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A Bad Record.

According as the Federal election campaign progresses, it becomes more and more evident that the Premier of Canada and his colleagues and supporters base their hope of success on their ability to deceive the electorate and conceal from general knowledge the real facts in connection with the great public questions of the day. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Fielding and the lesser lights and followers of the Government undertake to throw dust in the eyes of the electors, to divert their attention from the shortcomings and mal-administration of the Government, by dealing in glittering generalities. They attempt to mystify the public by constant appeals to the greatness of Canada, under Liberal rule, and the excellence of the Government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Well, let us see wherein these great achievements consist; let us see what Laurier has really done for Canada. Sir Wilfrid and his associates, when in opposition formulated a platform in 1893. In that platform Free Trade, as it is in England, was a prominent platform. Reduction of expenditure and lessening of taxation were also among the foremost planks of the platform. An annual expenditure of \$40,000,000 was viewed with alarm, and an annual taxation of \$27,000,000 was denounced as outrageous and bleeding the people white. Sir Wilfrid and his friends promised, if given power, to reduce the annual expenditure by three or four millions and promised to lower the burden of taxation by at least that many millions also.

Now, at the end of twelve years, they have not reduced, but increased the expenditure to \$112,000,000 with a prospect of \$140,000,000 the present year. Instead of cutting down taxation, they have increased it from \$27,000,000 to \$78,000,000 with a prospect of an additional increase this year of \$20,000,000. The taxation has increased from \$5.46 per head to \$11.75 per head, and the total increase of taxation amounts to \$229,150,000. The total increase in expenditure during the Liberal term of office has been \$281,976,802. The expenditure per head of population has increased from \$3.14 to \$18.39 and the increase per cent has been 170. Although proclaiming surpluses, from year to year, the national debt has increased \$20,000,000, and this year, at the rate it is advancing will see \$40,000,000 added to Canada's debt. It will thus be seen that they falsified every one of their pre-election promises and deceived the people of Canada on every statement made about the finances of the country. The Liberals have been equally false and deceiving in their statements about the tariff. They promised free trade; but they have continued the policy of protection. Sir Wilfrid and his friends make no allusion to these facts in their public meetings throughout the country. That is not very much to be wondered at. Falsehoods and deception and hypocrisy of this magnitude are not agreeable things to face; therefore, the Premier and his associates pursue a policy of superficial skimming in their appeals to the electorate.

Another question upon which the Government speakers are all but silent is the Grand Trunk Pacific railway. This is the most colossal fraud ever foisted upon the Canadian people. When this subject came before the Government, Sir Wilfrid had in his cabinet, a man admitted by the Premier and by general consent, the foremost authority on railway matters in Canada, Mr. Blair. He was minister of railways; and he disapproved of the bargain made with the company for the building of this road; thereupon Sir Wilfrid took the matter out of the hands of this minister of railways and himself became responsible for it before Parliament and before the country. Now, Sir Wilfrid Laurier admits in his public speeches that he is not a business man or a financier; but in the face of that acknowledgment he took out of the hands of a most capable minister of Railways, this most expeditious and onerous undertaking, involving the money and credit of Canada to

the extent of hundreds of millions of dollars. What is the status of this large undertaking? In 1904 Laurier and Fielding both declared its ultimate cost to the people of Canada would be only \$13,000,000. Last session the minister of Railways admitted the thirteen millions had advanced to \$38,000,000. But Mr. Borden showed that the actual cost and obligation which the people are to pay and assume in respect to this undertaking will be nothing less than \$250,000,000. After considering this statement for four days, both the minister of railways and the minister of finance admitted the amount would be \$230,000,000, at least. This is sufficient proof of the ruinous bargain made by Laurier, not a business man or a financier, in spite of his capable minister of Railways, Mr. Blair. Mr. Blair denounced the scheme in Parliament in one of the most powerful speeches ever delivered in the Commons. That speech has never been answered.

When Sir John McDonald was laying deep and solid the foundations of Canada and building the Canadian Pacific Railway, he was denounced, opposed and thwarted at every point, as far as possible, by Laurier and his friends. Now, after profiting by the statesmanship and sagacity of Sir John and his colleagues, Laurier would like to make the people believe he made Canada. There is not enough of the platform of 1893 left to make a matchbox; but the platform of Mr. Borden, enunciated a year ago, has been appropriated by the Liberals, at least to the extent of four planks.

Laurier has proved false to every trust reposed in him; he has deceived the electors on every question of public policy; he has wasted and squandered the people's heritage on political favorites, and trampled under foot every right held sacred by the people. In the face of all this he wants to be allowed to finish. To finish what? To finish giving away whatever is left of the public domain; to finish enriching his henchmen at Canada's expense; to finish involving Canada in ruinous bargains like the Grand Trunk Pacific. Are the electors of Canada desirous of allowing him to finish in this fashion?

"I come here to tell you what we are doing in the Ottawa valley and to say that on Oct. 26th a voice of condemnation will be heard from every riding along the C. P. R. beginning at Nipissing and extending to this city, and we want Ottawa to do the same."—T. W. McGARRY in his Ottawa speech.

