

## Official Opening of St. Andrew's Locks.

The Western Provinces are, at the present, honored by a visit from The Right Honorable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Canada's Prime Minister, and irrespective of party, all Westerners will join

session has passed but I have heard of the lock to be built at the St. Andrew's rapids of the Red River. It has taken a long time to come, but it has come, and it is perhaps a pardonable pride for

the French Dictionary. And I say," continued Sir Wilfrid, "the word impossible is not to be found in the language of the West. (Cheers.) Therefore we shall accomplish this. Sir, we

do not know the possibilities of our country. We do not know yet what we shall accomplish in the future. When French Canada was discovered by the French adventurers in the 16th century, the French crown did not believe that it was worth spending any time and blood to retain the country to the French crown, and when it was lost by the French to the English crown, notwithstanding the fight of her gallant generals, one of the chief officials of that day said, 'Oh, France has only lost a few acres of snow.'

"We have since found out that those few acres of snow made one of the most fertile countries under the sun. (Cheers.) When Sir John A. Macdonald acquired these North West Territories from the Hudson Bay, many croakers told us that never a bushel of wheat would be grown in the valley of the Red River and the valley of the Saskatchewan. Last year the export of wheat from the valleys of the two rivers was 75,000,000 bushels, and only the other day a member of my cabinet, speaking in London, stated that within a few years these western provinces will produce no less than one billion bushels of wheat. I concur with that view. This will give the outside world an idea of the possibilities before the West. At the present we are only on the fringe of it. A motto we have in the East is 'Hope on, hope ever?' I bring it to you, although I know that it is in you more than it is in myself." (Loud Cheers.)

The Hon. W. Pugsley, Minister of Public Works, also spoke. He said that Sir Wilfrid was not speaking without proper foundation when he spoke so highly of the scheme of getting a waterway between Edmonton and Winnipeg. The hope that there



The Premier addressing the Assembly.

in giving a warm welcome to Canada's first citizen.

Sir Wilfrid entered the public life of the country some 40 years ago and for 14 years has guided the destiny of its government. After these years of service and strenuous activity the Premier manifested wonderful virility in every movement, and has addressed great gatherings along the route with all his old time vigor and graces. It is the universal wish that for many years longer he may be spared to continue his services to his country.

The Premier is accompanied on his trip by two important members of his Cabinet, the Hon. Dr. Pugsley, Minister of Public Works, and Hon. Geo. P. Graham, Minister of Railways and Canals.

Among the many important functions in which the Premier took part since coming West, was the formal opening of St. Andrew's Locks on July 14th. The formal act was performed by Hon. Dr. Pugsley. Mr. F. W. Drewry, President of the Winnipeg Board of Trade, was also a speaker, and emphasized the importance of the undertaking to Winnipeg and Western Canada. Much of the credit for what had been accomplished was due, he declared, to the present Minister of Public Works, and the gratitude of the people of this country was due to that honorable gentleman, who had taken charge of a project that had waited for years and rushed it through to a successful completion.

