

LAURIER MEETING WAS THE GREATEST IN ALL THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE

Tremendous Outpouring of Electors from City and Province Cheered Sir Wilfrid at Record-Breaking Meeting in Victoria Rink—7,000 in One Vast Shouting, Flag-waving Audience—The Speech of a Statesman—The Loyalty Cry Answered Effectively—Important Announcement by Hon. Mr. Pugsley About Courtenay Bay Works—The Mammoth Parade—"Laurier Day and Night" a Magnificent Success.

The Laurier demonstration yesterday, and the Laurier meeting in the Victoria Rink last night, marked the high tide of Liberal enthusiasm in this province in all the history of the dominant party. No political event here has ever approached it.

The great Liberal chieftain, when in his speech last evening he saw the vast throng before him rise to their feet waving Union Jacks and Canadian ensigns, shouting their thunderous welcome to him and voicing their confidence in his administration and the prospects for victory, paused a moment in his speech to say to them that in all his experience he doubted if ever he had witnessed such magnificent enthusiasm.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's description of this spontaneous outburst of loyalty and party enthusiasm may be accepted as well describing the spirit which animated all the memorable proceedings of yesterday and of last evening.

Seven thousand cheering people crowded the Victoria Rink last night from the outer doors to every available foot of space in the interior, thousands more thronged the streets outside, and thousands witnessed the triumphant procession which carried Sir Wilfrid, the Minister of Public Works, and the other speakers, to the scene of the evening's meeting.

The number of visitors drawn to St. John by the Laurier demonstration was great beyond all records. It is estimated that, from near and far, more than 5,000 people came in to St. John for the special purpose of hearing Sir Wilfrid Laurier speak and participating in the great demonstration in his honor.

Those who witnessed last night's meeting, and who saw the crowds in the streets, who saw the parade, who noted the thronged trains, the crowded railway depot and the tremendous number of visitors everywhere in the city, must have wondered whether there was any party in the city yesterday save only the great Liberal party which is moving forward to its greatest victory on September 21 next.

The Conservatives have sought to cover some of their weaknesses by waving the old flag. The manly, straightforward, sturdy British answer made last evening to this cry by Sir Wilfrid, by the Minister of Public Works, and by Mr. Lowell, gave them their reply. And last night in the Victoria Rink, beneath a thousand waving Union Jacks and Canadian ensigns, hundreds of clusters of little flags were thrown out among the great audience and were caught up eagerly, to be waved later in honor of the hero of the evening when, in ringing sentences that will live long in the memory of all who heard him, he proclaimed his fealty and that of his party to the British flag and to British institutions, and told how the Liberals had given the British preference in the face of determined Tory opposition.