"I say with confidence born of what I have seen and what I know of the situation between here and the Pacific coast that five o'clock on the evening of Oct. 26 will proclaim as the premier of Canada the cleanest, brightest and best man in the public life of Canada today, Mr. R. L. Borden."—Hon. W. J. Hanna in his Ottawa speech.

"What we want is good, honest, and faithful government. I want to see the day when, as soon as a government is found wanting, every man in this country will be ready to declare: 'I will step over the line, regardless of what either side may say, and turn it out.' I want to see the day when we will be a united, virile and truly Canadian race whose only object will be the advancement of this great confederation."—T. W. McGARRY in his Ottawa speech.

The statement of revenue and expenditure for September and the first six months of the current fiscal year, is one of the most depressing documents issued by the Finance Department for some months. For September alone the revenue showed a decrease of \$1,095,352 and the expenditure an increase of \$1,475,290. For the half year, the revenue decreased nearly ten millions, with the expenditure increased nearly ten millions plus four millions more on capital account. The debt in the past month was increased by \$4,351,314.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is reported as exclaiming, in reference to the charge that grafters live on his government: "I care not for this scandal, for this petty discussion in the press today as to whether Mr. Merwin got 50c more upon that or 50c less upon this. What I care for is the broad inspiration that will come to the Canadian people from the policy which we have adopted and maintained for the last twelve years." Dickens in "Harold Skimpole," portrayed a character who cared nothing for petty details about money and how it was obtained, and thought only of broad inspiration and that sort of thing. He never missed getting what was going, however, and enjoyed himself at honest men's expense.—Montreal Gazette.

"If there was no other indictment, the Civil Service commission's report should be sufficient to drive the Laurier government out of power. I am confident that such an indictment against a government in the British Isles would force it out of power within one week. It spoke of the unblushing waste of the people's money. An official in one department made the statement that \$200,000 of the people's money was wasted each year by the evils of the patronage system. Look at the exploitation of the public domain. Look at the methods of the present government in acquiring properties. The government has the power to expropriate any property it desires but whenever the present government has wanted a piece of land some favored Liberal has had an inspiration that the land in question would be required. He secures it for its value and then sells it to the government for twice as much or more. No Liberal or Conservative would approve of the Merwin transactions revealed in the marine and fisheries investigations where a middleman had come over from the States and with other friends of the government had made enormous profits. What is the difference between that and highway robbery?"—R. L. Borden.

It is fair to take the department of Marine and Fisheries as an example of all Government departments. Now, this department lately received the special attention of Messrs. Courtney, Fyfe and Bazin, the prominent Liberals, appointed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. In their report these commissioners set forth as their conviction, after investigation, that the only purpose which seems to actuate the Marine and Fisheries Department is "that of spending as much money as possible. Zeal for economy and good management is not visible. There is not only a lack of efficient organization and method in the department; but there would seem to be an utter lack of conscience." The report directly charges officials with assisting some of their friends and government supporters, to get exorbitant prices from the Government. Here is graft discovered and exposed by the Government's own commissioners. But as soon as the report is made public these commissioners are dismissed and another commission is appointed to whitewash the marine department. That is how Sir Wilfrid purifies his party from within.

The Ottawa Liberals find it very difficult to get one of their number sufficiently clear of graft to run as a candidate for the House of Commons. First Stewart was set aside, in consequence of some blood-lusting transactions with the

Government, in which his son was involved. Fraser was taken; but it was discovered that his grafting operations were so notorious that he could not hope of any success in the election; therefore "he was set aside as an undesirable candidate." Sir Wilfrid Laurier himself then stepped into the breach and took as his running mate H. B. McGiverin. Now it is discovered that Mr. McGiverin has had his paw greased. It is shown that he was employed by the Government as a middleman to purchase premises that had gone into liquidation. The liquidator wanted \$50,000 for the estate; he set it up at auction; but received no bids. The Government wanted the premises and asked Mr. McGiverin to make the offer to the liquidator. The offer was \$40,000 and this was accepted. Mr. McGiverin received \$1,000. The Government could have made this offer through the mails for 2 cents. This is another case in which \$1,000 of the people's money has been thrown away upon one of its pets, and now this favorite is Laurier's colleague contesting the city of Ottawa for a seat in the Federal Parliament. He may have to be shelved beside Mr. Fraser as an "undesirable candidate."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Fielding, and other members and supporters of the Government attempt to make little of the stealings and misappropriation of public money in the different departments. They brush these matters aside and call them trifling irregularities. This flippancy is well answered by Mr. Hanna, Provincial Secretary of Ontario, who, in the course of a speech at the great Borden meeting in Ottawa, a few days ago, discussed the matter in this fashion:—We found robberies by the hundreds of thousands of dollars in departments. Ten million dollars, according to the civil service commission, was pilfered from the pockets of the people. We traced scandal after scandal through the Burrows, the Frasers, the North Atlantic Trading company, the Imperial Pulp company and others right to the doors of the departments. No charge! If there was a health officer he would have placarded the building. If it had been hog cholera on the farm and traced the scandals were traced the whole herd would be slaughtered. But Mr. Fielding did admit that slight irregularities crept in during the expenditure of \$800,000,000 in twelve years. Is \$400,000 to the North Atlantic Trading company a slight irregularity? Is \$500,000 in one transaction to Fraser a slight irregularity? Are the great grants of lands to Burrows and Turfitt only slight irregularities? If they are, I would like to know what constitutes malfeasance in office. If you return Sir Wilfrid Laurier to finish his work he will in four years give us to understand what is crime. To finish his work, did I say? Better say in order that he may finish us. The only answer to the charges has been to abuse the men who made them, the men who attempted to disclose the facts and lift the lid.

