## The People's Lea

### Sir Wilfrid Laurier Addresses an **Immense Audience**

In Massey Hall, Toronto--- Eloquent Appeal for Unity--- One Policy for the Whole Dominion --- The British Preference--- How to Build a Nation---Conservative Charges Exploded.

an account of the thrilling scenes attendant on Sir Wilfrid Laurier's visit to Toronto on Tuesday, and his reception by the audience that packed they have, as we did, appealed to all Massey Hall in the evening, and overflowed enough to fill two other large audience chambers.

audience rose as one man and cheered with the greatest vigor and enthusiasm for many minutes. The scene was one seldom witnessed at a political gathering, and was most flattering to the premier. The orchestra struck up "He's a jolly good fellow," the refrain of which was taken up by the audience. When order was restored Sir Wilfrid

Laurier said:
Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen:

I will not attempt by any words to convey to you the depth of gratitude which fills my heart for the truly unexampled demonstration which has greeted me. It has been my privilege of late weeks to be honored in my native province by demonstrations which I thought could not be excelled, but I must say that I shall confess that in this instance the Province of Ontario does as much for me as was done by my native Province of Quebec. I have told my friends in my native province that their welcome to me could not be surpassed, out I must say that I will have to tell them a different tale when I go back. (Cheers.) If the parallel to be made absolutely complete it will be made complete when tomorrow the Conservative papers say the audience was nigid and the house was only half full. (Cheers and laughter.) Far be it from me, however, to suppose that this demonstration is intended for me perso rally. I take it to be a tribute to the cause of which I happen at this moment to be the champion, and to those able men with whom I surrounded myself when I was called upon to the past four years administered the

A SOURCE OF PRIDE.

It may seem to be fitting and opportune that the people of Canada should be consulted upon the issues which have been brought here before them, and that the question should be considered whether or not the policy which was inaugurated four years ago is or is not to be continued. (Cheers.) It is my pride, at all events, whatever may be the sentiments of those who do not agree with me and my colleagues, it is my pride to be able to say that after four years' experience of power by the Liberal Administration, when Liberal Administration stands before the people of Canada, it is, I may say, a legitimate object of pride on the part of the government to be able to say that at this moment there is no burning question before us and there A GREAT CONTRAST.

The circumstances, the condition of things is very different from what it was four years ago. Four years ago when the people were called upon at the polls the country was in the throes of an agitation which threatened the very life of the nation. The country was in the throes of an agination, which if it had been solved as the Conservative party wanted to solve it, would have been a hard wrench, if not a fatal wrench, upon the constitution of Can-(Hear, hear.) That question was settled not upon the lines proposed by the Conservative party-it was settled on lines proposed by us, and upon lines which appealed to the hearts and consciences of men whereever they were, whatever might have been their education, whatever was their race or whatever was their religion. Upon this principle we went, cerned. (Applause.) and upon this principle we have endeavored to carry on the government for the last four years. All questions which have been brought before us for solution we have endeavored to meet. not by appeals to one class or one race or one religion, but by appealing to the hearts and conscience of ell Can-adians, irrespective of their race or

some of them before a e.

A voice-Indepe dens, too. Sir Wilfrid Love in Indonendents alives before me on this occasion, and it is to them more guinsay what I have said up to this time, that upon all the questions which have a ricen during the last four them upon appeals to the consciences another issue which has been raised

ask my fellowmen of the Conservative Canadians alike, irrespective of creed or race?

and I am sure they are-I don't ask As Sir Wilfrid stepped forward the them to give the answer at the present time, but if they are sincere and honest they must admit that their party and their leaders have not risen to the occasion presented. They must say that the questions which are be-fore them at this very moment are attempted by them to be settled not upon broad lines which appeal to all Canadians, but on lines which appeal to one class, one creed or one race. I said a moment ago there is no burning issue before the country today, but I say in my place before the people of Ontario today, before this assembly, that there is a deep chasm between that there is a deep chash between the policy pursued by the Liberal gov-ernment and the policy of the Conserv-tive party. The chasm is this: I claim this, and I claim it rightly, we are national and they are sectional. (Great cheers.)

