

higher. Had not the organized farmers met the tariff commission at that time with most decided protests the cost of living would have gone up and the farmers' tribute to the manufacturers would have been increased. The same thing will happen today. The manufacturers are anticipating a considerable increase in their protection. The railway companies are planning to prevent the government from building and operating the Hudson's Bay railway. The Retail Merchants' association will fight to prevent the government passing the co-operative bill. The elevator companies will fight against government operation of the terminals and all the big packing interests will do all in their power to prevent any relief being given to the farmers through a chilled meat industry. Now, if the farmers cease their work of organization and education, what will happen? All the big interests will work day and night to prevent Mr. Borden making good his pledge. They believe that they are now in control of the situation. Never was there a time in the history of Canada when there was so much need for the farmers to organize and educate and to make every preparation for mutual protection. In the next election they will control forty seats in the Prairie Provinces and eight years later they will have at least seventy seats. By simply carrying on their work as in the past, without affiliating with either of the political parties, the farmers will gradually but surely force both parties to come to their terms. The organized farmers of the West have no reason whatever to be discouraged. Even those farmers who voted against reciprocity will be as anxious as any that the new government be not dominated by the interests of Special Privilege. They will join with their brothers to the fullest extent to strengthen the farmers' organization. The organized farmers need only to take a leaf from the book of the other organized interests and they will at once see wherein lies the path of safety.

### CANADA'S NEW PREMIER

Mr. R. L. Borden, who, by the decision of the Canadian people becomes the ruler of the nation, is a man well qualified to uphold with credit and distinction the best traditions of that high office. He is not possessed of the magnetic gifts nor the striking personal appearance which, in addition to exceptional mental attainments, were important assets of his two most distinguished predecessors in office. But Mr. Borden, before entering Parliament, was one of Canada's leading lawyers. He possesses a well-balanced mind and a judicial temperament, and his experience has been of a nature to equip him thoroughly for the discharge of the duties of the premiership. During the fifteen years he has been in Parliament he has been a deep student of Canadian and international politics. For eleven years he has been leader of the opposition and has held that position only on account of his ability. Mr. Borden is not an orator and in this respect is outclassed by many members of his own party. He is, however, a debater of the first rank and in Parliament has shown himself able to handle the most difficult questions. The new premier takes office without a blemish upon his private or public life and with a reputation for uprightness and integrity that will challenge the respect of every Canadian. As leader of the opposition, even though he has not possessed any considerable power, he has at times shown a disposition to resent dictation. But as leader of the government he will be subject to much more powerful and insidious influences than ever before. Though not all seeing eye to eye with Mr. Borden, politically, every Canadian will extend to him the heartiest good wishes. As premier he represents not only the people who voted for his supporters, but equally as much those who voted against him. He is the premier of all the Canadians. Let us hope he will set out upon his career wisely by selecting cabinet ministers of only the highest rank. He has all Canada to select from and is entirely independent of

any anti-British element. Mr. Borden assumes an office burdened with the heaviest problems and necessitating the most arduous labor. The people of the Prairie Provinces are not favorable to his trade policy, but otherwise they are generally ready to co-operate with him in the carrying out of the policy which he has set forth. Since confederation the administration of our national affairs has been marked by corruption and scandals that have disgraced our country. Let us hope that Mr. Borden will free us from that taint. We wish him well. He faces a more difficult position than any of his predecessors. The future only can say if he is of the stature to rise to his opportunities.

### SIR WILFRID LAURIER

For fifteen years the words "Laurier" and "Canada" have been synonymous. What Laurier thought Canada thought, and what Laurier said Canada did. His is the most striking figure in the pages of Canadian history. He has been in public life for more than a generation, and his picturesque personality even before he assumed the premiership gave him much prominence. Sir Wilfrid enjoys the distinction of having ruled Canada for a longer unbroken term than any other man and it is doubtful if there will ever be a parallel. His great strength was his ability to attract men and to hold them. He drove with silken reins but on occasion could display the iron hand, as many a cabinet minister can testify. His regime has been marked by the development of Canada into a nation with the consciousness of nationhood. Canada owes to Laurier considerable of the credit for the proud position which, as a nation, she now enjoys as a part of the great empire, and also among the nations of the earth. He has always been to the forefront of the orators of the English and French speaking peoples. At the seat of the empire, when representing Canada, he has charmed the British people and challenged the admiration not only of British statesmen but Canadians as well, by his conduct. We cannot call Sir Wilfrid Laurier a great statesman, because of his lack of decision in handling the most important of state questions—trade. He came into power on a policy of freer trade which he afterwards disregarded and finally went down to defeat fighting for the same policy. It seems the irony of fate that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who has always maintained a protectionist tariff for the benefit of the manufacturers, should have risen and fallen upon freer trade. Had he carried out the policies of 1896 he would never have faced the crisis of 1911. But he went down with his colors flying and fighting for a good cause. As to his future no one can speak. He has announced that he will lead the opposition. His only hope of future success must be for the new opposition to get back to the principles of 1896 from which they have strayed so far and for which they have suffered annihilation.

