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THE GAME OF ORATORY.

THE first thing in oratory, Demosthenes said, was action, the second, action; and the third, action. There are a few Canadian orators who cultivate this quality. Sir Wilfrid Laurier does it gracefully and well. Mr. Borden is not so brilliant in this respect. Mr. Bourassa, Mr. Lemieux, Mr. W. F. Maclean, and Mr. Foster have all more action, if less grace, than the two great political leaders. The photographs on this page are evidence that some of our orators have studied Demosthenes or at least have heard of his precept.

Mr. W. T. White, the newly discovered orator of the campaign which has just closed in Ontario, has action which is of doubtful quality. He walks up and down the platform like a man dictating a ponderous deliverance. But when he is driving home an important point he stands still and employs hand and arm and head action with decided effect. Mr. White was not unknown as a speaker in the days when he was a student at Osgoode Hall. This is a re-appearance.

Mr. Geo. E. Foster is one of our greatest orators. He is said to be second only to Sir Wilfrid Laurier in all-round oratorical ability. Like many of our best orators, he has not physical bulk—he is short and he is slight. His figure is lithe and he sways and swings in harmony with his emotions. His voice accompanies his body in this respect, while his hands and arms keep pace with both. His voice is neither over masculine nor unduly musical. But most striking of Foster's qualities, either of body or mind, is his power of ridicule. Intensely critical, he is able to make his criticisms so cutting that his opponents' arguments are quickly and smoothly made ridiculous. This is his role in recent years and the role suits admirably his particular style.

Mr. W. F. Maclean is not a great orator, because his voice is somewhat thin. But he has plenty of action, a characteristic sardonic smile and abundant enthusiasm. He is never grandiloquent. He is seldom impressive. But he is sometimes convincing and always interesting.

"Les passions sont les seuls orateurs qui persuadent toujours," said La Roche, and Henri Bourassa is the typical Canadian example. His dark eyes, his graceful vehement gestures, and his French-Canadian courtliness add emphasis to his passionate appeals. His passion enlivens his audience and sways the younger men in a remarkable way. He appeals to their passion by a display of passion. Where his auditors are too old to be swayed by passion, he is much less effective and scarcely convincing. Nevertheless, whatever many may think of him politically, he is one of our present-day orators.

Hon. Mr. Lemieux is an orator of no mean ability. Like many others of his race, it is the breath of his nostrils, the essence of his career. The English-Canadian talks when the French-Canadian orates. Mr. Lemieux seldom talks—thereby running true to form. His steadfastness

of purpose backs up his oratorical efforts and makes them effective when Bourassa's efforts are merely electrical.

The average of oratory in Canadian public life is not high. Many of our public speakers lack a broad education in history and literature. They are sometimes crude. They often stumble awkwardly and arrive in a muddled condition. They are impressive only through evident sincerity. They are more forceful if less grammatical and polished than the average British orator; they are more forceful and more convincing than the frothy, though smoother orator of the United States. With the broader education which our young men are now getting, the Canadian public speaker should shortly become the most effective of those

who use the English language. The coldness and ponderousness of the Britisher are largely absent among our younger public speakers, and so are the hollowness and evident insincerity of some political stump speakers in the United States.

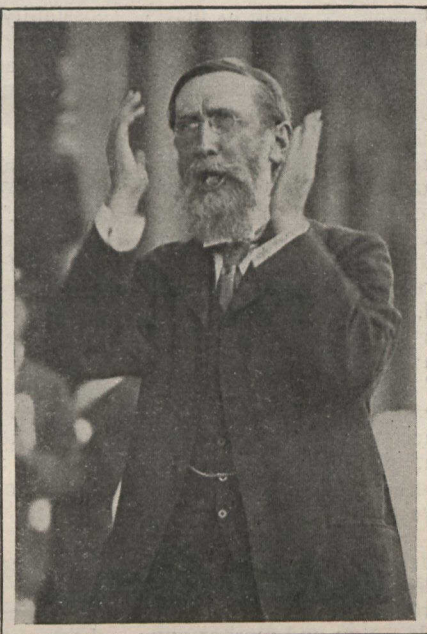
The example of the French-Canadian orator is having its effect on the English Canadian orator. He is learning to drop his aloofness, his assumed indifference, his general chilliness of attitude, and is giving more rein to his imagination and his passion. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is perhaps the greatest orator of the British Empire, and his influence upon the development of real oratory in this country has been tremendous.

One fault which shines out in our oratory is the tendency to make long speeches. "The smaller the man, the longer the speech" is too often the rule. The Hon. Edward Blake made tremendously long speeches, and Blake was a great orator. Sir John A. Macdonald made short speeches, and Sir John was also a great orator. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Fielding, Sir Allan Aylesworth, seldom make long speeches. There is no doubt that the short, compact, concise address is the more effective either for a public audience or for the House of Commons. The public speaker who occupies more than an hour, on even a great national issue, is taking a risk which the best orators do not often take.

During the past six weeks, Canada has had a surfeit of oratory. Every society hall, town hall, country school house and city auditorium has been ringing with the eloquence of those who favoured reciprocity and those who opposed it. It has been a great occasion for both trained and untrained speakers. Towards the end there was a decided tendency to huskiness. Some of the leaders spoke every day, and occasion-

ally twice or three times in a twenty-four hour period. It was a tremendous campaign. The big daily newspapers fairly bulged with reports of the hundreds of daily orations, and only a few of the "big guns" got a full column in any one issue.

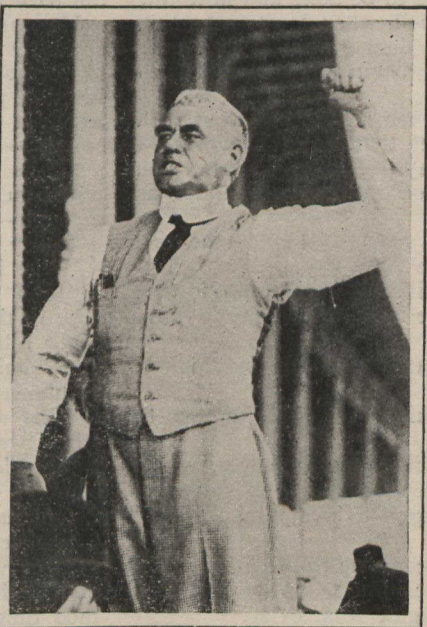
For a time the country will experience a dulness. The campaign is over. Interviews and opinions will displace the "reports" in the daily papers. Then will come the first session of a new parliament with an outburst of oratory of somewhat different character. The speeches made by parliamentarians on the stump and in the House differ greatly in style. They are duller and less ornate.



HON. GEORGE E. FOSTER
Leading Conservative Orator.



WILLIAM MANLEY GERMAN, M.P.
Elected by "acclamation" for "Welland."



W. F. MACLEAN, M.P.
Journalist, Farmer, Tribune.



HON. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX
A Clever Speechmaker.