

sleeps his last sleep in the cemetery of Notre Dame of Ottawa. All that was mortal of him has descended forever into the night of that holy ground wherein are planted the crosses, reminders of eternal hope. Death, however, has not taken him entirely. The bosom of God has received his soul, renown has claimed his name, to be perpetuated to distant ages, the hearts of his fellow-countrymen piously cherish his memory, and his work belongs to the judgment of history.

I place these beautiful words in Hansard, not only as a tribute to the illustrious dead, but as an evidence, coming from an opposing journal, that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has always commanded the admiration of both political friends and opponents; and, to sum up my whole thought, I will add that he was a great citizen, a great patriot, a great statesman, and a great-hearted man.

Hon. JULES TESSIER: Honourable gentlemen, may I be allowed, as a representative of the district of Quebec, to express the sentiments of great sorrow felt by our population on the occasion of the death of Sir Wilfrid Laurier? It must be remembered that it was in Quebec, in our provincial legislature, that he made his début in 1871. He immediately won the favour of the public, and the old parliamentarians predicted a brilliant future for him. I remember hearing him at that time announcing in eloquent terms the progressive policy he desired to see adopted for his province. In another speech, which attracted a great deal of attention, he asked for the abolition of the system of dual mandate, because he thought that in occupying seats in the provincial legislatures, Federal leaders were exercising an influence which was prejudicial to the independence of those bodies. His proposal met with success, and since that time Sir Wilfrid Laurier has always been the friend and champion of provincial autonomy, and he has proved it on several occasions, especially when he decided to augment the Federal subsidies granted to the various provinces of Confederation.

In 1877, when his old electors of Drummond and Arthabaska committed the great error of refusing to re-elect him, a huge delegation of the citizens of Quebec went to Arthabaska and invited him to come to Quebec and stand for election. There was a bitter contest, but it resulted in a great triumph for Sir Wilfrid. Since that time he has been the faithful representative of our city, and has identified himself so intimately with our population that all of the families of Quebec consider him as one of their own. In all the homes you may see his portrait, and he has a large

H. H. Mr. CHOQUETTE.

place in the hearts of the citizens. In no part of Canada is his death more keenly felt than in Quebec, where everybody loved him, and, as a Quebec citizen, I could not let this day pass without joining with the other honourable gentlemen who have spoken in bidding him a last farewell.

Hon. ROBERT WATSON (Portage la Prairie): Honourable gentlemen, as one of the old guard who surrounded Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the early eighties, I may perhaps be allowed to add a few words of tribute to our deceased leader.

When I first arrived in Ottawa for my parliamentary duties, I was quite a young man, representing a constituency in the new province of Manitoba. I was elected not as a Liberal nor as a Conservative: I was elected in a struggle for provincial rights. Upon my arrival in Ottawa, there was some doubt as to the side of the House on which I should sit. I was not here very long before I discovered where the true advocates of provincial rights were to be found. The Liberal party, led at that time by the Hon. Edward Blake and his first lieutenant, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, were fighting the battle of provincial rights, and I found in those men the best friends of the cause I supported. In fact, Sir Wilfrid Laurier has largely devoted his life to that principle. He took it up early in life and maintained it to the end.

I well remember in 1887, when the late Hon. Edward Blake retired on account of illness, it became necessary for the Liberal party to elect a leader. Though the French members of the House of Commons were in a minority in the Liberal party, yet Sir Wilfrid Laurier, because of his commanding ability, his many talents, his attractive personality, and his general worth, which he had amply displayed as the lieutenant of Mr. Blake, was selected. The leadership was in fact forced upon him by the English-speaking majority in the caucus, and he very reluctantly accepted it. It is not necessary for me to refer to the brilliant success with which he has filled that position. I remember particularly in the troublous times in the nineties, when questions arose which threatened to tear Confederation apart, Sir Wilfrid Laurier's command over his followers in the House always resulted in wise and sane conclusions.

The universal sorrow at the death of Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been expressed not only by his own fellow-countrymen of all shades of politics and all shades of religion, but by people of many other nations, and from