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GREAT CAREER ENDED

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Died After Brief Illness.

Former Prime Minister of Canada and Leader of the Liberal Party Passed Away on Monday Afternoon, Following a Stroke—Long Life of Service for Dominion He Loved.

OTTAWA, Feb. 18.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier is dead. The stroke of apoplexy which he suffered at noon Sunday was followed by a similar seizure shortly after midnight. After this second effusion of blood into the brain Sir Wilfrid was completely paralyzed on his left side and never fully regained consciousness. Until nine o'clock Monday morning he seemed to be retaining his hold upon life but from that hour he became gradually weaker. At 2.50 Monday afternoon Sir Wilfrid Laurier passed peacefully away.

Death has removed with dramatic suddenness from the theatre of Canada's public affairs an actor who had played a leading part for a generation.

Public recognition of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's long continued and important services to his country will be given at a state funeral. When it became known that he had passed away the Government suggested that his memory should be so honored and the members of the deceased statesman's family circle assented. Sir Wilfrid's body will be taken to the Senate Chamber on Thursday afternoon after the ceremony with which the session of Parliament is finally opened. Here it will lie in state until Saturday morning when it will be removed to the Sacred Heart Church, which Sir Wilfrid attended. The funeral mass will be said at 11 o'clock on Saturday morning. Mr. Oliver Mathieu, Archbishop of Regina, who was a close friend of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and who is now in Quebec, has been asked to officiate. In view of the fact that the church will accommodate a congregation of only 1,200 persons, admission on Saturday morning will be by



THE LATE RT. HON. SIR WILFRID LAURIER.

ticket. The Government, through Thomas Mulvey, K.C., the Under-Secretary of State, who has had charge of the arrangements for the funeral service, will issue about 1,000 tickets. The last resting place of the deceased statesman will be in Notre Dame Cemetery here.

To political associates and political opponents alike the news of the passing of the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons was a painful shock. He had been so recently among them actively engaged in his preparations for the business of the session of Parliament which is to open on Thursday. Only four weeks ago he had attended the convention of the Eastern Ontario Liberal Association and delivered an address in which he made the remark, "Every day I feel I am getting riper and riper for heaven." A few weeks ago he conferred with Sir Thomas White regarding some of the business of the coming session. On Wednesday last again he discussed with Hon. Charles Murphy a plan which the latter had prepared for lightening the Parliamentary duties of the Leader of the Opposition. On Saturday he attended the meeting of the Ottawa Canadian Club, and he had summoned a number of his leading associates in the Opposition in Parliament to meet him here to-day to talk over the program of the party for the session.

The manner of Sir Wilfrid's death recalls his own notable oration upon the death of Sir John Macdonald. "In his death," said Sir Wilfrid, "he seems to have been singularly happy. Twenty years ago I was told by one who was a close personal personal friend of Sir John A. Macdonald that in the intimacy of his domestic life he was fond of repeating the words which would be as the end of Chatham. That he would be taken away from the floor of Parliament. How true that vision was we now know and thus to die with his armor on was probably his ambition." Sir Wilfrid himself died in the

midst of the performance of those public duties which were his life work, "with his armor on." Of him, as of his former great political opponent, it has been said that he wished to die as he had died. One of his close friends has quoted Sir Wilfrid Laurier as having said in commenting upon the sudden demise of a mutual acquaintance, "That is how I would wish to go, no lingering, no bother to anyone."

To the people of the capital the news came with a sense of great personal loss, no citizen had a greater hold on the affections and respect of Ottawans to whom his erect and courtly figure, his kindly smile, his apt and happy greetings, and his compelling gifts as orator and statesman were intimately known. There were tears in many eyes, and a choke in the voice when the word was passed around that "Sir Wilfrid is gone." There was apparently no distinction of politics in the universal expression of sincere regret. Members of the Government, old Conservative opponents, and erstwhile Liberal followers, had only kindly praise to speak of his personal charm, unswerving life and state service. "Parliament will never seem the same without Sir Wilfrid," was a frequent remark.

