

Laurier for Free Food

Liberal Leader Announces New Policy
of His Party

Sir Wilfrid Laurier announced the new policy of his party on Wednesday last, when he declared in favor of absolute free trade in food. Sir Wilfrid's speech was made at Hamilton, before six hundred members of the Federated Liberal Clubs of Ontario, who were roused to a high pitch of enthusiasm by the ex-premier's vigorous eloquence.

Sir Wilfrid dealt with the naval question and the issues, imperial and national, involved in its solution. He reiterated the consecration of Liberalism to the working out of Canada's destiny as a self-respecting, responsible nation of an imperial sisterhood of nations, and proceeded:

High Cost of Living

"But what is of immediate interest to the people of Canada today? Not the price of Dreadnoughts. There is one which at this moment engages the minds of the Canadian people from the Pacific to the Atlantic ocean; it is a far more prosaic and far more vital question. It is the question of the high cost of living (cheers). I told you at the beginning, that new problems are continually arising, there are latent forces which, unnoticed, silent and unforeseen, work out problems which were never dreamed of. This is one of them.

"Sir, a table of statistics lately compiled by the British Board of Trade, which is known for its accuracy, has stated that the cost of living had increased 7 per cent. in Great Britain during the last decade, and in Canada 51 per cent. (Murmurs of Oh! Oh! My). Now, just one point here. Reflect that Canada produces yearly two hundred million bushels of wheat, while the local consumption is only 50,000,000 bushels, and the surplus has to find a market abroad. Up to this time practically the only market has been the market of Great Britain. If, then, we reflect that Great Britain has to import all the wheat which she consumes, and if we reflect further, that the price of wheat and the price of bread is cheaper in Great Britain than in Canada, then you will have to agree with me that there must be something rotten in the state of Denmark, Canada. (Cheers). And we have not reached the end of the high cost of living.

Cost Will Go Higher

"The cost of living will be higher in two or three months than it is today. What is the cause? The recent reduc-

tions in the American tariff. Milk, cream, swine, sheep, beef and many other articles have been placed upon the free list in the United States. Therefore, these products are already rushing toward the United States. We know in the matter of cattle alone, they are rushing carloads every day from all parts of Canada, where there are cattle, towards the American market. But these articles I have named, cannot come back free from the United States to Canada, and if no products of the same kind can come back from the United States into Canada, the result is that all of the articles which are the staple food of the people are growing scarcer in Canada and the prices increase, as that is a natural condition of things."

Wide Margin For Trusts

Referring to the fact that during their fifteen years in office, the Liberal party had been careful in making alterations in the tariff, Sir Wilfrid said: "The reason is that when we create a tariff of customs duties we create an atmosphere in which our manufacturers and industries are developed and if you were to cut out or remove that tariff all of a sudden, the result would be very injurious. We have proclaimed more than once during the fifteen years that we were in power, that we would be prepared from time to time to revise the tariff and whenever we found that it was pressing unduly upon any section of the community we could be prepared to remedy the condition accordingly. But I am glad to say that during those 15 years there never came to us a demand for an alteration in the tariff. There were men who thought they could do better than we did. You have seen them work and this is the result of their work."

Sir Wilfrid asked: "If you alter the tariff are you going to interfere with the farmers? Not at all. Nobody finds fault with the price which the farmer gets for his products. The trouble is this, that the price which is paid the farmer is not the price which is paid by the consumer. (Hear! hear!) The difference between the price which is paid by the consumer and that which is received by the farmer leaves a wide margin for the trusts and combines."

Sir Wilfrid then dealt with several phases of the combine situation, instancing cases where the great difference in price was revealed. The first remedy he proposed, in fighting the combines was

competition from the outside markets. This had resulted satisfactorily in connection with the prosecution of the paper combine. There were other remedies in the hands of the department of labor and in regulating the rates.

