

PEN PICTURE OF FIRST CITIZEN OF CANADA

An Appreciation of Sir Wilfrid Laurier by One of the Staff of Special Correspondents Who Accompanied the Party on the Trip Through the West.

Winnipeg, Sept. 6.—The special correspondent of the Winnipeg Free Press who accompanied the Laurier party through the west, writing from Medicine Hat has the following pen picture of the Canadian Premier:

Tonight in Medicine Hat, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in a most successful address, completed the work of his western trip, so far as formal speeches are concerned. Any speaking which he may do in the future will be in the way of additions to this programme, and these will unquestionably be very few. As one who has travelled through the more remote provinces with the Premier and has heard him speak under various circumstances, I may be permitted to set down some impressions of the man who in every part of the west has been spoken of not only as the first citizen of Canada, but as one of the outstanding statesmen of the world.

One of the characteristics of Sir Wilfrid which is apparent to all who meet him, and which must be realized most fully by those political associates who have known him best, is a certain aloofness in manner, which he never will lose. It is not that Sir Wilfrid purposely to maintain a line of demarcation between his associates and himself. The quality is a spiritual one which Sir Wilfrid could no more alter than he could change his stature. He comes into very close touch with others, shows a kind sympathetic heart, and yet maintains his isolation. The only person in whom I ever noted this same quality in the same form was the late Dr. John M. Kling, former principal of Manitoba college. I have thought, and still think, that there is a strong physical resemblance between these two men. They were about the same height, similar in general build, and in their carriage and deportment very much alike. In the mental and spiritual characteristics which he reveals, however, the resemblance of the Premier to the late principal is quite remarkable. It is not possible now to enter into a detailed statement of this spiritual resemblance, but in part it may be said that there is to my mind the same tone of absolute aloofness, the same reserve in his statements and to accept what seems to be true, the same judicial temperament and mental poise, the same directness in the way of the same aptitude to seize on the vital point in a discussion, the same tendency to do all their own thinking, and the same conscientiousness in the way of following the path of equity. The two men were largely contemporaries in their careers. Had one succeeded the other, a belief in the same might have supposed that the soul of the Scottish Presbyterian minister had passed to the French-Canadian Catholic statesman and had preserved its identity in its new environment.

The activity of the mind of Sir Wilfrid, the originality of his thinking, and his perfect sincerity gave a certain charm to his addresses to the people who heard him speak several times in a day for some weeks. In a trip such as the party of the Premier are completing, when members of it were required to deliver addresses at many points, there was naturally a considerable degree of similarity in the successive efforts. It was the same introduced from day to day, but the real substance of a speech on such a theme as the building of the Hudson Bay Railway could not be materially changed. The speeches of Sir Wilfrid were, however, always as fresh from his mind as though the thought had never before been expressed by him. His regard for truth forbade him to say what he did not feel, and his words did not, therefore, lack the true conviction. The address was always a reflection of his mind and as the content of his mind varied from day to day, his address was varied proportionately.

His skill was manifested during his trip in the manner in which he disarmed criticism of himself as a French Catholic. He did not do this by glossing the fact of his being in the background. Over and over again he referred to his identification with the French race in Canada, and to the fact that he worshipped at an altar which was not that of the great majority of his audience. He indicated, however, that his reluctance to accept the leadership of the Liberal party in Canada had been wholly due to his realization of his position as a French Catholic. The party had at that time declared that in its administration of affairs it would never recognize a distinction of race or creed. Sir Wilfrid had accepted office on that understanding. The great object of his life had been, as he constantly said, to bind Canada together and to maintain and strengthen the British connection. British institutions he repeated a score of times, were the best which had ever been devised for the government of a free people. His appeal would always be to the fair-minded men of both parties, and his government would be rather than make an appeal to a section or a class.

The sunny smile with which Sir Wilfrid is credited, does not make its appearance quite as often as the serious expression which he wears when he is speaking.

Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy is today the best known medicine in use for the relief of cure of bowel complaints. It cures griping, diarrhoea, cholera, and should be taken at the first unnatural looseness of the bowels. It is equally valuable for children and adults. It always cures. Sold by all dealers.

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STUDENT BODY INCREASING

Nearly 60,000 are enrolled in Universities of the Fatherland.

Berlin, Sept. 3.—The rapid increase in the number of students at some of the universities of Germany is becoming a subject of concern. The student body in many cases already has reached unwieldy proportions. Some 54,846 students are attending the various universities this summer, as against 51,510 last year. This is just about three times the number enrolled ten years ago.

A phase of the matter requiring special attention is the growing disproportion between the number of students preparing to become specialists and the apparent need for their services after graduation.

President Gaetz called the convention to order. A somewhat unique address of welcome was presented by Mayor Montgomery. With pardonable pride he remarked that, lavish as nature had been in the gifts of the city, in no aspect was she more pleasing to the eye of the spectator than in that presented by the sea of rippled grain.

