

in the City of Hamilton, under the very eye of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, read a telegram from a Government engineer saying that preliminaries were all ready for letting the contract for the bay front. (Laughter.) I notice that a gentleman by the name of Marcil, in the Province of Quebec, got a lap ahead, for he took a real live engineer with him down to his constituency and exhibited him before the people as the man sent from Ottawa to see that sundry public works were undertaken as quickly as possible. (Laughter.) And, lastly, the baby member of the Cabinet, our good friend Mr. Aylesworth, whose entrance into politics was hailed by his friend the editor of the *News* as being a happy augury of a higher and purer type of political life, had nothing better to do on his first appearance in Durham than to read a long letter from Sir Wilfrid Laurier promising that what he asked would be done, namely, to have the wait of the Trent Canal terminus for Port Hope held out as temptingly as possible to the people of Port Hope without driving away the other aspiring towns desirous of getting the same Trent Valley communication to their own ports, and in it Sir Wilfrid was happy and glad to say: 'If what I promise you now is not enough, please remember that on your recommendation I have a whole box full of promises in store which I will hand out to you.' (Laughter and applause.) A sorry business, this, conducted with the knowledge and in the presence of Cabinet Ministers of a Government which attained power under a pledge to the people that such practices were wrong, and should at once cease.

### **A Personal Reference**

Now, before I go into the main subject to-night, will you pardon me for troubling you with a bit of petty personal canvass? I do not often indulge in it; but a gentleman met me the other day and asked me how long I had lived in Toronto, and he was very much surprised indeed when he found that I had been living here for three or four years, that I had my family here, that I pay my taxes here, and that I carry on my business here—and a pretty important business