

in what was distinctly of common interest," it is Sir Wilfrid Laurier who has done far the most towards that end. He played his part in developing the entente cordiale of Great Britain and France. "He struggled hard to bring Quebec into harmony with the rest of the Dominion on imperial issues, and particularly on naval question."

"When the history of the upbuilding of the unique political achievement which we call the British Empire comes to be written, it may well be that the names of Baldwin and La Fontaine and Howe, of Brown and Galt of Tupper and Blake, of Macdonald and Laurier, will stand in this regard higher than those of Peel and Disraeli, Gladstone and Salisbury and even Durham and Elgin. It fell to Sir Wilfrid Laurier's lot to carry out the traditional Canadian policy of self-government through an exceptionally critical era of development."

Thus through national assertion Sir Wilfrid led this Dominion and some others with it into the higher imperialism which has signalized itself in the great war. "Freedom is justified of her children, and the British Empire proved its right to exist by its very difference from the Prussian Empire." But Sir Wilfrid is waging right now a last fight against the forces of Prussianism and profiteering that would throttle his native land and ruin the noble work of his life.

THE LIFE OF SIR WILFRID LAURIER--8

We have seen Professor Skelton's quiet admiration of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's solid and British Liberalism, of his work as harmonizer of racial and religious friction, as upbuilder of Canadian prosperity, and of his statesman-like imperialism. He brings out in a clear light the sincerity and singleness of purpose of the old chief in contrast to the duplicity practiced by his opponents time and time again. On page 118 he says:

"(The Conservative) party had pandered to religious prejudices in both provinces, 'with a rigid Protestant face turning towards the West and a devout Catholic face, turning towards the East'."

Writing of the election of 1900 he says (p. 193):

"Even the veteran leader of the Opposition, Sir Charles Tupper, played a double role. 'Sir Wilfrid Laurier is too English for me,' he declared in Quebec, and inveighed against the prime minister, whom he characterized as an advocate of imperialism. But at Toronto some time later, he strove to explain away these words and to convince his hearers that Sir Wilfrid was 'not half British enough.'"

As regards reciprocity in 1911:

"Every important leader of the Conservative party was on record as favoring such an arrangement. Yet it was received first with hesitation, then more and more freely denounced, and finally overwhelmed." (pp. 263-4).

Since 1911 the Borden Government has carried out many provisions of the proposed agreement which its members had denounced. As for the naval policy:

"Conservatives formed a close working alliance with the Nationalists, who attacked the prime minister as a tool of the English imperialists, and pictured to the habitants the horrors of conscription and the press-gang." (p. 310).

With this duplicity of his opponents at practically every stage, their stupid insistence upon and pandering to the elements of division in our country, contrast the frank straightforwardness and consistency of Laurier at all times, his determination to recognize only one united people in Canada.

When he supported Ontario's boundary claim in 1878 he said: "I do not fear the appeal that will be made against me in my own province. The jealous consideration that the great province of Ontario may be made greater, altogether lay aside as unfair, unfriendly and unjust." (p. 68). "He had faced a hostile Quebec, and was to face it again, in defence of the rights of the