THE SUPREME ISSUE.

This is the issue which exists before the Canadian people. Now when I say that we are national, and when I charge against my opponents that they are sectional, do I make a statement that cannot be verified by argument? Sir, it needs no argument. We have only to look to what has been passing and what is passing at this very moment in the campaign just opened. Where is the fiscal policy of the Con-servative party today? I want to know. Three weeks ago, or four weeks ago at least, in this very hall it was settled here by the leaders of the Conservative party assembled here—Sir Charles Tupper, Mr. Hugh John Mac-Mr. George E. Foster—they agreed here and settled that the fiscal affairs of the country, and which is now on its trial before the people of Canada. (Cheers.)

agreed here and settled that the inscal policy of the Conservative party was the doctrine of protection pure and unadulterated. Mr. Hugh John Macdonald was imported into the contest. In what capacity I do not exactly know. Whether it was to be a leader of the party with future succession, whether he was to be lieutenant. But I know very well that great hopes and expectations were built upon the advent into the campaign of Mr. Hugh John Macdonald. I remember particularly that in the city of Montreal Mr. Hugh John Macdonald stated that the object which brought him into political life again, into the political arena, was to hold up the policy of his faither and the old doctrine of protection.
That was the language in Montreal, that was the language in Toronto. What took place when Mr. Hugh John Macdonald reached the prairies of the

THE STORY FOR THE WEST.

We are divided in this country, not only in race, not only in creed, but we are divided also by geographical distribution of the population, and there are rival interests between the east and the west. The interests of the east are not exactly the interests of the west; the interests of the Canadian farmer on the prairie are not exactly the same as those of the manufacturer in the east.

But, sir, the policy of the party was to

have protection. When Mr. Hugh John Macdonald reached the prairie and had to face an audience of farmers on the soil of the prairie, then did he stand up for the policy of protection as he had done in the city of Toronto or Montreal? No, but he wavered upon the question and stated that he was in favor of modifying the policy of protection in so far as, at all events, agricultural implements were con-

Well, sir, it is always an easy thing for a public man to swim with the current. It would be an easy thing for me to swim with the current in Queme to swim with the current in Ontario, it would be an easy thing for me to swim with the current in Manitoba- and there are conflicting currents in every province. But the part of a statesman is not to swim with NATIONAL OR SECTIONAL.

Now, sir, there are Conservatives in this audience. I know it: I can see as you consider the right to be. (Cheers.) This is what a strong man will do under any circumstances. I do not want to blow my own trumpet, also I am glad to see. Proud as I am I do not want to sing my own praises, to see he I i erais, proud as I am to but I am bound to say that I can see the Laderendents, prouder would I claim with some degree of justice from my opponents as well as from my friends, that I have never attempted than in my fellowinen of the Liberal to swim with the current, to play to There is not a man amongst them who another, but to stand before the east and the west the same man in every

CONTRAST OF TRADE POLICIES.

The Advertiser yesterday published of all Canadians. And now I want to by the Conservative party and upon which they join issue with us also I can say, not perhaps to the same extent, but practically so, they also tried to please all parties, and they do not have the same word wherever they are—I am referring particularly to the question of preferential trade. The Conservative party have a policy on this and we have another. I intend, if you permit me, to discuss both, but before I come to the policy of the Conservative party themselves I want to present to you, the people of To-ronto-and, I might say, of Ontario-what are the views of the Liberal

party upon this question. REASONS FOR THE PREFER-ENCE.

