

The other occasion on which there was obstruction was in 1911  
Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: I see that some hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House remember that; so do I. We introduced the reciprocity measure on the 26th of January, and on the 28th of July we had not yet been able to obtain even a preliminary vote upon it. We had been met at every step by obstruction from the Conservatives, then in opposition; dilatory motions of every kind were made, speech after speech was delivered day in and day out, even in the dog days of summer. I did not complain; I did not whine. Two courses were open to me. I could have done as is done to-day by the Prime Minister; I could have introduced the closure and said that we must carry on the business of the Government and that, consistently with our dignity, we could not allow obstruction. But there was another course open to me, and that was an appeal to the people; and I advised my colleagues to give the hon. gentlemen of the Opposition the opportunity of appealing to the people. We appealed to the people and we were defeated. Heaven is my witness that I would rather stand here to-day, defeated and in opposition by that appeal to the people, than stand over there in office by the power of the gag.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Here is the position—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I would appeal to the House to keep some semblance of order, and to allow the business of the House to go on.

### Liberal and Conservative Methods Contrasted.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Here is the position of the two parties. For my part I desire nothing more than that the people shall pronounce once more. I do not envy the position which my right hon. friend takes to-day. This is the first introduction in Canada of machine politics. My hon. friend the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Rogers) told us recently that he knows how to win elections. He did not tell us the methods, however.

Some hon. MEMBERS: We know them.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: We know some of these methods. If an election takes place in British Columbia, or in Nova Scotia, lavish promises for public works are made. It may not be a federal election; it may be a provincial election. But my hon. friend has tried his hand in provincial elections also, not always with complete success. If there is an election in Antigonish a letter is sent by the Minister with abundant promises of public works. If there is an election in Richelieu, it is not a letter which is sent there, but an emissary with his hands full of promises. If it is an election in Macdonald, there is a warning sent out that all those who stand for freedom shall be put in jail. We have not yet come to that in this House, I admit. We are not threatened with durance vile. It is not alleged that we shall be sent to jail. I do not know but