

to his race and even his religion; and in Ontario because being French and Catholic he must be disloyal to Britain, and the instrument of the Pope to destroy Protestant rights and liberties.

Dishonest Opposition to Laurier Navy Act.

In 1910 he caused Parliament to take a step of Imperial significance in adopting the Canadian Naval Law which provided for participation by Canada in the building, maintaining and manning of ships by Canada and Canadians to take part in supporting the sea power of the Empire. The same political ideals that had led to the conditions preceding '96 were again brought vigorously into play by his opponents. In Quebec he was fiercely attacked for introducing an Imperialist and militarist policy, while in Ontario he was as fiercely attacked on the ground; first, that his naval proposals were insufficient and second, because in so far as these proposals acknowledged Canadian autonomy they were in fact an evidence of disloyalty to the Empire such as could only be expected from one of his race and faith.

Fiscal Policies Shared Two-faced Attacks.

The first important act of the Parliament of '96 had been to reduce the tariff in largest measure by establishing the British Preference. Again in support of the Liberal principles of lower taxes and freer trade, in 1911 he appealed to the country on a policy of tariff reduction and trade expansion under a measure of reciprocity with the United States. The manufacturers who had built up their enterprises as a result of the prosperity occurring under his Administration were not satisfied with the advantages they had received. Although they were not adversely or indeed directly effected by the reciprocity proposals, they attacked the arrangement on the alleged ground of patriotism; and their money and influence from one end of the Dominion to the other was used not only to maintain the tariff but to secure a Government that would give desired tariff increases, as the Liberal government would not. At the same time in the Province of Quebec, the Nationalist campaign, financed by the Conservative party, was an attack on Laurier because he had sacrificed French-Canadian ideals to British Imperialism by his Naval Law. And in Ontario the fact that he was of French race and Catholic religion was used to accentuate the feelings that had been aroused amongst Protestants by the discussion of the papal *Ne Temere* Decree and the occurrences at the Eucharistic Congress held at Montreal. The Anti-Imperialistic campaign in Quebec secured a turn over of some 20 seats, and the *Ne Temere* Decree and the Eucharistic Congress propaganda in Ontario, backed by the money of the manufacturers, reduced the Liberal representation from that Province to little more than a corporal's guard.

Racial Prejudice Great Weapon Against Laurier

Sir Wilfrid Laurier went out of power in 1911, when Canada was at her highest point of material prosperity. He was defeated in an effort to reduce the taxes and increase the earnings, by increasing

the trade, of the people. He was defeated by the successful revival of the old policy of arousing race and religious prejudices, in a campaign financed by those whose object was to raid the earnings and savings of the people by higher tariffs.

When War broke out Sir Wilfrid as Leader of the Liberal Opposition offered the support of himself and followers to the Government in all measures for the efficient prosecution of Canada's share in the War. He addressed public meetings in both Quebec and Ontario on behalf of enlistment for overseas service and from that time forward has maintained the attitude that he took in August, 1914.

Because this man occupying this position and with this record dared to be a party to a discussion on the floor of Parliament on a question that, for lack of mutual understanding between the parties, had become most acute, and threatened the most serious consequences, he is accused of sectionalism and of undue sympathy with the race to which he belongs and which he has so highly honored.

Groundless Attacks as in 1911.

In 1911 he was accused of all the crimes in the Calendar throughout English-speaking Canada, because he was a Catholic. Now he is being similarly accused because he is a Frenchman. There were no grounds for the accusations made in 1911, nor are there grounds for the accusations made to-day. He is the man who led Canada to the height of her greatest material success; a success that lasted only one short year after he relinquished the reins of office. His record is one of far-seeing and successful statesmanship founded on the truest principles of Liberalism and applied with the best judgment and discretion to the complex problems of Canada.

Net Results of Bilingual Discussion.

The result of the discussion in which he took part in the House of Commons was to establish that there is no difference of principle between Quebec and Ontario, between French and English, in regard to the education of children in French settlements in the Province of Ontario. The Ontario government concedes French teaching; the French people freely accept English teaching; neither French nor English ask for Dominion interference. These points being settled all that remains is to work out the details of the problem in a spirit of fair play having regard to all interests affected. These facts could never have been as fully and clearly exposed except by and through a public discussion in the House of Commons such as was promoted by Mr. Lapointe's resolution and the arguments upon it made by both sides of the House. The details are, of course, difficult, but when they are met in a fair spirit on both sides they can no doubt be worked out successfully.

The English-speaking supporters of separate schools in Ontario are those who at present have greatest fear that their rights and interests may be ignored. There is no reason for this suggestion in the fact that Sir Wilfrid claimed for the French-speaking settlements of Ontario the continued exercise of that which he held was a right, established