The gauge of the loss to his party and to the nation can, of course, only be seen in proper perspective a little later on. As far as the party is concerned leading supporters here deprecate Sir Wilfrid's death on the ground of the opening of Parliament and with no one of outstanding calibre in the ranks of the Opposition available to take up the task of leadership is especially to be regretted. A party caucus will be summoned immediately after the funeral to decide on the sessional leader. Mr. D. D. MacKenzie was Sir Wilfrid's desk mate and first lieutenant in the last session, but it is hardly to be expected that he will become leader in succession to Sir Wilfrid. Among the Liberal members elect, Hon. W. S. Fielding, a close friend and admirer of Sir Wilfrid, though elected as a Unionist, may fill the breach for the session and take Sir Wilfrid's place. Mr. Fielding now that the Military Service Act is a matter of history, is in accord with general principles and policies voted by the Opposition last session and has lately been several times in conference with Sir Wilfrid. He has all the requisite experience and tact for a temporary leadership of the party in the Commons.

It was the calling of this convention and the arranging for his successor in the leadership that Sir Wilfrid looked forward to as perhaps the last important work of his political career. After that he hoped to be able to step aside and spend his last days in the serenity of his study, completing his memoirs and fulfilling a long cherished wish to write, out of his rich experience, a constitutional history of Canada with its bearing on the whole future of our imperial relations. To your correspondent he has often expressed that wish. As for his own record as statesman, Britisher and Canadian, he remarked only a few weeks ago during the course of a long conversation reviewing preceding political contests and issues:

"Well, I think that when all the facts are reviewed in their right perspective, history will not deal unkindly with me. I am content to leave my record to the judgment of men's thoughts, and to future generations of Canadians."

Starting life as so many other statesmen of Canada have done, Sir Wilfrid entered the law office of the late Hon. R. Lafamme, in 1860, when he was but nineteen years old. He was called to the Quebec bar and created a K.C. in 1880. For a time he remained in Montreal, in partnership with the late Mederic Lanctot, but subsequently moved to Arthabaska, where he was partner of the present Judge Lavergne, and the late E. E. Richard. At one time during his career, he was editor of a newspaper, and at several times contributed to other Liberal papers.

He was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Quebec for Drummond and Arthabaska, and was a member from 1871 to 1874. In 1874 he became interested in Dominion politics, and took the field the same year for a seat in the Federal House, but was defeated. In 1878, he succeeded I. Thibault, who resigned to open the constituency. At the succeeding general election he was given the majority by the voters in Saskatchewan, 1896; Wright, 1904; Ottawa, 1908, and Oulashans, 1911.

On his election in 1878 his brilliant qualities were recognized by the leaders of the Liberal party of that date and he was appointed Minister of Inland Revenue in the MacKenzie administration, and in 1887 he succeeded the retiring leader, Mr. Blake, as chief of the Opposition. At the general election of 1896 he carried his party to victory and became Prime Minister of Canada. This exalted position he held continuously until 1911, when the Liberal party went down to defeat on the question of reciprocity. His party was again defeated in the election of 1917 over the question of Union Government and the conduct of the war.

During his younger days he served as a volunteer in the militia, becoming an ensign in the Arthabaska militia company, saw service in the Fenian raid and received the Fenian medal. In 1899 he was appointed lieutenant-colonel of the 9th Colégiens de Quebec.

Sir Wilfrid, besides being an eminent statesman, was known as a man of extreme refinement and culture. He represented Canada at Queen

LOCAL NEWS ITEMS

Brief Notes of Interest to Town and Rural Readers.

Wright's Ice Cream and Confectionery also Fruits at Maud Addison's

Dr. Grant has purchased and put into use in his practice a new motor car.

Mr. W. C. Smith returned from Brockville General Hospital on Friday feeling much improved in health.

The Young People of the Methodist Choir enjoyed a driving party on Tuesday evening to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fortune, Junetown.

Miss Mary Brown is spending a few days in Athens a guest of her friend Marian Cornell.

Mrs. James E. Burchell received on Tuesday the sad news of her father's sudden death in Calgary. The remains are being brought to Iroquois for burial.

Telephone message on Tuesday afternoon reports the death of Mr. Alex E. Green, who has been taking treatment in the Montreal General Hospital—His brother-in-law R. J. Seymour left for Montreal Tuesday evening to bring the remains to Athens.

The Flag on the Post Office flying half mast in respect to the memory of the late Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Thompson spent last Monday at the home of Mrs. Thompson's brother Mr. Geo. Tackaberry, Plum Hollow, the occasion was the celebration of his father's 82nd birthday, and also of his son Franklin.

Mr. James Hannah is confined to his home with La Grippe.

The Women's Institute Meeting will be held in the Institute Rooms on Saturday, February 22nd—Report of the Annual Convention held at Toronto, will be given by Mrs. G. W. Beach—Other numbers musical and otherwise will supplement the programme.

