

crowned heads down to the humblest in the land.

As an evidence of the great esteem in which Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been held in other parts of the British Empire, I may mention a conversation which I had with the Speaker of the South African House of Assembly at the time of the King's coronation. He told me that when it had been rumoured in South Africa that Sir Wilfrid Laurier would not attend the Imperial Conference to be held at that time, it was felt by the public men of South Africa that without his attendance the Conference would be of little or no value and that it was hardly worth while for South Africa to send a representative; and that country was very nearly unrepresented at the conference.

While he is no longer with us in person, I believe his life will have even a greater influence in the future than it has had in the past. Upon coming to Ottawa last week I could not but be impressed with the immense throngs that were gathered on the streets and in another part of this building to see the remains of this great man, a large proportion of the people assembled being young people, many of them children. The impression of the occasion made upon the minds of those young people must speak well for the future of Canada.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier was a great statesman and he was a good man. His home life was an inspiration to everybody who had the privilege of visiting him and Lady Laurier, his gracious helpmate. Last Thursday it was suggested that she should not make the effort of following the remains to the Parliament buildings, when she replied: "For the last forty-five years I have accompanied my husband to the House of Parliament on all important occasions, and I am not going to desert him on this, the last."

I want to join with my honourable friends on this side of the House who have been intimate with Sir Wilfrid Laurier for many years, in thanking the honourable gentlemen on the other side of the House for the eulogies which they have pronounced upon him. It is somewhat regrettable that great and good men have sometimes to wait till after death before their goodness and greatness are recognized. During his life Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been in awkward positions and has had difficult questions to solve; but he was always good-natured and sympathetic and never was heard to utter a harsh word. He has always striven to harmonize the two great races in Canada, the

French and the English, and I think we can now see the results of his labour and agree that it has been successful.

I am sure that the sympathy of this House goes out to Lady Laurier in her great bereavement. As I have said, their home life was a beautiful picture. In the early years of Sir Wilfrid's life, when his health was not so rugged as it has been in later years, his good lady cared for his wants, and the loving and gentle care which she exercised no doubt enabled him to carry on his good work so long as he did. During recent years Lady Laurier has been afflicted with blindness, and the devoted affection and kindly care which Sir Wilfrid has displayed towards her have enhanced the beautiful picture of their home life.

I think we can congratulate ourselves that he attained such a ripe age and accomplished so much, and has been allowed to pass out of this world without great suffering. While deeply regretting his departure from amongst us, I think we can say, looking forward to the future, that while his mortal remains are mouldering in the grave his spirit still goes marching on.

Hon. F. L. BEIQUÉ (Translation): Honourable gentlemen, I have been too deeply moved by the marks of friendship with which Sir Wilfrid Laurier has honoured me, and by the last token of confidence he has given me, not to add a few words to what has already been so well said of him on both sides of this Chamber.

The eulogy of the illustrious statesman whom Canada and the British Empire have just lost does not await expression. From the moment that he was struck down by the blow which so quickly carried him away, his praises have been on all lips and in the hearts of all those who knew him. What has been published in regard to him during the last few days, from one end of the country to the other, and in foreign lands, constitutes so to speak a casket of precious pearls in which one may find in profusion all that it is possible to say in praise of a model husband, a great citizen, and a great statesman. One may examine his professional life, his domestic life, his public and social life, without finding a single stain.

Few men have had so complete a mastery over themselves. After the numerous and splendid successes which in the course of his long and brilliant career he achieved, it would have been but human on his part to have sometimes made allusion, at least in intimacy, to what he had personally accomplished; but, remarkable to say, he never