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PAS LISIBLE

Tribute to Sir Wilfrid Laurier expressed by Mrs. R. K. Paterson,
at the annual meeting of the Ottawa Women's Liberal Club, at the
Maison Laurier, Ottawa.

I have been greatly honoured in being asked to pay a tribute in
your name to the memory of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. This is not a
record of his great achievements, it is just an humble tribute to
a man whose life has been an inspiration and an example to all of
us.

A hundred years ago tomorrow Sir Wilfrid Laurier was born and we
reverently honour his memory. He was a great Liberal statesman and
a gracious Christian gentleman. The two are intertwined. One with-
out the other we might honour, but in Laurier, the two were combined.
He was a great Liberal statesman because of the fundamental goodness
in his character; because in Liberalism he found the means to dev-
elop his highest conception of truth and through Liberalism found
the means to do the most good for his fellow men.

He endowed Liberalism with something of his own integrity and found
in statesmanship the means to enrich us all with something of his
own goodness of heart and mind. His graciousness sprang from the
kindliness of his heart, and the story of his life is full of his
simple, kindly acts. His tolerance in speech and thought towards all
peoples sprang from his Christian principles. He could be no other
than kindly and tolerant. These lowly attributes of heart he joined
with an erudite mind to do his life's work.

You see, one can only do one's best when mind and heart together
are sound and working in harmony. And this union seems to be the
keynote of Laurier's life.

Of some it is said they were great, in spite of their human frailties.
But Laurier was a great statesman because he was a noble man. He has
left with us the highest conception of service and today all Canadians
pay tribute to his memory. We could do no better in these times and
in all times to emulate the spirit of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. His life
in all its aspects should be an example to all of us. We could do no
better than inculcate our youth with the lesson his life has taught
us.