Sheriff Robinson of Toronto is spending a few days with his parents Mr. and Mrs. George Robinson.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union will meet at the home of Mrs. G. W. Beach on Thursday afternoon at 5 o'clock. The meeting will be in memory of Frances Willard, founder of the organization. All members and friends of the Union are cordially invited.

An exchange mention the fact that the Renewal Board of Education is leading in the way of Agricultural Education in the High Schools of Ontario. For the last two years the Athens High School Board have availed themselves of the provisions of Educational Act, and have taught the Agricultural subjects in connection with the regular curriculum. Principal Burchell qualified to teach this work by attending the Guelph Agricultural College for two summer sessions. This work is of inestimable value as a large percentage of the students are from the rural parts of the County.

Mrs. Rev. Cross of Mackinaw City, Mich., is visiting her sister, Mrs. T. S. Kendrick.

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Wilson, returned home on Tuesday evening, after spending a week with their daughter Mrs. B. Cole, Ottawa.

Miss R. Morris is visiting her sister Mrs. M. Webster, Ottawa.

Mrs. G. W. Beach returned home on Tuesday after a visit with friends in Toronto and Guelph.

Victoria's diamond jubilee in 1897, and was given the leading place of the colonial delegates in the great procession, not only for his position as head of the greatest dominion present but also for his abilities as a man.

He was received by the Pope in 1897, and in 1901 welcomed the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, now King George and Queen Mary, to Canada. He attended the coronation of King Edward in 1902, and also the coronation of King George in 1911.

In 1907, he was tendered the freedom of the cities of Edinburgh, Bristol, Manchester and Liverpool. He was a member of the Rideau Club of Ottawa, St. James', Montreal, Quebec Garrison, National Liberal, London, England, Colonial Club, and the Boston Canadians Club.

He married Miss Zoe Lafontaine, daughter of G. N. R. Lafontaine, Montreal, in May, 1868.

Maple trees on untilled land in Canada could be made to produce all the sugar Canada consumes.

T. S. Kendrick and W. H. Wiltse were lay delegates to District meeting at Lyn last week.

Mrs. Geo. E. Judson and Mrs. Nellie Johnson are on the sick list.

The Rev. Dr. Oaten, Financial Secretary of the Dominion Alliance will speak in the Methodist Church on Sunday morning.

Mr. Harold Jacob moved the cottage purchased from the Geo. Campbell estate to Mink Island, Charleston Lake, which he purchased from the government this winter.

Mr. W. C. Brown, Glen Elke, had the misfortune to be thrown from a load of wood, breaking his thumb.

Miss Mary Ducion has returned home, having spent part of last week at the home of her brother, Mr. A. Henderson, Elويد.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Woolan, Mr. and Mrs. James Wiltse and Mrs. Pappell spent last Friday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Henderson, Elويد. They with a few other friends helped them celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary.

Mrs. V. Livingston, having spent the past four weeks in Plum Hollow at the home of her daughter, Mrs. A. Palmer, returned home last Friday. Union cottage prayer meetings are to be held in the several different homes during the week.

This year and last year short course boys have formed a Junior Farmers' Association.

Several motorists are complaining of the way the gate at the G.T.R. crossing in Brockville is managed. One gate will sometimes be raised half a minute before the other one. A car might drive on to the track and be caught between the two gates. Something should be done so that both gates would be raised at the same time.

Mrs. W. B. Connerty has received official notice that her son, the late Pte. Basil Connerty, was instantly killed on August 30 at "the jumping off place" by the bursting of a shrapnel shell which exploded near by.

Miss Edna Rowe, nurse (late C.A. M.C.), was called to Athens on Friday on account of the sickness of Mrs. Nettie Johnson of the Armstrong House.

The Charleston Lake Association have arranged for the filling in with stone of the cribs at the Charleston Lake public wharf.

Warden M. B. Holmes is this week in attendance at the annual meeting of the Central Canada Exhibition Association in Ottawa. Mr. Holmes is the representative of the Ontario Beekeepers Association.

Miss Nellie and Irene Earl entertained a number of friends at their home on Tuesday evening of last week. Games and music passed a very pleasant evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Rhodes and Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Stevenson motored out from Brockville and spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Arnold.

Miss Hazel Grenham spent Sunday at her home at Addison.

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Parish and family spent Sunday with Mrs. Fred Adrian, Newboro.

The new Canadian Hymnal was introduced and used for the first time at the Methodist Sunday School last Sunday.

Mrs. Sadie Price, R.N., who has been nursing Miss Peterson, Addison, was a guest of her sister, Mrs. E. J. Leadbeater during the past few days. Mrs. Price is engaged to attend Mrs. Johnson, of the Armstrong House.

