



THERE is an impression in Quebec that Sir Wilfrid is making his last fight. I cannot for the life of me find any reasonable ground for such an impression; but it certainly exists in the Premier's native province. My notion is that Sir Wilfrid will die in harness, as did his great predecessor, Sir John Macdonald. We have not had a striking figure in public life who retired before he must since the days of Baldwin and Lafontaine. Then think of the pressure which will always be put upon Sir Wilfrid to remain at the head of his party. No other man can assure it so many safe constituencies before the polling booths are opened. The Liberals will always have the same reason for wanting to keep Laurier at their head that the Republicans had this year for passionately desiring the nomination of Roosevelt; and there will be no constitutional bar in the road of Sir Wilfrid's yielding to their solicitations. Moreover, what other position would tempt him? Would he exchange the Canadian overlordship for an humble position in the House of Lords? Not if he is still Laurier.

* * *

BUT this widespread impression in Quebec is giving a sentimental touch to the campaign. His followers there are asking the people to pile up a majority for their idol on his last appeal to them, and to show that the province where he was born—the province peopled largely by men of his own race and religion—was loyal to him to the last. And there is not much doubt but that the appeal will meet with an enthusiastic response. The Conservatives are making a strong "bid" for some Liberal seats in the Montreal district by putting up unusually good candidates; but that is pretty nearly the beginning and the end of their effort to divide the Laurier strength in our sister province. Even Bourassa—at this writing—is silent. It is not regarded as healthy for a rising politician to arrange a "head-on" collision with the "favourite son." Hero worship has always been a passion with our Gallic fellow countrymen. They worshipped Napoleon; they worshipped Gambetta; they worship Laurier.

* * *

AND, do you know, they think a lot of Sir James Whitney. There is probably no other English-speaking politician as popular in Quebec as the Premier of Ontario. I think that it must be because he is so typically English—such a blunt, outspoken, frank and fearless fellow. The French-Canadian appreciates sympathy, understanding, good will, to a superlative degree; but he is not at all deceived by interested flattery. He has all of a Latin's quick perceptions, and knows more quickly than his English-speaking brother whether the man, who is pretending to like him, is sincere or only calculating. He probably will not betray any discovery of insincerity. He possesses both tact and politeness. But it is a useless labour for people to attempt to win him who at heart do not like him. Those, however, who will meet him in friendly fashion will soon find him the most likable fellow on earth.

* * *

A BOOK could be written on the value of the French-Canadian element to the Dominion. Its only critics are those who do not know it, being separated from it either by geography or invincible prejudice. Montreal would be a dull city without its French population; and those who fancy that it would be better off industrially and commercially, should consult the heads of its great industries who owe so much of their success to the deft skill of this artistic people. They are a light-hearted lot—the Latins; and they have a love of life which leads them to refuse to follow the Saxon plodder into his dungeon where he toils all his life long at piling up money that he never can use. They regard money, indeed, as a means and not as an end; and they will not sell a sunny afternoon for a pile of dollars that they do not want. The consequence is that they seldom become great financial or commercial magnates. But the average of comfort among the French population is very high. If you meet a family party in a finely appointed carriage on the island of Montreal, nine times out of ten it is a French family. That the French can make money when they give their minds to "the game," the fact that the leading family

of financiers in Montreal is French indicates; and then there is the Bank of France and the Paris Bourse.

* * *

BUT this is a long way from politics. The appeal of Laurier to Ontario has been, perhaps, the most dramatic episode of the campaign thus far. Laurier has always longed for the confidence of Ontario. When he went up into that province prior to the elections of 1878, he knew that his party had lost it, though Alexander Mackenzie would not believe it. Nor has his party ever won it back. He would probably regard it as the crowning achievement of his life if he could win Ontario for Liberalism under a French Catholic leader. It would be a conquest over sectional feeling of which any public tribune might be proud. But one man is not enough for a party. The Liberals should give Ontario successors to Mowat, Blake and Cartwright if they desire to win the confidence of the province. They have no man to-day to match with Whitney; and if Borden does not stir enthusiasm, he commands respect. They might have made such a man of "Big Bill Mulock" if they had kept him; and they may find such a man in Mackenzie King. Undoubtedly their most promising "comer" at this time is Hon. George Graham; but he must escape from the reputation of being a humourist. It takes a man like Sir John Macdonald to carry a reputation of that sort very high.

N'IMPORTE

POLITICAL FORECASTS.

FORECASTS are now the order of the hour. The "Courier" has secured four which it considers representative. All these estimates leave out of consideration the three British Columbia ridings in which the contests will be held after the general result is known. These will go to whichever party wins. No. 1 is the estimate of a Toronto man who knows Canada pretty thoroughly. No. 2 is the view of an Eastern Ontario Conservative member. No. 3 gives the hopes of a Conservative member from Nova Scotia. No. 4 is the view of a Western Liberal member.

	No. 1		No. 2		No. 3		No. 4	
	C. L.		C. L.		C. L.		C. L.	
Nova Scotia	5	13	6	12	8	10	5	13
New Brunswick	7	6	9	4	9	4	7	6
Prince Edward Island	3	1	3	1	4	0	3	1
Quebec	13	52	15	50	15	50	10	55
Ontario	54	32	64	22	65	21	55	31
Manitoba	6	4	7	3	7	3	5	5
Saskatchewan	2	8	5	5	5	5	2	8
Alberta	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	4
British Columbia	3	1	3	1	3	1	2	2
Yukon	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
	97 121		117 101		121 97		92 126	
Majority	24L.		16C.		24C.		34L.	



The Eucharistic Congress Procession in London which threatened to cause so much trouble, but which, fortunately, terminated peacefully.