

## THE WEST FOR LAURIER, LAURIER FOR THE WEST.

THE West—speaking generally—never saw or heard Sir Wilfrid Laurier. In great degree it is diverse from him in race and language; and in large measure differs from him in religion. But yet the Liberal West is for Laurier all the way. The pained surprise with which this fact is viewed by those who counted on sectional, racial or religious difference or antagonism at the recent Western Liberal Convention to split the Western vote for the benefit and protection of Eastern Big Business is ludicrous beyond words. Just how a Convention that had been so extensively advertised as having been “fixed” against a certain political leader, came to blow the lid off in his favour is worth noting.

To the Liberal West Laurier stands impersonally as the embodiment of an ideal created by years of service, distinguished by achievement when in power and by steadfastness to principle in defeat. In the mind of the West Laurier and Progress are intimately associated—the result of fifteen years’ experience of Laurier administration of public affairs, and not less the experience of the six years of administration, the result of his defeat.

The West lives for progress and development. The old timer and the new comer are both there, not for what is, but for what is to be. The West had been stagnant for a generation before 1896. It came to life under Laurier direction and leadership. It grew as no other country had ever grown before, as the result of that direction and leadership. Laurier went down to defeat in 1911 on an issue that meant still further progress and still greater growth for the West. He went down smashed by Big Business, on issues of section, race, religion and spurious loyalty. With him went the progress of the West.

Six years of Western stagnation have followed. The days before 1896 have come again. War prices are eaten up by increased cost of production resulting from tariff and combine exactions; embargoes on produce and transportation are put on and taken off no one knows when or why, but always to the loss of the producer; partly constructed railways are left unfinished for years and settlers sick with disappointment leave the country; even existing railway tracks are torn up without justification and settlers left stranded in the woods. As a result of financial and industrial depression population and production have been decreased by emigration more than by the war; and after having shown the way to all Canada in war sacrifice, the West is to be put under conscription of men because other parts of the Dominion have failed to do their share.

Under such conditions is it any wonder that as soon as it reached the public mind that an attempt was being made to railroad a verdict for Big Business through the then proposed Winnipeg Convention, Liberals rose as one man, and delegates were sent from all parts of the far West Provinces—and the more distant the more determined they were—to declare for the leader whose name stood to them for the principles of Government in which they believed and under which their country had achieved

abounding success? What wonder that race or religion cut no figure in the conclusions of the convention; that lip-loyalty had small standing in the presence of Western sacrifice: or that Liberal principles expressed in the name of Laurier were approved spontaneously and enthusiastically by the greatest and most enthusiastic political convention ever held in all Canada.

### EXEMPTIONS.

IS the Government making preparations for wholesale exemptions under the Military Service Act?

Rising to a question of privilege on Sept. 19, 1917, Mr. Ernest Lapointe, M.P. for Kamouraska, read the following letter which had been addressed to his electors by the Deputy Speaker of the House, Mr. J. H. Rainville, M.P., in regard to exemptions:

Sept. 11th, 1917.

Dear Sir:—I have the pleasure to inform you that the regulations of the military law exempt bona fide farmers, their families, and manufacturers (industriels).

“I have at last succeeded in winning my point and it is only justice.

“You can without any fear whatever, present your unmarried sons to the tribunals. Instructions are given in accordance with what I now tell you.

“I hope farmers will do their utmost to secure the greatest production of all that is necessary for feeding the population.

(Sgd.) “J. H. Rainville.”

It is significant to note that this letter is dated September 11th. Mr. Rainville had just prior to this date been selected by the Government as a member of the Board of Selection under the Military Service Act and the question is did Mr. Rainville have advanced information in regard to this most important subject?

### PERSONAL PROFITS OF SIR JOSEPH FLAVELLE, IN THE THREE WAR YEARS, FROM AND INCLUDING 1915 to 1917.

The profits here calculated are not in the form of dividends paid, but they are the net profits as shown on the books of the William Davies Company. So far as the stock holdings of Sir Joseph Flavelle in the William Davies Company are concerned, it does not make a particle of difference whether the profits are separated and paid out in the form of dividends, at the end of each year, or whether they are turned back again into the company, to produce added profits for shareholders for future years.

Profits for fiscal year 1917, made by William Davies Co.....	\$ 1,342,087
SHARE OF SIR JOSEPH FLAVELLE, OWNER OF 51 PER CENT. OF WILLIAM DAVIES STOCK.....	684,520
Profits for fiscal year 1916 made by William Davies Co.....	1,439,473
SHARE OF SIR JOSEPH FLAVELLE, OWNER OF 51 PER CENT. OF WILLIAM DAVIES STOCK.....	734,094
Profits for fiscal year 1915 made by William Davies Co.....	523,000
SHARE OF SIR JOSEPH FLAVELLE, OWNER OF 51 PER CENT. OF STOCK.....	266,730
TOTAL THREE-YEAR profits of William Davies Company.....	3,304,560
TOTAL THREE-YEAR PROFITS OF SIR JOSEPH FLAVELLE OWING TO HIS OWNERSHIP OF 51 PER CENT OF STOCK..	1,685,345

From Toronto *Saturday Night*, Sept. 29th, 1917.