Taking Too Long to Report

Mention of transportation rates brought Sir Wilfrid to his closing point. He had not, he said, investigated the problem of transportation rates sufficiently to warrant him in giving an opinion. There was a railway commission, appointed for that purpose. "If there is one thing we can claim credit for, it is the creation of the railway commission. It has done excellent work, it will do excellent work. Yet I have some fault to express with it. I say so without any anger at all. I believe in the commission, but for the past two years the commission has been entrusted with the duty of investigating the question of transportation discrimination between the East and the West. It seems to me that they have had ample time to report, but the report has not yet been made. It is up to the chairman, Mr. Drayton, to live up to the record of his predecessor."

In conclusion, Sir Wilfrid repeated his charge that the Borden government was the most reactionary that had ever held office in Canada, and to find its prototype one would have to go to the days of the Stuarts. Not one proposal for the expenditure of large sums of money had been brought down to the House, and the money secured by a vote year by year. If one thing was lodged deeper in the heart of every British citizen it was the love of liberty, and the policy which the Borden government was pursuing in taking from the representatives of the people the right to say how the public funds should be spent, was a violation of the principle of the Canadian constitution. They wanted to handle public funds according to their own sweet will by order-in-council.

Must Reaffirm Position

But was there one man in the Conservative party who would be prepared to surrender a single portion of Canada's control of her tariff legislation, her fiscal independence, or legislative freedom. The position today was that the relations between the Dominion and the motherland would grow and become more positive so long as Canada was left to manage her own affairs along lines best suited to the needs of her people. It was necessary to reaffirm this position in view of the cobwebs that had gathered about that dream of empire.

Sir Wilfrid was supported by N. W.

Rowell, leader of the Ontario Liberals, Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Hon. G. P. Graham and a number of other Liberal workers.

SASKATCHEWAN FOR FREE WHEAT

Hon. Geo. Langley Defends Grain
Growers' Grain Co.

Regina, Sask., Nov. 26.—A resolution asking the Parliament of Canada to remove the duty at present imposed on wheat and flour in order that Canadian wheat and flour may be exported to the United States free of duty was passed by the Saskatchewan legislature tonight on a party division after a debate which lasted nearly a week.

Hon. W. R. Motherwell today gave the house a careful summary of grain prices at the Winnipeg and Minneapolis markets, concluding with the assertion that for six years there has been an average difference of 9 cents in favor of Minneapolis.

In 1906, he said, the average price of No. 1 Northern at Winnipeg was .761 of dollar; at Minneapolis, .775; in 1907 at Winnipeg, .881; at Minneapolis, .982; in 1908 at Winnipeg, \$1.085; at Minneapolis, \$1.118; in 1909 at Winnipeg, \$1.085; at Minneapolis, \$1.209; in 1910 at Winnipeg, \$1.001; at Minneapolis, \$1.114; in 1911 at Winnipeg, .917; at Minneapolis, .995; in 1912 at Winnipeg, 97½c.; at Minneapolis, 102.29 cents; in 1913 at Winnipeg, 88.69 cents; at Minneapolis, 88.25 cents. (The figures for 1913 are for 11 months).

Grain Growers Boosted Prices

Hon. Geo. Langley also took a prominent part in the debate and in the course of his speech answered a statement that the Grain Growers' Company was nothing but an ordinary grain company and had not advantaged the farmers, so far as the price of wheat was concerned, at all. When he was down in Kansas City recently with the elevator commission, Mr. Langley said, he had made the acquaintance of an Englishman engaged in the grain business. This man had told him that the business his firm transacted on the Winnipeg grain market had fallen off in recent years, the reason being that the Grain Growers' Grain Company had boosted the price of grain to such a degree that it was next to impossible for an ordinary grain dealer to do business on the Winnipeg market and make a profit. It was a fact, also, that the price of grain had been affected and increased by the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company.

True glory consists in doing what deserves to be written, in writing what deserves to be read, and in so living as to make the world happier and better for our living.—Pliny.



GETTING READY FOR WINTER