

time of war, and with the resumption now of normal conditions, and the repatriation of her soldier sons, a splendid future awaits her. The vigor of her war time activities, and the valor of her sons on many a hard-fought battle field, have focussed the attention of the world upon her, and who can doubt that her reward will come not only in immense accession of population from without and increased national self-respect, but in the influence she is bound to exercise in the future councils of the world. To us as members of the universal Church it is matter for gratification that in the foundation and up-building of their nation our fellow Catholics of the Island Continent have borne their full share. And for the dawning epoch it may be safely predicted that in their contribution to the elements that make for a nation's greatness the Catholics of Australia, true to their inherited traditions, will not lag behind.

Bolshevism, under which name Socialism is now masquerading abroad, is in danger of becoming a real menace in Canada. The "Provisional Council of Soldiers and Workers' Deputies of Canada" is busy circulating inflammatory sheets in every industrial centre. From the "third manifesto" of this council we call the following:

"Comrade Workmen in the factories, mines and railroads, form councils immediately to seize each factory, each mine, each railroad for the working class. . . . Organize them now secretly, and do everything in your power to rouse the workers to take the action necessary for the overthrow of the capitalist class, and the establishment of the Workers' Socialist Republic."

WHAT, it may be asked, are our legislators doing to reduce this menace to social order and the rights of property? Class legislation and the fostering of monopoly is not the path to peace and progress. The one extreme breeds the other, and gives rise to evils which but aggravate the present unrest. Socialism, or Bolshevism, or by whatever other name the doctrines of Karl Marx may be known, is, as the Catholic Church has unceasingly pointed out, the relentless foe of God and man. Only the wisest of legislation, and the removal of unjust discrimination can cure the evils under which society is writhing, and avert the far greater evils which a misguided Socialism carries in its train. Mere repression will not effect a cure. Only the practice of Christian charity and fidelity to the maxims of the Gospel can effect that much-to-be-desired end.

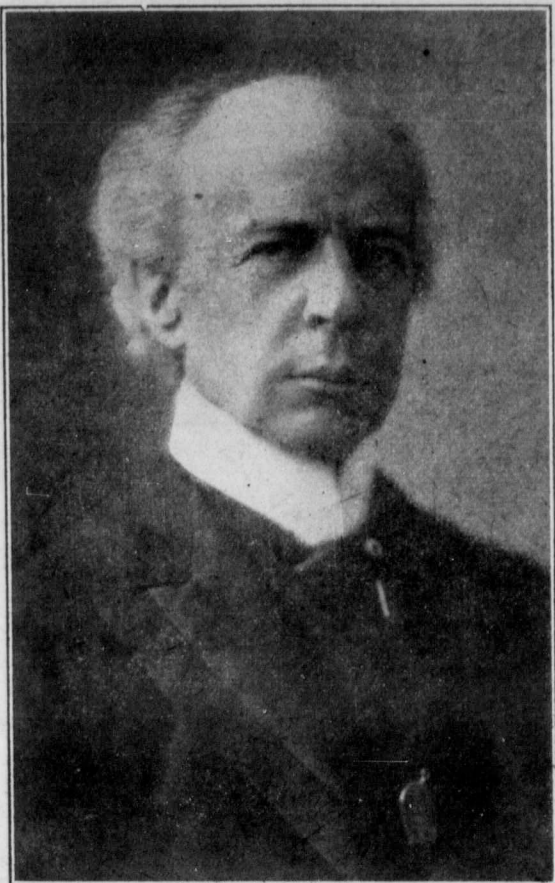
EDITORIAL TRIBUTES

TO CANADA'S GREATEST STATESMAN

LOSS IRREPARABLE

To-day "Our chief State oracle is mute." Canada has lost the greatest of her sons. At another time it may be possible to form some estimation as to how much greater was Sir Wilfrid Laurier than any of his competitors for fame and power. But at the moment of writing these lines the sense of loss is alike too poignant and too profound for any such task to be attempted. He it ours to pay our tribute of grief at the removal of the figure which, for a quarter of a century, either in office or in opposition, has loomed the largest in our national life.

Of all our great names there is no name more closely linked with the advent of Canada as a world entity than that of the veteran statesman who, for so many and such illustrious years, guided the destinies of this country, guided them wisely and guided them well, as we are sure history, with the supreme advantage of perspective, will testify in no uncertain sort. There is no real Canadian who has not felt that, viewed aside from the narrow region of party warfare, Sir Wilfrid Laurier was a figure, at once able, honorable and distinguished, of whom his country had reason to be proud, and whose renown was the common property of all his fellow-countrymen. But naturally with Liberals, members as they are of that party which, in serving his country, he led so long and so well, there was an especial measure of affection, mingled with the admiration which they felt for their honored chief. Sir Wilfrid was a man of rare and remarkable magnetism. In any assemblage in the world his name had been a notable presence, conspicuous for his loftiness of mind, no less than for his dignity of mien. But beyond and above all his varied and various gifts, it was his unflinching and unswerving devotion to the principles of Liberalism which endeared him to Liberals in especial degree, and not in Canada alone. Throughout his political career he belonged to the same school of Liberalism as did Gladstone. It is the school which, both in Canada and in Great Britain has laid, deep and sure,



SIR WILFRID LAURIER

the foundations of ordered progress and of rational reform. He was always a loyal party man, but his party loyalty was due to no petty motives or rancorous animosities, but because he, like Gladstone, saw in the Liberal Party alike the most effective organ and the most efficient safeguard of human rights and human freedom. Suave in manner and courteous in speech, to an unusual degree, in matters of principle he was always adamant. No considerations of momentary advantage to his party, and certainly not to himself, could ever tempt him for an instant to swerve from the path of fidelity to principle. If he suffered as he undoubtedly did, and more than once, for the faith which he so sternly kept with principle, he was never of the sort to indulge in unmanly pining. He was always equal to the extreme of Fortune, neither unduly depressed by reverses nor unduly elated by success. To many of us, indeed, he never appeared more nearly allied to the sublime than during the last two years. Deserted and betrayed by some who should have been among his dearest and nearest supporters, he was yet neither ashamed nor afraid to struggle on for the good old cause, the cause of Liberalism, the cause of the people, the cause of Canada, the Nation. Alike on public and on personal grounds, his removal is an irreparable loss to Canada and Canadians.—The Statesman.

