

preferential trade with Great Britain with an enthusiasm not exceeded in any Colony of the Empire, and Conservatives vied with Liberals in applauding Sir Wilfrid Laurier for his splendid services in promoting the unity of the Empire.

WE EXPECTED TO WIN.

All this and much more that will no doubt occur to many of you, warranted us in believing that our majority at the polls would be decisive. Then why were we defeated? What was the fated Nemesis that ruined our hopes, decimated our ranks and left us with a paltry 36 seats out of 92, where we should have practically swept the country? With a party pledged to adjust the tariff and that pledge fulfilled skilfully and satisfactorily; with a Party pledged to promote the industries of the country and that pledge fulfilled so that not a single industry has been injured in the slightest degree; with a Party pledged to abolish deficits, and a surplus of seven millions to its credit, how was it that in this intelligent Province its great merits were overshadowed, its administrative ability overlooked and some of its oldest and most experienced representatives in Parliament rejected by their former constituents? Are you waiting for my answer? I shall give it as I understand the situation. It was because the Conservative Party

MADE AN INSIDIOUS APPEAL

to the racial and religious prejudices of the electors, suggesting among other things that the success of the Government meant the supremacy of Quebec in the councils of the nation. I say their appeal was insidious; I mean by that, that it was not presented openly; it was not made from the platform, for if so made, it could have been answered; it was made in the dark; it was made by the Conservative candidate in private; it was made to the elector at his fireside and alone; it was done as the incendiary does his work, and it had the same destructive effect as the work of the incendiary usually has. That it was so successful is beyond my comprehension. No other man in Canadian politics to-day has proclaimed more boldly or more persistently the essential unity of race and creed in national affairs than Sir Wilfrid Laurier—and rightly so. Canada cannot afford a war of races; there is no French Canada as distinct from an English Canada; Canada is one nation; it is British and must only be known as British Canada, and is known only as such by every true Canadian.