

one of noble character and wide experience, accorded his confidence, and placed by him in a position of great responsibility and trust. That is what I owe to Sir Wilfrid Laurier. I was not much experienced in public affairs, though deeply interested in social and industrial questions, when, at the age of thirty-three, Sir Wilfrid took me into his Cabinet. He, thereby, gave me the opportunity of seeing the work of government as it is carried on from within; and the chance, at an early age, of coming to know something of the problems that faced the Dominion as they had to be met at that time, and as they would have to be met in years to come. I learned then some lessons of leadership of a political party, and you know that lessons learned when one is young are apt to be more deeply impressed than those learned at any other time - I learned then what some of the difficulties of government in Canada were, and something of how those difficulties could best be surmounted. If I have been successful in helping to meet some of those difficulties, I cannot attribute that success too largely to the example set his colleagues by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and to the political precepts he instilled, consciously and unconsciously, in the minds of those who sat with him around the Council table.