

face the economic situation with the view of avoiding and lessening privations and sufferings, which should not exist in a country so richly endowed by nature as our country.

"Whatever may be the verdict at the polls, I will accept it, neither elated by victory, nor downhearted by defeat."

LAURIER RESENTS TORY INNUENDO WITH REFERENCE TO HIS LOYALTY

The following Speech was delivered at Ottawa on November 27, 1917:

OTTAWA, Nov. 27.—For over an hour to-night Sir Wilfrid Laurier addressed a crowd which crammed the Russell Theatre. Outside there was a long queue of people who vainly sought admittance. E. J. Daly, vice-president of the Ottawa Reform Association, in his introductory remarks as chairman, asserted that five thousand had been turned away.

The old chief was at his best, he fairly scintillated.

Sir Wilfrid dealt with charges made against him in reference to recruiting, and with recent disturbances at public meetings. Referring more particularly to the incident at Kitchener, when Sir Robert Borden was unable to speak, Sir Wilfrid expressed sincere regret that it had occurred. "I do not approve," he said, "of an interference with free speech. The gag is the gag, whether it is applied by a turbulent crowd in a public meeting, or whether it is approved in parliament by the obedient majority of a cold-blooded Government."

The Opposition leader dealt at some length with the assertions of the prime minister that Sir Wilfrid has not assisted in recruiting. After reading a list of meetings which he had addressed on behalf of recruiting, Sir Wilfrid said:

"With such a record as this, I think it is very small potatoes on the part of the prime minister of Canada."

The Liberal chieftan warmly repudiated any suggestion that he was dominated by Bourassa.

"I want to say," he emphatically declared, "That there is no man alive who can dominate Laurier. Mr. Bourassa is an able man. I know all the harm he has done me, and all the good he has done the present Government, but he shall never dominate Laurier."

In regard to conscription, Sir Wilfrid held to his position as set forth in previous statements. He declared that if returned to power he would not repeal the military service act, but would put it to a referendum. Sir Wilfrid said that conscription was not a racial question, for it had been rejected by Australia, a purely British country.

Welcomed With Ovation

Sir Wilfrid was received with loud cheering. He spoke of his twenty years' residence in Ottawa, and remarked that when he finally left public life, he would suggest that the Government of the day—whether Grit or Tory—should appoint him to the Ottawa Improvement Commission.

"I do not say that to a Union Government," he remarked, "although I see no difference between Unionism and Conservatism."

He spoke of the pleasure he had in seeing so many returned soldiers present, "men who have borne the heat and the brunt of the war, who have met the enemy face to face and will continue here the battle for freedom they began on the other side."

He then referred to a question put to him by Mr. Frupp (his opponent) a couple of weeks ago, whether Sir Wilfrid approved of the tactics of the crowd at St. Anselme, in Dorchester County, Quebec, when they prevented the Hon. Mr. Sevigny from speaking.