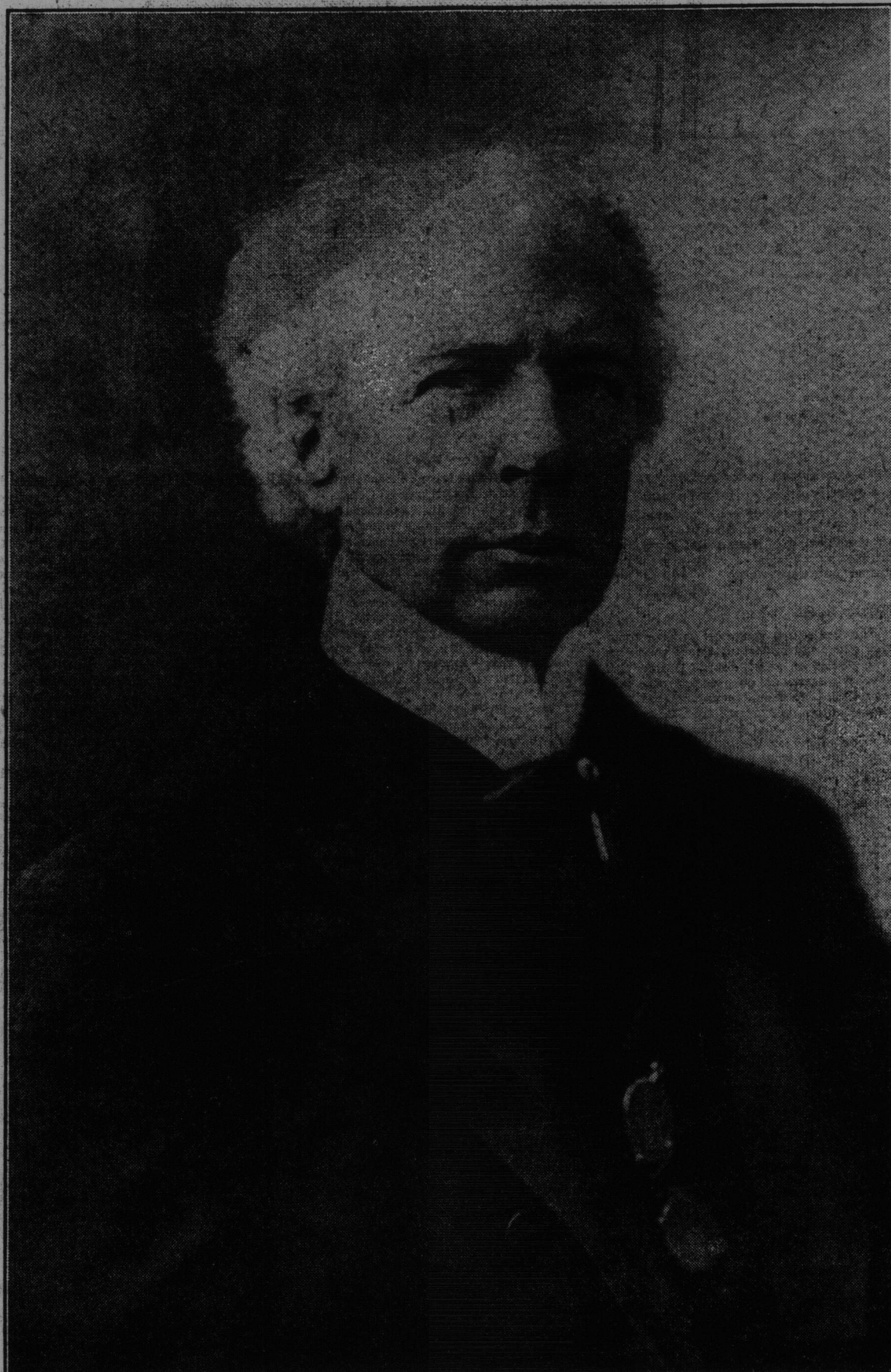
Sir Wilfrid was cheered at short intervals from the moment he stepped off the train at noon yesterday until he reached his hotel again last evening after the great meeting. And again and again, during the meeting, when references were made to the result of the campaign, cheers from thousands of throats, with a depth of volume and a world of meaning no man could mistake, proclaimed the settled conviction of the vast throng that Sir Wilfrid's administration is to be returned to power three weeks hence by an unparalleled majority.

The Prime Minister, who looks ten years younger than he did three years ago, was in fine fettle and fine spirits, throughout the day and the evening, and though at first there was considerable noise in the rink, he spoke with growing power, and before he had uttered a dozen sentences he held the vast audience in his grip, and moved them as he willed, now with patriotic sentiment, now with a set of convincing statistics, now with a quotation from some Conservative leader of the past, now with a citation of the solid achievements of his administration.

Interrupted as he was by frequent cheering, he never for a



"And what did the Tories say in their day? Why they said: 'If our policy menaces British connections, so much the worse for British connections.' Yet they tell how loyal they are now, when they are seeking to get into power again."



SIR WILFRID LAURIER, THE INVINCIBLE LIBERAL CHIEFTAIN

moment lost a word or missed the thread of his argument, but continued to drive home his smashing indictment of Conservative dishonesty and cowardice in the campaign tactics they are pursuing today.

There can be but one verdict regarding Laurier Day in St. John, and that verdict must be that it was successful beyond the expectation even of the most sanguine, and that it augurs on September 21 victory not only in the St. John constituency but throughout the province of New Brunswick and the Dominion generally.

Courtenay Bay.