Mrs. Albert Brown and little daughter Jean, of Leeds, has returned home, having spent the later part of last week at the home of her mother, Mrs. M. Rappel.

Mr. Samuel B. Covey, Rochester, N.Y., was called home by the death of his mother, Mrs. Samuel Covey.

Mrs. Roy Coon, Smiths Falls, is visiting her mother, Mrs. R. C. Lattimer. Little Miss Helen Reid accompanied Miss Coon.

Miss Rebecca Morris visited her sister, Mrs. Matthew Johnston, Ottawa, last week.

Mr. Gord. Lawson, who has been in Belleville for the last three or four months, returned home on Thursday.

Mrs. Pearl Drennan is in Renfrew this week, a guest of Mr. and Mrs. John Drennan.

ATHENS COUNCIL MEETING.

Statutory Meeting of Village Council Held in the Council Room, Town Hall Feb. 14, 1919, at 8 p.m.

Members present—Reeve, M. B. Holmes; Councillors, Ed. Taylor, M. C. Arnold, W. H. Jacobs.

The following business was transacted:—

Moved by Ed. Taylor, seconded by M. C. Arnold, that the accounts of B. Culbert, collector, 1918, for \$30.85; Municipal World, for \$6.00; G. N. Purcell, for \$13.85; Jos. Thompson, for \$2.27, be paid and orders drawn on Treasurer for the amounts.—Carried.

Moved by W. H. Jacobs, seconded by M. C. Arnold, that the lighting system as at present in use be discontinued, and the lights be collected at the Town Hall; and that a notice be put in the town paper to this effect.—Carried.

Moved by E. Taylor, seconded by M. C. Arnold, that Reeve Holmes and Councillor Jacob be a committee to confer with the executors of the Judson Estate regarding the extension of Church street in an easterly direction to Sarah street, and report to this Council at the next meeting.—Carried.

Next meeting of the Council will be held on March 14th, 1919.

G. W. LEE, Village Clerk.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Samuel Covey.

The death of Caroline Wood, widow of the late Samuel Covey, occurred on Thursday night at 9.45 o'clock.

The late Mrs. Covey, who was a Presbyterian in religion, was also a resident of Athens, was 64 years and 4 months of age. She had not been in good health for the past four years.

Surviving to mourn her loss are two daughters and two sons, Misses Carrie, Marion and Frank at home, and Samuel B. Covey, Rochester.

The funeral, which was well attended, was held from the Presbyterian Church to the Athens cemetery on Sunday afternoon, February 16th, at 2 o'clock. The services were conducted by the Rev. T. J. Vickery.

William J. Boyd.

On Thursday afternoon of last week, William J. Boyd, a life-long resident of the Rear of Lansdowne, passed away at his home. Mr. Boyd, who was nearly sixty years of age, had been in falling health for some time past, being confined to his bed until quite recently, when he recovered sufficiently to be up and around.

When Mr. Bevins, the assessor, had dinner with him on Thursday he seemed quite well, ate quite a good meal and indulged freely in conversation. After dinner he went out to the windmill, came in, washed himself and in a few minutes expired.

The late Mr. Boyd was a son of the late John Boyd and Anne Copland, was born and lived his entire life on the farm on which he died. He was an Anglican in religion, a Conservative in politics and a much respected citizen and will be missed by his large circle of friends and by the community at large.

He is survived by his wife, who was Miss Henrietta Rowsome, and by two children, Loella and Charlie, both grown up and at home; also two sisters, Mrs. Earl Temperance Lake, and Mrs. Webster, Lyndhurst.

The funeral was held on Saturday, February 15th, at 2.00 p.m. from his residence to the Oak Leaf cemetery. Rev. George Code conducted the service.

CLYDESDALE BREEDERS CLUB.

A meeting of those interested in the improvement of heavy draught horses was held in Brockville on Thursday of last week, with the result that the Brockville District Clydesdale Breeders Club was formed.

W. H. Smith, agricultural representative, Athens, called the meeting and it was attended by D. E. Johnson, R. Shields, W. Ross Smith, Lansdowne; W. H. McNish, Geo. Jackson, J. A. Nelson, Lyn; J. M. Logan, Rockspring; N. Ralph, Maitland; W. P. Daffey, C. G. Wilson, Brockville; W. H. Smith and Prof. Bell of the Kemptville agricultural school.