### MR. BORDEN'S POLICY

Mr. Borden comes into power with a clear and definite policy set forth in his own words and signed by his own hand. He has at his back a majority sufficiently strong to carry out his policy and he has the opportunity in the selection of his cabinet to bring into his counsels only such men as are in sympathy with the entire fulfilment of the policy laid down by their leader. On August 14, after the election campaign was well under way and after the leaders of the opposition had fully decided upon their policy, Mr. Borden issued a manifesto which was published in full in *The Guide* on August 23. The concluding words of Mr. Borden's manifesto were as follows:

"The Liberal-Conservative party gives its pledge to carry out the following policy if returned to power:

"1. A thorough reorganization of methods by which public expenditure is supervised. Increase in what is known as ordinary controllable expenditure from \$21,500,000 in 1896 to nearly \$74,

000,000 in 1911, is proof of extravagance beyond any possible defence.

"2. Granting of the natural resources to the Prairie Provinces.

"3. Construction of the Hudson's Bay Railway and its operation by an independent commission.

"4. Control and operation by the state of terminal elevators.

"5. Necessary encouragement for establishing and carrying on the chilled meat industry.

"6. The establishment of a permanent tariff commission.

"7. The granting of substantial assistance towards the improving of our public highways.

"8. The extension of free rural mail districts.

"9. The extension of civil service reform.

"10. Granting of liberal assistance to the provinces for the purposes of supplementing and extending the work of agricultural education and for the improvement of agriculture.

"And, lastly, we pledge ourselves to a course of policy and administration which will maintain independent and unimpaired control of our own affairs by the Parliament of Canada."

In the policy of the new government there are several questions of vital importance to Western Canada, and which were incorporated as a part of that policy in response to the demands of the organized farmers. There is one other plank in Mr. Borden's policy of great importance to this country and that is his statement in regard to the co-operative legislation which the organized farmers have asked for. This statement was made to the executive of the United Farmers of Alberta, by Mr. Borden, at Red Deer, on July 27, in reply to the memorial presented to the Opposition leader by the officers of the organized farmers. On this question Mr. Borden said:

"The farmers, or any other class of people in Canada, desiring to co-operate together for a lawful and legitimate purpose, have every right to have the law framed so that they can do so in an inexpensive manner without any red tape or undue delay, so that I am very much in favor of your proposal in that regard."

Thus of the demands of the organized farmers the new government is pledged to provide government ownership and operation of the Hudson's Bay railway, government control and operation of the terminal elevators, the necessary assistance to establish a chilled meat industry and also the enactment of satisfactory co-operative legislation. There are very powerful interests opposed to every one of these propositions. It will require a strong hand to overcome those influences. Mr. Borden also stands for a Western division of the railway commission with headquarters west of the Great Lakes.

There will be a large number of government job holders who will soon be jobless. Let us hope that the new government will inaugurate a civil service that will prevent so much job hunting. But just at present, no doubt, there are a large number of the faithful who will be hunting for some warm job to sit upon where the work is merely recreation and the pay the real thing. Job hunters are no strength to any government.

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No one will regret that instead of representing Canada at the heart of the empire, Sir Fredrick Borden is permitted to remain at home in the rural quietness of the Cornwallis Valley, Nova Scotia.

The proper construction of the Hudson's Bay railway will mean to many Western farmers five cents saved per bushel on the transportation of their wheat. Let us hope the new government will put it through as fast as possible.

Mr. Borden will not lack for advice in the making of his cabinet. There will be at least four men hot after each portfolio.

We would suggest Dr. Roche as one Western member qualified to fill a cabinet position.