

**THE LIBERAL CHIEFTAIN, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR WILFRID LAURIER, K.C., G.C.M.G., M.P., DELIVERS ADDRESS AT HIS BIRTHPLACE, ST. LIN, QUE.**

**"If I were a younger man I would be the first to go."**—*Sir Wilfrid at St. Lin, Que, Aug. 7, 1915*



**"My fellow-countrymen, I envy you your youth and your uniform, but above all your chance to fight for such a cause"**.—*Sir Wilfrid Laurier at St. Lin.*

ON Saturday afternoon, August 7th, the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, addressed eight thousand French-Canadians at St. Lin, Quebec. As Sir Wilfrid stepped from the special train which carried him from Montreal to St. Lin he was cheered by 5,000 citizens who had assembled at the station to meet him.

The meeting was held at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Preceding Sir Wilfrid's address Mr. P. A. Sequin, M.P. for L'Assomption and Mr. Walter Reed, M.L.A. for the same county spoke briefly.

His Worship Mayor Honore Thébault delivered an address of welcome. Following Sir Wilfrid, Hon. Sydney Fisher and Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux addressed the gathering.

**Sir Wilfrid's Speech.**

When Sir Wilfrid rose to accept the address of welcome he first generously thanked the people of his native parish for the new testimony they had shown him of their confidence and sincere amity, and recalled many souvenirs of his infancy.

"Whatever be," he said, "the vicissitudes, the trammels and the hazards to which men of politics are exposed, there is nothing dearer to them than the corner of the earth where they were born."

**General Elections of 1911.**

"If there is in my career a glorious page, it is that which was inscribed in 1911, the day when the Liberal party met a general defeat. My fifteen years of Government was the golden age for the people of Canada; they were marked by unheard prosperity. Never did a party fight with more honor than we did in 1911. We were beaten because we wished well. Our country was in such need of expansion by reason of the immense increase in its resources that it became necessary to have new markets, and it was for having called for our country these new means of prosperity that we were defeated."

**Canada's Part in the War.**

"The first word of Canada when War was declared, was that Canadians would go to the assistance of Great Britain. I am the Chief of the Opposition, and I do not hesitate for one moment to declare that each time the Government engages itself in a cause so just as this one, I will support the Government. Certain people are asking what have we to do with what is happening in Europe. That is not the way for us to regard this question. You know, gentlemen, that I have not hesitated to support the Government when it took the part of England against Germany. "England is fighting for a cause so noble, that we should be ready to sacrifice ourselves for it." I have supported without criticism the War policy of Sir Robert Borden because the cause is a noble and a just one in which every loyal subject of the British Empire should take a part."

**Which Attitude Should the Province of Quebec Take?**

"We are all interested in this conflict, and I would not have my compatriots of the French language take an attitude different to the attitude of my fellow countrymen of the English language on this question. England is at war because she wishes to defend the independence of Belgium, and the integrity of the soil of France. Never has a nation drawn the sword for a cause so sacred."

"We of French origin have a double duty to perform. It is true that it is not our own land that is being ravaged, and they are not our