

stead of attending a banquet in this middle of July, that you should be off to the seaside or the mountain or the lake; and that so many of you have resisted the temptation and come here to-night, I have no doubt at much inconvenience, to do me honor, is something for which I owe you my warmest and most heartfelt thanks. My thanks are due to Mr. Clark for his very kind references, and to you, Mr. Chairman. Nor should I forget to pay my acknowledgment to the members of the Club under whose auspices this meeting has been planned, and who have paid me the high honor of associating my name with their political organization. (Applause.) That you should take for the name of a political club that of the distinguished statesman and leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, is something we would expect in any part of Canada, or that you should take the names of the distinguished sons of Ontario, who play such an important part in the affairs of this Dominion and Province, that also was something to be expected. But you, Mr. President, in your choice of a name have travelled far afield; you have gone to a distant Province, and one of the smaller Provinces of the Dominion—you have taken the name of a man not well known to you personally, but who hopes to be better known to you—(applause)—one who has no claim whatever upon your good-will—(Cries of "question")—other than is to be found in your kindly interpretation of the part he has played in the public affairs of the country. (Hear, hear.) I have also to express my thanks to the gentlemen who, although not belonging to the Liberal party, have joined in this gathering as a matter of good-will. I cannot hope that they will agree with all that I have to say, but, at all events, they may be interested in what I have to say, not because it is new, but because it is part of an old story which it is necessary for us to tell again and again.

### SIR WILFRID'S PERSONAL STRENGTH.

For a long time the affairs of this country were governed by the Conservative party, for a very long time, and I believe many of the leaders of that party actually fell into the idea that they alone possessed what was called the instinct of government. (Laughter.) Well, I would not blame them very much for that, for they had in the front ranks many able men, and it is not surprising that as year after year rolled on the idea should get abroad that the Conservative party, and only the Conservative party, possessed the capacity to govern. But it is a dangerous idea to get into the mind of any man, that he is indispensable in this life. There may come a time when the country will get along without the present Government, but I hope it will not be very soon. (Laughter and hear, hear.)