

if the matter was properly put before the people, the province of Quebec would have responded. The Government had refused his request for a referendum, and the bill was passed.

Will Not Repeal Act

After it became law he had been asked whether if returned to power he would repeal it. His answer was that he would not, but that he would insist on a referendum. It was a matter for the people themselves to decide.

"The Conservatives," said Sir Wilfrid, "have started the Nationalist cry. They say that I have formed an alliance with Bourassa. I would like to say that there is no man alive who can dominate Laurier. Mr. Bourassa is an able man. I know all the harm he has done me and all the good he has done the present Government, but he shall never dominate Laurier. In fact he has been opposed to our participation in this war. I, on the contrary, want to win this war, and I appeal to everyone to rise up and do their duty. The war is the great issue of the present time. But I have already stated my attitude on the war, and I stand or fall for my principles."

Dabbling With Food Issue

Turning to the efforts of the present Government to control profiteering in food and other staple commodities, Sir Wilfrid said that the present administration was merely dabbling with the question. It had, he admitted, appointed a food controller, and he said, he was a good man. Mr. Hanna was constantly giving good advice. He established meatless days, but the price of meat continued to soar, and the Government did nothing. The United States had succeeded in effecting reductions in food prices. Slaughter houses were now controlled by the United States Government, and since that country entered the war the price of meat had gone down three cents a pound. In all countries there were profiteers, but in England, France and the United States they had been forced to disgorge their ill-gotten gains.

Must Review C. N. R. Deal

Referring to the Canadian Northern Railway purchase, Sir Wilfrid said: "I denounce the whole transaction and insist that it is the duty of Parliament to review it."

Sir Wilfrid characterized the new franchise act as an iniquitous measure. The Government, he said, had manufactured a franchise law to suit itself, although the former one was perfectly satisfactory. In provinces where the women had the right to vote, he contended that these women were also entitled to vote in the Dominion elections. The Hon. C. J. Doherty had done his best to prove that they were not entitled to vote, on the ground that a woman was not a "person."

Sir Wilfrid concluded by appealing for the support of all present, but only if they felt that he was right. He made a strong plea for unity and said that if returned to power he would try to give Canada a strong government, such as when formerly in power.

LIBERAL CHIEFTAIN WAS OUT HEART AND SOUL TO WIN WAR

Speech Delivered on December 3rd, 1917

ARNPRIOR, Dec. 3.—A crowded hall welcomed Sir Wilfrid Laurier in South Renfrew this afternoon, and the Liberal leader was greeted with wild enthusiasm. He drew a salvo of applause when he repeated his emphatic denunciation of Bourassa, and repudiated the attempts his opponents were making to fasten the Nationalists upon him.

Sir Robert Borden had fastened himself upon the Nationalists, and the unholy alliance was still working overtime in an effort to defeat Liberalism, as was done in 1911.