

He wrote a report to the Minister of Militia of that day, which is to be found in a blue-book of 1875, and here it is :

Headquarters, Ottawa,  
January, 1878.

The Hon. the Minister of Militia and Defence, &c., &c., &c.

Sir,—The Militia Reports which have been presented to parliament for several years past, have treated exhaustively the question of its organization and development.

It will therefore be my duty to confine myself to a few condensed remarks, as to the probable improvement of the Dominion forces.

I approach the subject with hesitation, having so recently arrived for the first time in Canada. I would hardly do so at all, but from the experience gained in my late journey through the provinces of Quebec and Ontario.

To Nova Scotia and New Brunswick I am still a stranger.

### The Quebec Blues (Tories) and Their Ontario Allies Appeal to Prejudice.

Now, Sir, it seems to me that my vindication ought to be complete, but I know that to-morrow and the day after to-morrow and every day and every week and every month, so long as there are some of those instincts which are now prevalent, in order to defeat a fair opponent, I shall be traduced before my fellow countrymen as having tried to malign and insult them.

Mr. Sproule.—Hear, hear.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier.—Yes, there is an echo.

Some Hon. Members.—Shame, shame.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier.—Let me say this to that hon. gentleman that I am familiar with these appeals to passion and prejudice. In my own province—

Mr. Sproule.—I want to tell the right hon. gentleman that I have never appealed to passion or prejudice—

Some Hon. Members.—Sit down.

Mr. Sproule.—to race or religion and I defy him or any man to say that I have done so, I do not care who he is.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier.—In my own province the allies of the hon. gentleman, those who fight with him, have traduced me for years as a traitor to my race and religion. But, the cry is getting stale and a new one has to be invented. I have no more fear of this one than I had of the other. My experience has convinced me, my experience has proved to me that in this good land of Canada, in all sections thereof, in all classes thereof, in all races thereof, in all creeds thereof, appeals to prejudice may create a flurry of excitement, but they will invariably end in producing nothing but contempt in the hearts and minds of an intelligent and honest people.