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Canadian Ideals.

Mr. R. L. Borden, during his recent visit to the Coast, delivered an inspiring address to the Canadian Club at Victoria. Of necessity he avoided political references and struck out a line of thought equally interesting to men of all parties who have the well-being of their country at heart. The theme of his address was Canadian Ideals, and apart from the interest evoked by a non-political deliverance from the lips of a political leader, the address fully justified the invitation extended to Mr. Borden by the Committee of the Club. Few men in public life could with such fitness have discoursed upon lofty ideals. No man before the Canadian people has passed through the fire of electoral campaign and parliamentary experience with a more unsullied reputation. Whatever else may be thought of Mr. Borden there is only one opinion as to his personal character and the fact that a man lacking brilliant qualities should have been chosen as leader of a great historic party and should have so completely justified the selection is at once a credit to Canada and a happy augury for the uplifting of political life. The prevalence of iniquity in high places, the scandalous escapades which have characterized the Laurier regime and which have driven from Cabinet ranks so many able men have created a painful impression throughout the Dominion. Whilst no

one believes that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was personally cognizant of their misdoing and while everyone commends him for the firmness with which he drove them from office, it is generally felt that the prevalence of corruption in Federal circles has shaken the confidence of the country and has started a wave of revulsion which will shortly overwhelm the Government. Whether or not Mr. Borden is destined to assume the reins of office in the near future is a question upon which there will be many opinions, but his strength undoubtedly lies in the fact that friend and foe alike concede his force of character and high purpose, and it will not be at all surprising if the country turns instinctively to a man who has lived up to the noble ideals which he advocates for others. With singularly few exceptions the press of Canada is a unit in demanding purity in public as well as in private life. The day when leaders of the people can "Compound for sins they are inclined to by damning those they have no mind to," has forever gone by, and in the future personal character will be a more potent factor than ever in the choice of such leaders. It is sad to reflect that at the present moment three or four of the most brilliant men in Liberal and in Conservative ranks have placed themselves out of the reckoning by conduct which cannot be palliated and which has disqualified them for further service. The man who

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