

his Cabinet. I was, on that day, the youngest Minister of the Crown in Canada. I have since inherited Sir Wilfrid Laurier's mantle as leader of the party of which he will ever remain the foremost figure. I have had, in the office of Prime Minister, to go through most of the experiences and many of the trials which Sir Wilfrid encountered in the years he was in office. I am proud indeed to say that in the course of my association with him I never failed him once, so far as I can recall, but was close to his side in every conflict. I went down to defeat, fighting for better trade relations with the United States in the great reciprocity campaign of 1911. I saw all that Sir Wilfrid suffered from misrepresentation at that time. I heard him denounced in this province as an Imperialist because of his effort to establish a Canadian navy for the protection of Canada's coasts. In the English-speaking provinces, I heard, as you heard, Canada's navy described as "a tin pot navy", and Sir Wilfrid denounced because of his race and of his religion as one not to be trusted with the government of Canada. All this was after a lifetime of service to our country, characterized by what was most chivalrous and noblest in public life, and highest in personal and public integrity.