In 1897 we introduced the preference to Great Britain. (Applause.) We did it for several reasons, and these have been placed before you time and again, but I might briefly repeat them here. As I have said in Great Britain, as I have said in the House of Commons, as I will repeat here, we did it first, if not last, out of gratitude to Great Britain (applause)—because for the last 60 years Great Britain has done last 60 years Great Britain has done for us services which no Canadian can ever forget. (Applause.) That was not the only reason, as I shall point out later. But, having taken that position and having introduced the preference, the Conservative party for the time being wore two faces in regard to the question. They did not attack the measure in so many words, nor did they support it. But they attacked it by bickerings and by attempting to belittle it. During the last session, however, they at last mustered up sufficient courage to attack it squarely and openly on the occasion when my and openly on the occasion when my friend, the Hon. Mr. Fielding, the Minister of Finance, brought forward his proposal to increase the British tariff to 331/2 per cent.

THE CONSERVATIVE AMEND-

On that occasion objection was made by Sir Charles Tupper, who introduced the following resolution in amend-

ment:
"This house is of the opinion that a system of mutual trade preference be-tween Great Britain and Ireland and the colonies would greatly stimulate increased production in and commerce between, these two countries, and would thus promote and maintain the unity of the empire; and that no measure of preference which falls short of the realization of such a policy should be considered as final or satisfactory. Now, what does this resolution mean? It means, first of all, that the preference of 331/2 per cent which we were giving to Great Britain would not have been so extended had the Conservatives been in power. It means that the proposition would have been attacked, and that the Conservative party was bound, if returned to power, to repeal the preference. But here again they showed a double face. (Applause.) That resolution, if it means anything, means that the Conservatives were not satisfied, and that they wanted to replace it by another system, which was "no preference to Great Britain, unless Great Britain gives a similar preference to Canada." I do not know that I do them an injustice when I say that.

Their policy on this question was announced in that resolution, and from all their platforms throughout the country. It was that there should be no favor extended to Great Britain unless we compelled her to give such as we gave her. That is the policy of the Conservative party on this question. However, I do not know that I should find fault with the Conservatives. I want them to come out in their true colors; and they no longer pose as the apostles of loyalty when they show that their loyalty is not in the heart, but that it springs from the (Loud and continued applause and laughter.) TORY LOYALTY.

Loyalty is a very trivial thing in their hands, and can, like a garment, be altered to fit the occasion. Tory loyalty goes up or down, just as the exigencies of the party require. (Loud and prolonged applause.) In 1879, you remember, the National

Policy was introduced, and then there were some of those disloyal Grits-that I think we find here tonight—(applause)—who said that this would injure our connection with Great Britain. The Tories said: "So much the worse for Eritish connection." Now in 1900 you have the high priest of loyality, with a knife in hand, like Shylock, ready to cut off his pound of flesh from the motherland. (Cheers.) That is the Tory loyalty of the present day. But again I say, with this I find no fault. I hail with the same joy, indeed, the fact that the ord days are over now, when we shall not hear as the supreme argument. "Oh, you are disloyal," but that the Conservative party are prepared to henceforth dis-cuss the position upon its merits, and not upon sentiment. We have heard from Sir Charles Tupper, who has posed for years as the high priest of loyalty, that there is no sentiment in trade, and there is no sentiment all tness questions from the business point of view. I agree with Sir Charles Tupper; let us discard the long usedup argument of loyalty; let us look not upon this as a sentimental question, but as a question of business. Let us look at it, if you will, from the purely utilitarian point of view. Why should you introduce the Eritish pre-

First of all, putting aside the ques-tion of gratitude to Great Britain, examining it simply as a business pro-position, as a political proposition, I am prepared to discuss it upon that very basis. Was there or was there not an advantage to the people of Can-ada in giving a preference?

NATIONAL POLICY A FAILURE.

witness with me that the National Policy had ended up a policy of failure. Do they not remember that in 1894 Sir John Thompson, who then occupled the position of premier of this country, stated in this very city that the mouldering branches of the tariff had to be looped off? An attempt was made to reform it, but it ended in signal failure. In the campaign of 1896 one of the issues brought before the people was that the National Policy had relieved the people of extraordinary burdens not required by the necessities of the revenue. The object of the National Policy was to give to the manufacturer and the farmer a home manufacturer and the farmer a home market. That was the object of the National Policy in 1879. That object was not reached in 1896. Now, I lay before you a proposition which does not appear in discussion, that there is no reform so difficult of operation as the reform of a protective tariff. We had to look into that, and to look into that carefully. If we had introduced reform all over the tariff, without looking at the consequences, it is probable that this country would have been flooded by American goods, and our manufac-turers would have had a severe struggle before them. THE BRITISH PREFERENCE.