A short address was given by J. W. Bell in which he outlined the purpose and advantages of such an organization and told the need for better horses for agricultural purposes, and after discussion of some length on the benefits to be derived from such an organization as pointed out by Prof. Bell and W. H. Smith, the following officers were elected for one year:

President—George Jackson, Lyn. Vice-President—W. H. McNish, Lyn.

Secretary—W. H. Smith, Athens.

Directors—J. A. Nelson, Lyn; N. Ralph, Maitland; D. E. Johnson, Lansdowne; A. M. Ferguson, Glen Elbe.

Selection Committee—President, Secretary and D. E. Johnson. Auditors—W. P. Bailey and C. J. Wilson.

MORE HASTE DESIRED

Canadian Soldiers Are Anxious to Get Home.

Peace Conference Has Been Carrying on Its Affairs in a Leisurely Fashion, and Sir Robert Borden Enters Strong Protest Against All Unnecessary Delay Now That the Fighting is Ended.

PARIS, Feb. 18.—There are increasing evidences of dissatisfaction among the delegates over the leisurely progress made by the Peace Conference towards the accomplishment of the primary purpose for which the Conference was called; the conclusion of peace, thus permitting the world to set itself to the problems of peace.

The present situation of neither war nor peace, with the resumption of hostilities a possibility, even though a remote one, encourages industrial and political unrest which is becoming more manifest in European countries with each passing week. It is felt that the organization of the conference does not expedite proceedings. The reference of different questions to special committees to examine into and report upon, is only effective if the committees are active.

The League of Nations committee sat daily for ten days and finally produced a draft of the proposed constitution, and the labor committee has been meeting at brief intervals and hopes to reach conclusions in a fortnight. There are a dozen committees with more work in sight and many of them do not seem to find it practicable to hold meetings oftener than once a week.

The important committee of Greek claims is a case in point. Appointed over a week ago, it has had only one meeting. A second meeting was to have been held on Saturday to consider the dispute as to the ownership of Northern Epirus, but was postponed. At this rate of speed it will take weeks to complete its work. It is understood that there have been formal protests against these delays. The Premiers of three great powers have now departed to attend pressing domestic questions and the other delegates face the prospect of long-drawn-out delays in reaching decisions which press for settlement.

Sir Robert Borden gave some expression to these feelings in the course of an address delivered Saturday evening to Canadian officers and soldiers on leave at the Canadian Y.M.C.A. hostel, Place d'Iona.

In the course of his remarks Sir Robert said: "The proposed constitution of the League of Nations has been laid before the Peace Conference by a committee appointed for that purpose. I do not intend to discuss these provisions to-night, beyond offering the expression of my opinions that it affords a sound working basis for that discussion and consideration which it will receive in due course. The League of Nations will be welcomed by none more earnestly and thankfully than by those who mourn for their dead and by those who for years have stemmed the savage onslaught of the Central Powers. There are millions of these men still under arms. They will count no hour misspent which has been devoted to the formulation of the proposed League of Nations. They will hail it with thankfulness and with gratitude, but we who cannot even imagine, much less realize, the horrors and hardships which they have borne for years with invincible courage must never forget that they are waiting with tense hearts for the signal which will restore them to their homes, their families and their occupations."

"I listened in vain yesterday for some word as to the anxious waiting of these men, and if the arrangement of speakers, and the time available, had permitted, I should have deemed it my privilege to speak it. I have in mind especially my own countrymen in the Canadian army, many thousands of whom have served in this war for more than four years. They have been wounded, perhaps many times, and they have again returned to the trenches. Twenty, perhaps fifty, times they have gone 'over the top' hand-in-hand with death. They are vitally concerned that peace shall be made, and without delay. We shall be recreant to our duty if we rob our soldiers, even for a day, of the eagerly anticipated return to their homes, and their dear ones. I speak of the Canadians, because I know what is in their hearts, and it may, perhaps, express the thoughts and feelings of all troops now under arms. Although weary of war, they are going to fight until the cause is won, and while there is merely an armistice the cause has not been finally won. But more than three months have elapsed since the armistice was declared, and let us not flatter ourselves that our soldiers believe no time has been wasted. They are amazed at the extremely deliberate methods employed, and at some of the subjects upon which time is being spent."

"They demand to know, and, before God, they have the right to know, and to know without one moment's unnecessary delay, whether there is to be any further fighting, and if so, for what cause and to what purpose."

"This is the urgent, stern imperative demand of those to whose unparing sacrifice and enduring valor the Peace Conference owes its authority, and to whom it must consecrate its labors."