THE GREATEST CANADIAN

Canadians mourn today the greatest Canadian of his generation, stricken amid the manifold activities that were his as Leader of the Opposition. Sir Wilfrid died in harness—the representative to the very end of the people in whose service he had spent almost fifty years of his life. In that long span of time there had been alternations of success and failure of victory and defeat, of the flowing tide and the ebb of popularity, but vicissitudes of fortune never affected the mental serenity of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. In the intimacies of confidential intercourse few men ever saw the Chief of the Liberal party moved to anger, and none ever heard an unworthy word pass his lips.

The eloquence of Sir Wilfrid had its root in a poetic temperament that blossomed early and never withered, but felicity of expression that gave him his power to sway the multitude came largely from the study of the masters of English prose. He was steeped in the tradition of British Liberalism, and in all his projects for political and social reform was governed by the belief that too much exercise of authority must always be a far greater hindrance to the ordered progress of a free people than too little. There is left in the public life of the Dominion no man who can wear with dignity the mantle of Sir Wilfrid.

And none can hope to win or hold the unique place in the love and admiration of the French-Canadians that has been his since the far off days when he first entered the Legislature of Quebec. And Sir Wilfrid's influence in Quebec has been unmistakably for good. He fought a good fight against clerical domination when political Liberalism was anathema in high places. He strove manfully against the separatist tendencies that were disclosed during the Marconi regime. He was the spokesman of national unity in session and out of session. He risked all in Quebec in opposition to the coercion of Manitoba at a time when an English-speaking Protestant Premier was prepared to force separate schools upon the unwilling people of that Province.

He stood for a better understanding with the United States throughout the perilous days of the fisheries and boundary controversies. During his Premiership the foundations were laid for the good relations that

now exist between Canada and the United States, relations which made participation by the Republic in the war for freedom much less difficult than it would have been had a hostile Canada been regarded with aversion at Washington as the outpost on this continent of an Imperialistic Britain.

PATRIOTISM UNDENIABLE

"Sir Wilfrid Laurier has passed beyond the sound of earthly voices, and neither praise nor blame can disturb his rest. In life, probably neither much affected him, for he was well accustomed to both. No Canadian in public life since Sir John Macdonald has been the recipient of more unstinted adulation or more unmeasured abuse."

For years Sir Wilfrid occupied in the public life of Canada a place almost commanding and always unique. If in later years his influence waned it was because the majority of his fellow-countrymen disagreed with him on vital issues of national policy. But though many questioned his statesmanship, few, we venture to think, denied his patriotism. The history of the future may find that after all the differences that divided them were not so irreconcilable as they appeared in the emergency of war and the fierce excitement of an election contest.—The Toronto World.

OF BRITISH LIBERAL SCHOOL

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's career as a Canadian statesman began when he delivered his maiden speech in moving the address in reply to the speech from the throne in 1874. When he entered the Mackenzie Government in 1877 his Liberalism had brought him into conflict with the heads of the Roman Catholic Church in Quebec, and he was bitterly opposed and suffered defeat when he first offered himself for re-election. His address on "Political Liberalism" before the Club Canadien was an eloquent vindication of the principles which guided his career. He avowed that he took his inspiration from the British Liberalism as championed by a line of statesmen from Fox to Gladstone. He made an eloquent plea against a political cleavage upon religious lines. He warned the Conservative leaders in Quebec not to attempt to organize a political party "without other basis than a common religion" and thus "throw open the door to war, a religious war, the most terrible of all wars." These sentiments were the inspiration of his career as a statesman.

When he was made leader of the Liberal party in 1887, there was a general impression that his temperament was that of the scholar and poet, and that he was two gentle and conciliatory for firm leadership or stern political battle.

This impression proved to be unfounded. He had all the essential fighting qualities, his courage was high, and there never was any doubt of his dominating influence over his followers, or, afterwards, of his control of his Cabinet. It was the old story of the steel hand under the velvet glove.

The progress and prosperity that followed the Laurier tariff revision were without precedent in Canadian history. Partisans will, of course, disagree as to the extent to which this result was due to legislation and administration. But it seems clear that the new tariff was well adapted to the needs of industry, and that the amazingly rapid progress of the West was due to a vigorous policy for promoting immigration and settlement.

Now we are faced with a problem of reconstruction perhaps as difficult as that of organizing the institutions created by the federal union of 1867. The details of the work are different, but the spirit must be the same as that of Macdonald and Laurier. Both these men were profoundly impressed with the vital necessity of unity in a young country inhabited by men differing in race to some extent in political conceptions. Unity is still our need. Of racial strife we now hear less than of the danger of cleavage between East and West, between employers and employed. It is still true that in order to achieve a national destiny worthy of our great heritage we must unite in a spirit of good-will and common patriotism and resolutely meet the evil forces of hatred, prejudice, and suspicion.—Toronto Daily Star.

STRENUOUS WORKER

As a party chief Sir Wilfrid Laurier stood in a class by himself. For a time he attained to a popular in-

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