

ranged themselves solidly behind Mr. Hughes, the common people got behind Mr. Wilson and the common people won. Their victory marked the shifting of political power in the United States from the toll collectors to the toll payers and was, so far as my knowledge goes, the first instance of its kind within our generation in the American Republic. This example should not be lost upon us. I submit that it is the immediate duty of the Liberal Party to bring that lesson home to the common people of Canada, and if we measure up to our obligations in that regard Canada will be a better land to live in and the Liberal Party will be more solidly based on public confidence than it has ever been in the past.

The Government and the High Cost of Living.

"It should be the easiest thing in the world to rouse our people in defence of their own interests and in putting an end to the methods of the War profiteers and the Apostles of High Tariffs. What more do we require to induce the people to get together than the Government's action with reference to the high cost of living? A representative delegation waited upon a committee of the Cabinet, submitted facts relating to the increased cost of living and prayed for relief. What did they receive? A reply from Mr. Rogers that the increased cost of living was due to world-wide causes, that these causes existed outside of Canada and the Government in consequence could do nothing. Following fast upon this answer the Government was made aware of its stupidity and then what did they do? The self-same gentlemen who had wisely declared that they could not deal with the causes of the increased cost of living because these causes existed outside of Canada, solemnly passed an Order-in-Council dumping upon Municipal, Township and City Councils throughout Canada the duty of dealing with these very causes. Could bungling, hopeless, incompetence farther go? In their wildest conceits Gilbert & Sullivan never pictured anything more grotesque than this Borden government.

Sir Wilfrid's Courage.

"One more word and I have done. You will recall that when the Parliament Building was destroyed by fire last Winter, the House of Commons was moved out to the Victoria Museum. At the time there were silly rumours that the fire had been caused by an enemy—presumably a German. Public feeling was wrought up and it happened that a high functionary of Parliament whose duty it is, amongst other things to look after the precincts of the House of Commons conceived the idea of ensuring the safety of the members of the House by excluding the public from the galleries of the Chamber. In due course he sought the approval of Sir Wilfrid for his proposal and Sir Wilfrid not only refused to give it, but insisted that the galleries must be kept open in accordance with the constitutional practice that requires the business of the country to be transacted within the sight and hearing of such members of the public as wish to attend the proceedings. But said this functionary

to Sir Wilfrid: 'We are running the danger of having some crank or criminal come into the gallery and throw a bomb that will blow us up.' Sir Wilfrid's reply in effect was this: 'When you entered public life you assumed the risk of being hit by a bomb, and that risk you and I and the rest of us will have to continue to assume.'

"The physical courage with which Sir Wilfrid has faced personal danger is the natural accompaniment of the moral courage with which he has faced and overcome all political dangers during his long and honoured career. He has been often attacked and no doubt will continue to be attacked, but those who are honest must give him credit for the possession of this dual quality. Its constant display has won back public confidence. In fact this most violent assailant of late has, in a burst of candor, paid him this very tribute.

Bourassa's Attack.

"You will recall that when Mr. Bourassa made an attack upon Sir Wilfrid about five weeks ago and denounced him as the most nefarious man that the Province of Quebec had produced he said at the same time that he wanted his hearers to understand that he was not attacking a fallen man but that he was attacking a man who seemed to be about to regain his ascendancy over the Canadian people. The significance of this latter statement should not be lost. However, we may disagree with Mr. Bourassa about his other statements, we all agree with him that Sir Wilfrid is about to regain his ascendancy over the public, and we all feel absolutely confident that that ascendancy will be completely established just as soon as the Government gives the Canadian people a chance to pronounce their verdict upon the acts of the present administration."

SECOND DISTRICT LIBERAL CONFERENCE.

A SECOND District Liberal Conference was held at Belleville on Wednesday, December 6th, and the proceedings were most enthusiastic throughout. Hon. George P. Graham, M.P., was elected Chairman and Nelson Parliament, M.P.P., Vice-Chairman. There was a large attendance of delegates, and after a masterly address by H. H. Dewart, K.C., M.P.P., Toronto, many short speeches were delivered during the afternoon.

In the evening at a banquet presided over by F. E. O'Fynn, K.C., of Belleville, who had charge of all the preliminaries and direction of details of the day's proceedings. Addresses were delivered by Hon. Geo. P. Graham, M.P.; N. W. Rowell, M.P.P., and C. M. Bowman, M.P.P. In addition to these proceedings a large recruiting meeting was held in the opera house, and the citizens generally had an opportunity to hear addresses by Messrs. H. H. Horsey, Picton, Dr. Richardson, Kingston, and N. W. Rowell, H. H. Dewart, C. M. Bowman and N. Parliament, M.P.P.'s.

The Counties represented at the Conference were Frontenac, Lennox and Addington, Prince Edward, Hastings, Durham and Northumberland, and the Cities of Kingston and Belleville. Other Ontario Conferences will follow during the next year.