But, scanning the whole field, we found, and we came to the conclusion, that if we were to give a preference to British products, the manufacturers would not be injured, and the consumers would have the benefit of that preference. (Cheers.) Now, have not our predictions been verified? Have not our prognostications been found to be true? That is to say: First, the manufacturer has not been injured, as you have evidence before you. I do not want to bring any evidence of this proposition. The manufacturers of Toronto, the manufacturers of Ofitario, the manufacturers of Canada have never been so prosperous as they are at the present time. (Cheers.) And now, sir, the consumer has the advantage of the reduction, because, whether the consumer buys the English product, or whether he buys the Canadian product, or whether he buys the American product, he buys it at the price of the British product, determined by the British preference. (Cheers.) This is the position, and therefore upon these two grounds we were right in our conclusions. Was that the only thing to be done by the British preference? No; there was something else. We wanted to find a market for our products in the United Kingdom. Sir Charles Tupper and his friends-

and I will come to that later-pretend that their object is to create a market in Great Britain for our products. I agree with him that we should have such a market, and if we could have it upon the terms which are suggested I would be giad of it. What has been the result of our policy? We held that if we were to give a preference to British products, as trade invites trade, by the sole fact that we bought more from the English people, the English people would buy more from us. That has been proved true to the letter, also. We buy more from the British people today. It may be that this increase has not reached the ratio that we would like, but at all events, today we buy more from the British merchants, and the British people buy more from us, than they ever did at any time in Canadian history. (Cheers.)

And there is another fact which you

must not lose sight of, gentlemen. THE POWER OF SENTIMENT. It is this: That by the sole fact that we have introduced the British preference, by the sole fact that we have shown what we wanted to do for Great Britain, that we showed where our heart beats-there is not a merchant today in Great Britain, there is not a man in Great Britain, who buys any thing, who will not buy a Canadian product, if he can get it, in preference to any foreign product in the world. Nay, more. There is something else to be done. It is a law of economical trade that if a country will sell to another country without buying from her-that is to say, if all the products all the exchanges are to be paid in gold, and not in exchange itself—then the exports of the consuming country must diminish and decrease. The Americans today insist upon selling to the English people, but they will not buy anything in return from them. Their policy is to buy nothing at all from and the consequence is that while they must take their payments in gold, we are willing to take payment in exchange of goods. Therefore, at the present time the Canadian products-that is to say farming products at all events—are gradually displac-ing American products in the British markets. (Cheers.)

GERMAN AND BELGIAN TREATIES There was something else to be done, and what was it? We were bound to obtain the denunciation by the British Government of the obnoxious German Belgian treaties-(hear, hear)treaties which had been passed in 1863 and 1865, in the barbarian age, I might say, of the colonial system. We had outgrown these treaties; we wanted to be rid of them, and to that end we had petitioned and petitioned again to Great Britain. Sir Charles Tupper, when he was high commissioner, had tried his hand at it. Sir Charles Tupper and the Conservative Government had failed in it, but our bold policy forced the British Government to denounce the Belgian and German treaties. (Cheers.) This is what we have done. And in this consideration alone we have the justification of the policy which we introduced.