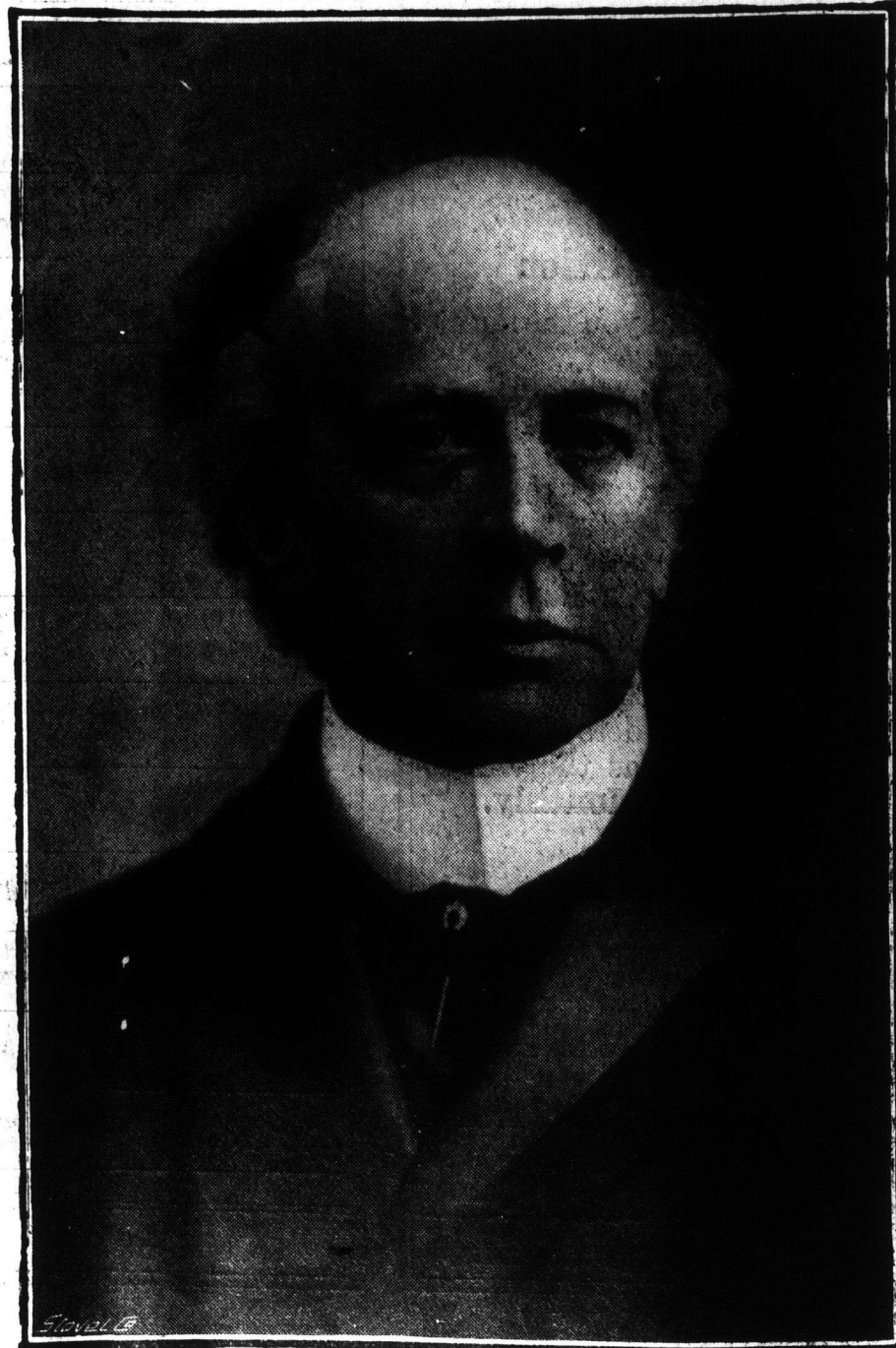
In his address, Sir Wilfrid said: "I think I shall meet the wishes of those who are before me if I first congratulate my friend and colleague, Dr. Pugsley, the Minister of Public Works, upon the efficient and remarkable manner in which he has finished this structure. I have the testimony of engineers that this is one of the finest works of its character to be found on the American Continent, not to speak of the Old World. I also offer my congratulation to the city of Winnipeg that at last a long felt want has been fulfilled. The province of Manitoba has been represented in the House of Commons for more than 40 years; I have been there myself for 36 years, and during those 36 years not one

me to say that it has come under the Laurier government. (Cheers.)

"As we were passing down this stream, as we came past the church of St. Andrew's, famous in the annals of this territory of the past, as we passed by the still more famous church of Kildonan, I asked myself what would be the astonishment and wonder of the old fur traders of the past, McTavish, Alexander McKenzie, and the last of them all, Lora Strathecona, if they were to come here and see this wonderful achievement.

Their days were the days of primitive navigation. When they came to this rapid they had to unload their canoes, put the canoe on their heads and take it over to the other side of the rapids to get clear water, but to-day you can take your boats with a draught of nine feet of water and a clear space of navigation of 300 miles before you. This is some achievement. It is something of which we have reason to be proud. But sir, it is not all. It is only the beginning of what is to be done. It is only the commencement of what is before us. We have opened the Red River up to Lake Winnipeg, and it now remains for my friend, Dr. Pugsley, to open the Saskatchewan river from Edmonton to Winnipeg. (Cheers.) I am glad to say that already my friend, the minister of public works, is already at this work. He has engineers in the field, already surveying the Saskatchewan river, and before many years are over I hold that we shall witness such a thing as has been witnessed to-day—that is to say the opening to navigation of the Saskatchewan river up to the city of Winnipeg, and if God spares me and if the grace of God and the will of the people keeps me where I am, I am sure I shall see the day when a barge laden with coal at Edmonton, nay, at the very foot of the Rocky Mountains, will be unloaded at Winnipeg without breaking bulk on the way.

"Do not tell me that this is impossible. It is not impossible. One day the great Napoleon gave an order to his general, and the general answered: 'Sir, I cannot do that, it is impossible.' 'Impossible,' said the great Napoleon, 'the word impossible is not to be found in



RIGHT HON. SIR WILFRID LAURIER, G.C.M.G.  
Prime Minister of Canada.