One of the outstanding events of the evening meeting was the announcement made by the Minister of Public Works in regard to the Courtenay Bay developments. He said that of the three great British contracting firms which had tendered for the Courtenay Bay terminals, the firm of Norton, Griffiths & Co.,—he was violating no secret in saying—were the lowest. There had been some differences to be adjusted between the firm's engineers and the engineers of the Department of Public Works in regard to some of the details. The tendering firm had consented to make some changes required by the department, and their engineers and those of the department were now in agreement, and it only remained for him as Minister of Public Works to submit the matter to his colleagues in council. Until this had been done he could not properly give figures, but in his opinion there was no doubt as to the outcome of the matter. This announcement, virtually the letting of the contract for the Courtenay Bay works is now merely a matter of form was greeted by a tremendous outburst of cheering from the audience who plainly realized the immense importance of the project which has now taken such definite form.

Enthusiasm for Lowell.

The appearance of Mr. James Lowell, the popular Liberal candidate for the city and county was the signal for a magnificent ovation. Mr. Lowell though he spoke briefly, spoke to the point and in a straightforward and vigorous speech discussed some of the issues of the hour, and when he predicted victory for the party and for himself the answering shout of the audience left no doubt that they fully concurred in his opinion and would back him up on election day.

The crowd began to gather at the Victoria Rink as early as 6 o'clock. The doors were not to be opened until seven, but, although the weather was already disagreeable, the street was thronged long before that hour, and when finally the doors were opened the great body of the rink was filled immediately by a determined people who had decided to take no chance of being excluded from the great meeting.

Long before half past seven the great building was so thronged that it seemed impossible that more could enter. As it turned out, a great crowd of people who came a little later were unable to gain admittance, and many of these went elsewhere, believing that an overflow meeting would be held. This, however, was not done on account of the weather and because all the available speakers were on the platform at the main meeting.

Sir Wilfrid, the minister of public works, Mr. Lowell and the other speakers did not arrive until after 8 o'clock, and so for more than an hour the great audience waited patiently, content that they had seats and were certain not to miss the events of the evening.

When Sir Wilfrid did appear, accompanied by the minister of public works and others he received an ovation which evidently warmed his heart, accustomed as he is to the enthusiasm of his fellow citizens. When at length he was seated upon the platform, and when F. J. G. Knowlton, the chairman, rose to open the meeting, he faced an audience unequalled in numbers and enthusiasm by any previous political assembly in the history of this province.

Among Those on the Platform.

Among those present on the platform were: A. F. Bentley, M. P. for St. Mary's; Hon. John Morley, M. P. for St. John; Hon. O. J. LeBlanc, M. P. for Kent county; W. F. Todd, St. Stephen; F. B. Carvell, K. C.; Woodcock, Senator King, Senator Gilmer, Dr. A. B. Atherton, Fredericton; Frank E. Smith, Dr. L. M. Curran, J. B.

