

Laurier's one sound claim to consistency is based upon his steadfast opposition to any and all forms of united action by the Dominions of the Empire, a claim which in this hour of struggle and sacrifice he dare not make.

Opposed Confederation

He opposed confederation of the colonies of British North America before he opposed co-operation by the scattered states of the Empire. When the greatest Canadians were striving in the face of tremendous obstacles to bring about the Canadian confederation, Laurier was in the field fighting against them. He called upon the people of Lower Canada to prevent the union, declaring that,—

"That is not the way we politicians of the Papineau school look at the matter; when any change whatsoever is proposed in our political or social institutions, we do not look to see whether this change will be of use to the English Colonies or to any other neighbor; WE THINK ONLY OF LOWER CANADA AND OF THE FRENCH RACE."

He was more outspoken then than he would dare be today. He was no less un-British in thought when he killed the Naval Aid Bill than he was frankly un-British in speech when he said,

"WE HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON WITH THE ENGLISH COLONIES, except that we are all dependent upon the same metropolis."

In another statement he was even more frank:—

"WE DO NOT CARE A FIG FOR THE ENGLISH COLONIES, NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, NEWFOUNDLAND."

The Laurier who paralysed the arm which Canada had stretched out for the Empire's defence in 1912-13 was the same Laurier who boldly proclaimed in 1885 that,—

"IF HE HAD BEEN ON THE BANKS OF THE SASKATCHEWAN WHEN THE REBELLION BROKE OUT HE WOULD HAVE TAKEN UP ARMS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT."

Sympathised with the Rebels

The events of 1885 are still well within the memory of a living generation. Canadians of today look back with pride to the part they or their fathers played in the suppression of the