In conferring the freedom of the city upon the visitors he laid great emphasis upon the responsibility of the aldermen for the welfare of the municipality. Referring to the municipal utilities in Red Deer he called attention to the fact that the electric light plant, in which is operated the most successful gas unit west of the Great Lakes.

The chairman's address was delivered by the mayor. He said that the problem of the city was the problem of civilization. He dwelt at length upon the beneficial effect upon the community resulting from the public ownership and operation of the public utilities. The life and activity of the community as such, he said, reacted upon the life and conduct of the individual, and faithful management of the people's affairs by experienced and responsible men, he asserted, could not fail to strengthen the sense of individual responsibility.

The reports respectively of the executive and secretary-treasurer were presented by John T. Hall, who had acted as secretary-treasurer for some time past, but owing to the fact that he no longer resides in the province, will be unable to continue in the position.

Mr. Hall reported that the executive, by consultation with the provincial government, been able to assist materially in framing several bills of vital importance.

His report on the financial condition of the union showed receipts totalling \$580.88 and a balance on hand of \$128.53.

The report of the committee on resolutions was presented by Mr. Spencer, chairman of the committee, and will come before the convention for discussion later on.

Commissioner A. G. Graves, of Calgary, read a paper on "The Management of the Municipal Water Supply," explaining in detail the methods which had been adopted by his municipality to ensure success in this important sphere of municipal work, dealing also with fire service, construction, and inspection.

Commissioner Graves advocated very strongly the installation of meters, and in this received the support of a majority of the delegates in the discussion that followed.

"The Edmonton System of Municipal Government" was the subject of a very interesting paper read by Ald. Garpey, of Edmonton. He described the West as a land of wonders. In ten years, he said, Edmonton had grown from a city with a thousand population to a city with thirty thousand people, with an assessment totalling thirty million dollars.

Ald. Garpey gave an account of the system of taxation adopted in Edmonton, stating that it was first devised by Mr. Sheld, a former mayor, to whom it was suggested by the peculiar needs of Edmonton. It was worked out in detail by Messrs. Short, Crowe and Elger, and was, he declared, a monument of advanced legislation. It was their object in Edmonton to make the administrative body a permanent organization.

GEN. FORESTER WALKER DEAD. Had Distinguished Career in South African Campaigns.

London, Sept. 3.—General Sir Frederick Wm. Edw. Forester, a distinguished soldier and statesman, died at his home in London, Sept. 3, at the age of 84. He was born in 1844, and had been governor of Gibraltar since 1905.

He entered the Scots Guards in 1862 and served in the Kaffir war in 1877-78. He was mentioned in despatches for bravery and received the decoration of C.B. He was again mentioned in despatches for services in the Boer war, and was mentioned twice for services in the Boer war.

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WORKINGMAN WANTS EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

He Asks a Ladder From the Primary Grade to the University, From the Lowest Task to the Highest Position.

Hallfax, Sept. 6.—The Church Congress yesterday dealt with subjects of much popular interest. Professor Adam Shortt, Siles McBee, of New York, editor of the Churchman, and Rev. R. W. Craig, of Montreal, discussed the church attitude towards Socialism.

In the evening the Bishop of London addressed a tremendous congregation, largely of workmen. The bishop came out strong for reforms in the interest of the employed and of measures to make life for them a better worth living. He said the working man was not a Socialist, but simply a man who wanted an equality of opportunity, something which God also wanted him to have.

The workman asks, he said, for a ladder from the primary grade to the university, from the lowest task to the highest position in the land. As a Churchman and as a Christian he would always do his best to endeavor to realize the day dream of the working man.

RAIN MAKES LABOR DAY. Big Parade in Edmonton is Abandoned and Sports are Postponed for Two Weeks.

(From Tuesday's Daily.) The incessant downpour of rain yesterday effectively laid the Labor Day celebration horse dead. The union men of the city had planned a monster parade for the morning, to be followed in the afternoon by an extensive program of athletic sports and horse races at the Exhibition grounds. The inclemency of the weather prevented the holding of either the parade or the sports.

Wises the other day, the rain poured down like a waterfall, and the parade was abandoned. The union men of the city had planned a monster parade for the morning, to be followed in the afternoon by an extensive program of athletic sports and horse races at the Exhibition grounds. The inclemency of the weather prevented the holding of either the parade or the sports.

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THE ENGLISH AVIATOR IS WELL IN THE LEAD

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CONVENTION ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES OPENS

Delegates from Cities and Towns Assemble at Wetaskiwin—President, Mayor of Wetaskiwin, Delivers Address of Welcome—Ald. Garpey's Paper on Edmonton.

Wetaskiwin, Alta., Sept. 6.—The Union of Alberta Municipalities was convened in Angus Hall today, with a full attendance of delegates. The opening session was held at two o'clock. The convention will continue in session throughout tomorrow.

President Gaetz called the convention to order. A somewhat unique address of welcome was presented by Mayor Montgomery. With pardonable pride he remarked that, lavish as nature had been in the gifts of the city, in no aspect was she more pleasing to the eye of the spectator than in that presented by the sea of rippled grain.

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