement as it was, but the G. T. R. insisted on the alterations and the Liberals had been obliged to make them. No government should be in a position to be coerced by any corporation. Mr. Borden said he might again use the language he had been quoted as saying and say, "Shall we have a government-owned railway or a railway-owned government?" The railway corporations have great powers in Canada, because they are in reality the commercial highways of the country. The railways were a necessity of modern commerce, but except so far as the Intercolonial Railway was concerned, they were not regarded as public highways in Canada, although this was so in other countries.

Looking backward upon the course pursued by the Government, we feel that the people should have a voice in the decision of this most important question. Knowing that we are on the eve of an election we do not think it right that this door should be closed to the people, so we have brought this question before the people as well as paid for by them.—Cheers. The will of the people will be carried out in this issue, and the people will see the difference between two men who will assist the Conservatives in the carrying out of this great National Transportation policy—cheers and cries of we will—and at the end of the building up of the National Policy, which has done so much good in years gone by.—Cheers."

Mr. Borden then dwelt on the fiscal policy of the Liberal leaders. The fiscal policy of the Liberal leaders is not very clear, said he. It is very indefinite. It reminds one much of the schoolboy exercise. The boy was asked who was the greater general, Caesar or Hannibal. The boy replied that the question must surely be answered in the affirmative. —Laughter. It would not pay them to be definite. Mr. Fielding announced that the Conservative party is in favor of a high tariff and the Liberal party is in favor of a low tariff. While those words were on his lips, Mr. Prefontaine was telling another audience in Montreal that he was in favor of adequate protection, and was ready to support the resolution which I moved in the High House when Mr. Prefontaine voted against at the time.—Applause."

Mr. Laurier explains the situation thusly: He says that he started as a protectionist and ended as a free trader, and that I had begun a free trader—the first I had heard of that—and had ended a protectionist. I have said no attention to this, but have been satisfied to allow him to be welcome to his self-congratulation.

We are not sure in the House that Sir Wilfrid Laurier will adhere to the same fiscal policy for two sessions. Now he has lastly announced himself neither a free trader nor a protectionist, but a practical man. I admire his grace and eloquence and long experience in public life, but I have never looked upon his practicality as one of his striking features.

What is Sir Wilfrid Laurier's fiscal policy? Does anyone in the audience know what it is? If you do, I will take my seat while you explain it to me for my enlightenment. I have asked that question many times, but it has never been answered. It is a policy of expediency. He appeals to both free traders and protectionists with the hope that he will receive the support of both, and I hope he will be disappointed.

The Conservative party is not so. It submits a policy of adequate protection. The farmers are entitled to their own market. The laboring men should desire a policy of adequate protection, for then they would have stability of material and wages; the manufacturers because they would have stable conditions to invest capital.

Suppose that Chatham became an industrial centre of 200,000 population, what would that man in the audience know what it is? If you do, I will take my seat while you explain it to me for my enlightenment. I have asked that question many times, but it has never been answered. It is a policy of expediency. He appeals to both free traders and protectionists with the hope that he will receive the support of both, and I hope he will be disappointed.

"It is to be hoped that the people of Canada will wake up. It is not deemed advisable to slavishly adopt the tariff of the United States. We will look at things from 'the business interests of Canada as a whole' point of view, and then give adequate protection to all and give the home markets to our own people. In other words, a Canada for the Canadians."

The policy of Chamberlain of reciprocity and preferential trade is supported by the Conservatives. Sir Wilfrid Laurier being assured of the Conservative vote in this direction refused to put a motion in the house sanctioning Mr. Chamberlain's policy. "Some are afraid of the reciprocity with the United States in the Empire. They were not afraid of the United States and why then be afraid of the Mother Country, over which the Union Jack is over-spread. Who are our enemies? The United States. Where is the market? Great Britain. The Conservative party is prepared to enter into negotiations for this policy.—Applause."

Mr. Borden concluded with a strong and telling appeal to the electors of West Kent and as he took his seat he was given round upon round of applause.

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