

C 130341

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Revision p 4-5

substantially
revised with
the object of
drawing
attention to
Mr. Lapointe
and avoiding
possible
misunderstanding
of reference
to religious
and racial
minority

latter years of his life. But Mr. Lapointe, though not a member of his Cabinet, had enjoyed an even longer association with Sir Wilfrid, and a friendship which in some particulars may have been even more intimate. Apart from this, when the Convention of 1919 was held, Lapointe had been a very long time in parliament, and had had much parliamentary experience, spoke fluently in both languages, and was recognized as an outstanding leader of the Liberal parliamentary party. I had had but a very few years of parliamentary experience, had not been in the House of Commons since 1911, and had not a seat in Parliament at the time the Convention was held. Lapointe had sat as a member continuously from 1904, a period of 15 years, during which time he had acquired exceptional parliamentary skill, and had made no end of friends, not only among the members of the Liberal Party in Parliament but among members of the party in all parts of Canada.

It has always seemed to me that there was but one reason why, at that time, Ernest Lapointe was not chosen as the natural successor to Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the leadership of the Party. It was that which I repeatedly have heard Sir Wilfrid Laurier say he gave to the Party at the time he, himself, was

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