

would not be confronted with a railway problem. There would not be a railway debt greater than the national debt. But Parliament ignored us.

When the present Prime Minister was in opposition I met him one day on Parliament Hill with the Hon. Mr. Rhodes, who was then Premier of Nova Scotia. As we stopped to pass the time of day, I said, "Well, how is the Premier, and how is the one who wants to be Premier?" Bennett turned to Rhodes and said, "You told me at the time I would be ruining my political career if I took that stand." Undoubtedly he displayed great courage in the course he had taken. No matter what political differences we may have, I admire that man for being brave enough to speak and vote against his party in support of what he thought was right. And so with Hon. W. F. Nickle. He is a man of high principles. When he was Attorney-General in Premier Ferguson's Government, and it was decided to introduce legislation for government control of the sale of liquor, Mr. Nickle disagreed with the policy and stepped out.

An Hon. SENATOR: He was not worth a nickel.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: He was not worth a nickel? Oh, yes, he is a credit to the public life of the Dominion.

I can never forget the dignity and charm of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. At a garden party at Buckingham Palace we ordinary people entered by a side gate, but Sir Wilfrid Laurier was driven through the royal entrance. On the grounds—I think my honourable friend beside me was there on that occasion—is a wide stone piazza which, as a surveyor, I estimate to be about 150 feet long by 50 or 60 feet wide and about 4 or 5 feet above the level of the lawn. When Sir Wilfrid arrived, perfectly dressed by an English tailor in a grey Prince Albert suit—perhaps even better tailored than that worn by King George himself—he looked every inch a prince. A bevy of princesses and duchesses surrounded him. But he did not appear to be phased at all; he regarded them with great condescension and he nodded, turning round the while, in the royal manner, so that everybody might think, "Sir Wilfrid is looking at me." There were very few men present. The bevy of exalted ladies in their beautiful Paris gowns were there to be admired, and they were only too glad to pay homage to Sir Wilfrid Laurier. By some strange coincidence the English ladies get their gowns in Paris, while all the swell members of the French Jockey Club go to the London tailors for their clothes.

The previous night I had attended a dinner at the Hotel Cecil given by the Hon. Mr. Brodeur. Lady Aberdeen was one of the guests. After dinner Sir Wilfrid Laurier beckoned to me. On my reaching his side he said: "You had better get back to Canada. We are going to have a general election." I exclaimed: "A general election! What for? You have a majority of forty in the House of Commons and two to one in the Senate. The country will say, 'What is the use of giving him a majority? He cannot carry his measures through Parliament.' You might just as well say you are sick and tired of being Prime Minister and retire." He turned to Lady Aberdeen and said, "Aren't we having trouble with our Upper Chambers!"

I shall always recall that memorable afternoon when Hon. W. S. Fielding announced to the House of Commons that a treaty of reciprocity had been signed between the United States and Canada. On the Conservative side, as on the Liberal side, there were cheers from everyone. The only pessimistic man that night was your humble servant. I remember Senator Gilmour said, "With that policy Sir Wilfrid Laurier will be able to get what Sir John Macdonald and Sir Charles Tupper and other Canadian statesmen after them have failed to secure." He was enthusiastic, but I was not responsive.

At that time we had on the Senate side room 17. It used to be called the "power house" because several senators met there, and the way they went the Senate generally went too. It was like the Family Compact—those who were not in it were against it. Senator Melville Jones was not one of the regular frequenters of room 17, but he came there while they were all rejoicing. I was regarded as the only one who was wrong in my opinion. Sir Melville said, "Look here, we are going to carry Ontario." I said, "I'll bet you a dinner Laurier will be beaten." And he was. I am saying this merely to give confidence to those who are good enough to listen to me.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Hear, hear.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: Faith!

An Hon. SENATOR: Who is right now?

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: You can draw your own conclusions. Laurier was defeated on the reciprocity issue. What will happen to the other fellow who tries that game? Reciprocity was first discussed when Lord Elgin went to Washington. He was a rollicking good Englishman, a fine statesman, and very much in sympathy with our province. The Tories of Montreal rotten-egged him.