Holland, Hon. D. J. Purdy, Sheriff George, Bathurst; Hon. C. H. LeBlond, Dalhousie; Dr. Silas Alward, W. M. Jarvis, Kenneth J. Mackay, F. E. Williams, John A. Sinclair, F. G. Spencer, John H. McRobbie, R. S. Thomas, C. B. Allan, C. Fraser, McLennan, E. R. Macdonald, J. Hayden Thompson, A. M. Rowan, Dr. Emery, George L. Warwick, W. E. Anderson, Dr. A. D. Smith, A. O. Skinner, R. S. Ritchie, Percy W. Thomson, Rev. G. F. Scott, W. D. Foster, Heber Vroom, Thos. F. White, E. J. Armstrong, H. W. de Forest, Joshua Clavon, Harry Morton, Penobscot; R. P. Allan, Fredericton; W. A. Quinton, Bathurst; Geo. P. Allen, James Keenan, R. P. Hatchford, Ralph M. Robertson, William Vasse, T. H. Bullock, Col. Buchanan, T. Donovan, Rev. Dr. G. M. Campbell, Dr. J. M. Barry, Aid. J. W. Keirstead, Dr. Jackson E. Hetherington, F. M. O'Neill, G. H. Arnold, Harry Pierce, Rev. David Hutchinson, A. H. Skute, Fredericton; J. D. Plimsey, N. C. Fredericton; Patrick Fitzpatrick, J. A. Barry, Rev. W. W. Brewer, Rev. G. A. Ross, Joseph McLaughlin, F. Neil Brodie, Joseph Libby, John McKelvin, D. H. Nasse, Daniel Connolly, Rev. Jos. Borgmann, Henry Maher, Rev. L. A. McLean, William Brodie, Dr. Harry Nasse, Thos. Bohan, Bath, Carleton county; Rev. David Lang, George E. Day, Francis Rudolph, John H. McRobbie, Michael Coll, F. M. Cochran, St. Martin; Rev. H. D. Mart Roy P. Skinner, I. O. Thomas, Joshua Clavon, A. E. Pearson, Kings county; Rev. Neil McLaughlin, Councillor Frank Freese, Cardwell, Dr. R. F. Quigley, Chas. E. Macmillan, Hon. L. P. Harris, Rev. W. B. Stewart, Henry Gilbert, Rothesay; George M. McLeod, Newcastle; D. Arnold Fox, Capt. Potter, Edward Bath, London; Charles A. Owens, Francis McCafferty, James Monahan, Mrs. P. G. Haney, Mrs. G. H. Lann, Mrs. Matthews, G. D. Grimmer and Dr. O'Neill, of St. Andrews, and scores of others.

HON. WM. PUGSLEY TELLS OF GREAT WORK FOR ST. JOHN

Minister Cheered Again and Again As He Announces Lowest Tender for Courtenay Bay Development Operations.

In introducing the first speaker, the minister of public works, F. J. G. Knowlton, the chairman, after referring to the

presence of the citizens of St. John took in their representative in the cabinet, spoke of the presence of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the great Liberal chief and statesman of whom Canada was so proud. There would always be a right royal welcome, he said, to the distinguished visitor. His mention of the name of Sir Wilfrid was the signal for great cheering, which came forth as a mighty voice from 6,000 throats. The sight as the chairman was speaking was one not soon to be forgotten as every one of the great crowd waved a small Union Jack—a fervent answer to the loyalty cry against the Liberal party.

Hon. Wm. Pugsley was greeted with a great outburst of cheering when he advanced to the front of the platform. After gracefully acknowledging this tribute, he said in part:

"As we were escorted to the rink this evening by the procession of loyal citizens and as I watched the streets lined with enthusiastic and loyal citizens I could not help but feel that this is a sight of the people in the interests of the people and that the people will win. (Cheers)."

"I was proud of the great reception given to our revered leader Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who has led the Liberal party and directed the destinies of the country during the most important period of its history, during the period in which it has been emerging from the position of a mere colony to the proud position it now holds in the British empire." (Applause).

Turning to the subject of reciprocity, Dr. Pugsley said: "I have given the trade agreement the most careful study and the more I have learned of its ultimate effect on the trade of the country the more I have been convinced that the advantages are all on the side of Canada, of New Brunswick and the city of St. John. In the one instance of lumber on which so much of the wealth of this province originates, we find that the United States has thrown off duty to the extent of \$1,223,629 while Canada has conceded the magnificent reduction of \$50. On shingles the United States concessions amount to \$122,500, on boards \$66,126 and on laths \$172,182.

"Go to the north end of this city and look at the great lumber mills which are the pride of the city and which furnish labor to so many of our citizens and ask yourselves if they are to be deprived of the benefits of these reductions? Under the Feltz treaty it has been possible for American logs, cut in the state of Maine to be rafted down the St. John river and sawn at the mills in St. John. You know that the termination of this treaty will deprive St. John of this profitable business and that it is only through the reciprocity agreement that it can be retained. Not only will the people of this city benefit by the retention of this business but I feel safe in saying that at least part of the money saved by the mill owners by the reductions on manufactured lumber will eventually find its way to the pockets of the working men."

(Continued on following page).



"The Conservatives wanted to bargain with Great Britain. We voluntarily gave Great Britain a preference. Which, I ask you, is the party of loyalty in this country?"

"BOTH SEATS THIS TIME IN ST. JOHN." DOESN'T IT LOOK LIKE IT?