

To fill the office of Premier of Canada, where a man is called upon, not only to guide the ship of state in its legislation ; but to reconcile differences between provinces ; to manage the susceptibilities of various races and creeds ; to deal with the perplexing problems that crop up not only at home but with the mother country, and with our immediate neighbors, and above all to satisfy the clamorous demands of partizans—a much more difficult matter than to fight the enemy in the open, is one of the most trying positions in which any man can be placed.

Sir John A. Macdonald, *pater patrie*, was the only one who could, carry the burden for any number of years. Hon. Alexander McKenzie, after a short period of office, was a broken down man—a mere shadow of his former self. Sir John Abbott, whose health was not good when he assumed office, had to retire at the end of a few months. Sir John Thompson, who combined the Premiership with the portfolio of Justice, despite his enormous capacity for work succumbed at the post of duty at the early age of fifty. To-day Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, yet in the prime of life, whose graceful oratory has charmed not only the people of Canada but those of the United Kingdom and of La Belle France as well, is now in the sunny south seeking, and we all hope with success, to recuperate health shattered during the few years of his premiership, in the service of his country.

The work incumbent on such a position might well excuse the occupant from undertaking anything involving extra labor, and no mere politician would consent to be involved in any outside cause when antagonism would be almost inevitable. Sir John was no mere politician. He was a statesman who despised subterfuges of all kinds ; one who felt that if he could do good by identifying himself with a movement, it was his duty to go forward.

"Fear the Lord and do right," was his guiding maxim. We are not therefore surprised that, in addition, to his heavy labor: he should have taken part in the organization of a branch of the Catholic Truth Society, in the city of Ottawa. His was no perfunctory membership. He accepted the presidency of the association, delivered the