

## **"Obstruction is a Vice," declared Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux**

Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, then a member of the Laurier Government, used the following language in a speech delivered at St. Hyacinthe, August 13, 1911:

"In the regular order of things the present parliament should not have been dissolved until 1913. The liberty of speech is one of our most prized conquests, but the abuse of this liberty, that is obstruction, is a vice and should be extirpated from our political life, and when returned to power Sir Wilfrid Laurier will introduce a law providing for the exercise of closure in parliamentary debates."

## **Another Laurier Minister Prepared to Vote Closure**

One more of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's then colleagues, Sir Allen Aylesworth, speaking at Newmarket, Ont., June 2, 1911, declared as follows:

"Now some attention has recently been paid to that (the prevention of obstruction) by reason of some remarks uttered by Hon. Sydney Fisher, in the Eastern Townships. He was expressing no more than I would express, no more than every Liberal in the House would express. Things have come to a pass which threatens the destruction of representative institutions. I make the statement with a full sense of the responsibility upon me for what I utter, with the full sense that I speak as a member of Parliament and a Minister of the Crown. Under our existing rules of procedure there is no limit upon talk."

And further on:

"I must say that from what I have witnessed of what goes on session after session, I am prepared to vote closure, and to stay there to put closure through no matter how long that may take."