



THE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

The Papal Legate, Cardinal Vannutelli, going for a Motor Ride,

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Archbishop Bourne, of Westminster, who received all the Dignitaries of the Roman Catholic Churches.

THE POLITICAL PROBLEM

By NORMAN PATTERSON

I SUPPOSE a great many voters are, like myself, wondering which party is to receive their ballots. It is probable that since 1891, there has never been an occasion when it was as difficult to decide. There is a great advantage in being a party man because then a voter may tell four years in advance which party he will vote for at the next general election. The partisans have no trouble with their minds, though they may have some with their consciences. The trouble with the conscience is not nearly so bad as the trouble with the mind. Conscience is not supposed to play a very great part in politics.

The day after Sir Wilfrid Laurier's great effort at Niagara, I walked down town with my friend The Liberal. He was quite jubilant. In his mind Sir Wilfrid had made a magnificent speech; witty, clever, comprehensive, telling, statesmanlike. There was not the slightest shadow of a doubt in his mind as to who was the greatest man in Canada. He had not been at Niagara to hear the address, but he had read the report in the *Globe*. He was satisfied. His mind was made up.

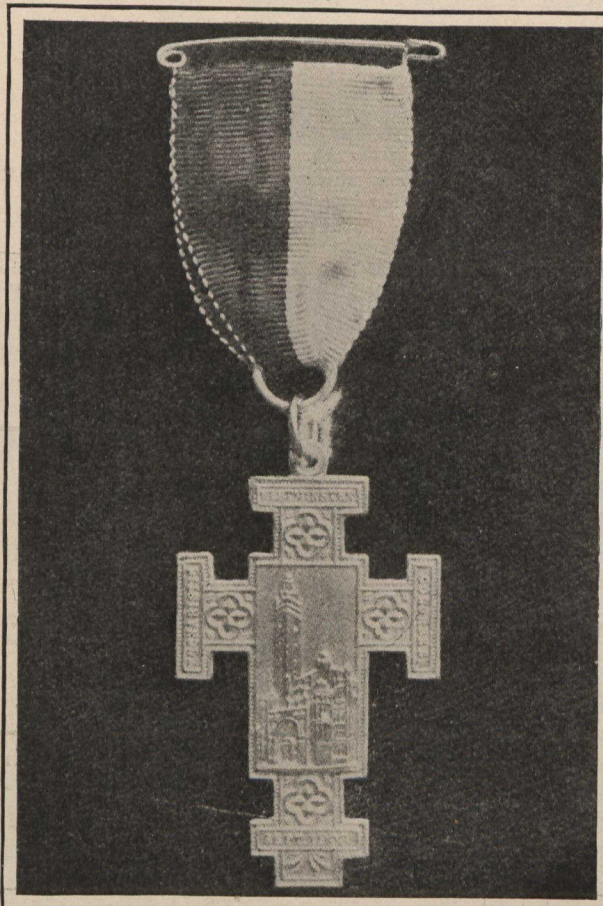
During the course of the morning, I called on The Conservative, and I asked him what he thought of The Premier's speech. "I am disappointed," he replied, "it reads to me like the speech of a man on the run." He, too, was satisfied. His mind was made up. He will vote for the Borden candidates.

In the afternoon I chanced to meet The Independent Journalist and he declared that he considered Sir Wilfrid Laurier's speech "a national humiliation." We walked along about half a block while I turned the phrase over in my mind. At last I ventured to ask, "Why?" He explained, "It is a national humiliation that the ruler of one-half of the North American Continent should not have risen to a greater height in the discussion of public questions. It was clever, I grant you, but it was the cleverness of the politician rather than the statesman." We argued the matter backwards and forwards, but I could not shake him in his view. "But Laurier will win?" I had made half a statement and half a question. The answer was not shot out boldly, but after a moment's hesitation. "Yes, I think he will win; but you cannot tell what Ontario will do. It may be that it will elect sixty or seventy Conservatives."

"In spite of Canada's great development since 1896?" I ventured. "Rubbish! You might just as well accuse the Liberals of causing the present hard times or the bush fires, as to credit them with the nation's progress. Do you credit the bank managers with having increased the deposits from two hun-

dred to six hundred million?" And he smiled a sarcastic smile as he passed around the corner out of sight.

I went back to my desk and thought it over. In 1896 the sentiment of the people said, "It is time for a change." They put Laurier in power. It may be, as the Conservative journals are saying, "It is time for a change" again. Yet I am not sure that the Independent voter has his mind as fully made up as he had in 1896. There has been much criticism and considerable dissatisfaction, but that this is



THE BADGE FOR THE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

A Badge has been Struck for Members of the Eucharistic Congress. For Cardinals it will be of gold, for Bishops and Priests it will be of oxidised silver.

strong enough to justify deposing the Old King and crowning a New King is an open question.

To compare the two policies is not an easy task yet it must be done. Foreign Policy: The Conservatives favour closer Imperialistic connection; the Liberals believe in the Imperial tie, but would have it purely sentimental. Trade Policy: The Liberals believe in moderate protection, and in a bargaining with other nations looking to freer trade; the Conservatives believe in adequate protection and would sacrifice the foreigner to the Britisher. Transportation Policy; Both parties favour new railways and deeper canals, but the Conservatives are more inclined to government ownership and closer government control than the Liberals. Land Policy: The Conservatives might work reforms in the administration of the Crown domain, but it is questionable if they could do much more than the Liberals have done. Post Office Policy: The Conservatives have been advocating rural mail delivery and the Liberals have adopted it. Liquor Policy: No difference; neither party is in favour of prohibition. Public Expenditure Policy: The Conservatives are now the party of economy, the position held by the Liberals before they gained office. Immigration Policy: Practically no difference. Civil Service Reform: Mr. Borden would go farther than Sir Wilfrid, if his party would allow him and he had the opportunity. Thus, the differences are small and really do not help much. The independent voter will find little solace here.

What is there left except a comparison of the Men! Sir Wilfrid and Mr. Borden; Mr. Fielding and Mr. Foster; Mr. Oliver and Mr. Ames; Mr. Lemieux and Mr. Bergeron; Mr. Brodeur and Mr. Monk; Mr. Aylesworth and Sir James P. Whitney; Mr. Graham and Mr. Hazen; Mr. Pugsley and Mr. Roblin; Mr. Templeman and Mr. McBride; Sir Frederick Borden and Col. Hughes; and so on through the two lists. The one side is in; the other is out. If the Outs were Ins and the Ins were Outs, which would look the better body of administrators? It isn't quite fair to compare a compact and well-defined cabinet with an aggregation of possibilities. It is not quite fair to compare a Premier, crowned by years of success and by political, social and Imperial honours, with an opposition Leader who has never won a battle and who has not yet sat upon a throne. Those who make the comparison should do it fairly.

So far as the personality of the leaders is concerned, even making these allowances, Sir Wilfrid has the advantage. He is graceful—as an orator and an actor should be. He has the presence and the speech of a Ruler of men. Mr. Borden, not being French, is not so graceful, nor so effervescent. He is sedate, courtly, refined, but not magnetic. While

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