AN EXPLODED CHARGE. But Sir Charles Tupper and his should have something more. should have a preference for a preference; and they go further, and they say: "It is the fault of the prime minister of Canada, of Sir Wilfrid Laurier,

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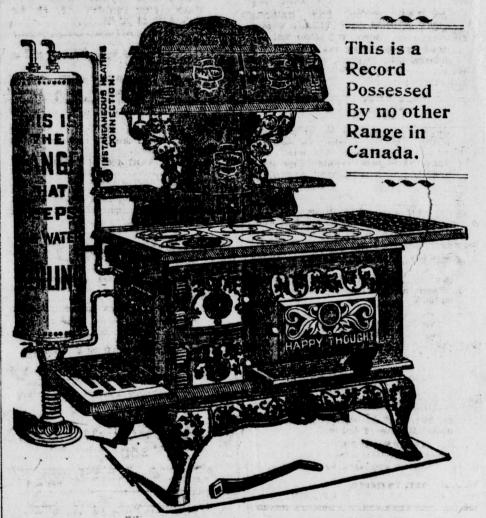
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that we have not a preference by law in the British market." They go the length of saying that if I had so wanted, in 1897, when I was in England, I could have obtained from the British government, and the British people, renunciaton, an abandonment, of their present free trade system, and forced them to adopt a preference in favor of our products. You have heard the statement made by Sir Charles Tupper. He has made it in my presence several times. I must say, in all candor, that I feel very proud of Sir Charles Tupper when he supposes that I could have to give up their free trade system and adopt our preference. I must say that I feel extremely grateful to Sir Charles Tupper when he supposes I could have such an influence on the British government and the British people. (Cheers and laughter.) THE OFFER WAS NEVER MADE.

I admit that I would be only too proud to believe that Sir Charles Tupper's ideas are right, but my ideas are not as large as those of Sir Charles Tupper. I would say it without vanity that the people of Great Britain showed some consideration to me, but I cannot claim that I have power enough to sway Lord Salisbury, to sway Mr. Chamberlain, the Duke of Devonshire, and the whole of the British people, from the old system of free trade. (Cheers.) Moreover, the ques-tion has been settled once and forever by the letter of the Duke of Devon-shire, with which we are all familiar, which says no such offer has even been

made to me. (Cheers.)
I go further. I go to the policy of Sir Charles Tupper and his friends, which was enunciated in the resolu-tion just referred to. What is their policy? It is that we should obtain from Great Britain a preference in her markets in return for the preference given by us. That is to say, that whereas at the present time Great Britain opens her doors to the products of all nations, she should put a cus-toms duty upon the products of all foreign nations. I need not tell you, gentlemen, that I would be pleased to have such a preference in Great Britein; perhaps the day may come when we shall have it. There was a time in 1896 when I thought such a preference

iff, but my visit to Great Britain has forced me to the belief that we can't have it on a revenue tariff.

MUST REVERSE THEIR POLICY. The Conservatives say that they want a preference in British markets, but if they want to have the preference they say they want, they wil have to reverse their policy; they never shall have it as long as they retain protection as the cardinal principle of their programme. (Cheers.)

"Preference" and "protection" are two terms which are not synonymous. swayed the British government, that | (Cheers.) They can't go together. You I could have forced them, as it were, can't expect that the British people will adopt that system of preferential trade, if by so doing they are con-demned to a system of protection. I have heard some splendid sentiments put in eloquent language by Sir Charles Tupper to the people of Great Britain in reference to opening their doors to the colonies. But let us suppose that the people of Canada are senseless enough-because I cannot use any other word than that-to put power into the hands of Sir Charles Tupper-(cheers)—let us suppose he goes to England, to Sheffield, to Manchester, to Birmingham, to Liverpool, or anywhere else in Great Britain, and goes before an audience of workingmen, and he tells them in this language: "I want you, gentlemen of Great Britain, you workingmen of Great Britain, to change your system of free trade and adopt a system of customs duty against all the breadstuffs you consume from other countries today, but to make the breadstuffs from Canada and the colonies free-that will be a great policy, which will bind the empire together. The workingman may perhaps say: "This is an idea that appeals to me Let us say that we will do our part by putting a duty upon all foreign products, and admitting the breadstuffs of the colonies free, that we shall tax our bread in the expectation that something shall be done to advance the imperial idea."

WHAT FOR THE BRITISH WORK-MAN?

And he will say to Sir Charles Tup-"If we do, what are you prepared to do for me? I expect if you want me to tax my bread for your benefit, if you want to place a tax upon my bread I (Continued on Page 2.)



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