The Last Ditch.
 Sir Wilfrid Laurier is fighting in the last ditch. All the bridges over which he once marched to victory have long since been burned behind him. Free trade, economy, honest administration, senate reform, abolition of surpluses, clean elections; these have all gone down during the retreat, and while the last session, when brought to bay, he flourished the baton of a service majority, the blows he delivered shattered forever the last remnant of Liberal policy, respect for minority rights. Now he is engaged in throwing up the feeble emplacements of "rural mail delivery," "a Minister of Labor," "a Campaign of slander" and "give me another term," from which he will be driven with the loss of his

Pickings and Stealings.

If Sir Wilfrid Laurier would descend from the lofty pinnacle of complacency on which he has placed himself, and condescend to explain to the mystified people of this Dominion what his idea of "honesty" is, he might relieve the minds of many anxious and doubtful voters.

At the same time he would explain the manner in which he fulfilled his promise to introduce this particular kind of honesty into the administration of the public affairs of this country who are now disinclined to believe in the sincerity of his promises.

In order that there may be no doubt that Sir Wilfrid Laurier did make such a promise, let us repeat for the edification of an admiring nation a portion of his speech at St. James Park, Montreal, on the 25th of April, 1896.

"There is still another very important and most vital reform which the Liberal party intends to make and that is to introduce honesty in the administration of our public affairs. I believe that the money which is in the public treasury is as sacred as the money which is in your own pocket; if you elect me to power, I promise to inaugurate an honest and economical administration."

Is there more than one meaning to the word "honesty" and if so, is the particular brand of honesty which Sir Wilfrid Laurier promised to introduce at Ottawa the kind that is so prevalent there?

Possibly we differ on the definition of honesty. Our own idea of honesty is partly defined by the Globe, when in an editorial of June 22, 1896, it said: "The Liberal leaders propose to see to it that public money is spent for public purposes, with fair profits to contractors and fair wages to workmen but with no pickings or stealings and no toll for intermediaries."

Possibly it is because Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Globe agree so well on this definition of honesty that the former "dismisses, with scorn the charges made against his government, and the latter breathes forth such righteous indignation when the Crow's Nest scandal is mentioned. The Globe claims that the latter was not a stealing. Would it assert that it was not a picking? Will Mr. Fielding, or the Globe, explain in what manner they can reconcile with the above idea of honesty, the Timber Deals by which two-fifths of the available timber of the Northwest have been given away for practically nothing. The land grants and irrigation concessions by which our lands have been given away at nominal prices.

The Blairmore Toronto deal, by which a party favorite cleared \$200,000. Payment of double prices to the contractors who outfitted the Montcalm. The stifling of investigations into departmental mismanagement and irregularity.

The endorsement of men who have become millionaires by a few years of active participation in Canadian politics. The reason the Aylesworth ditch in North York will cost \$2,000,000 when the estimated cost was given as \$350,000. The reason the Grand Trunk Pacific will cost this country \$300,000,000 instead of \$13,000,000.

The Halifax and Moncton land deals, where party favorites secured rakes of tens of thousands of dollars on minor transactions. The reason that A. W. Fraser was allowed to acquire for less than \$1,700 public lands which he immediately resold for \$100,000. The appointment to office and keeping there of men of the pug sley and Sir Fred. Borden type.

The appointment to office of men like W. T. R. Preston, J. B. Jackson, R. L. Leach and men who have convicted of various offences.

The "Thin Red Line" by which thousands of citizens in Manitoba were deprived of their rights to cast their ballots for whom they wish. If the Globe or Sir Wilfrid or Mr. Fielding would state frankly and fairly that there have been no pickings or stealings or toll for intermediaries in connection with any of the above matters, it would relieve our troubled minds. If the Globe and other Liberal journals will state that they approve of the appointment of men like Leach, Preston, Jackson, Pugisley, Emerson, Sifton, and Hyman to high public offices, or that they approve of the new meaning which the word "honesty" seems to have acquired in this country, we will at least know where the Liberal administration and the Liberal press stand on this fundamental principle of all responsible government.

reputation, amid the ruins of the Liberal party. No one can survey the campaign without feelings of disgust. An army flushed with victory, gained by pledges of honesty and economy, has under his leadership degenerated into a rabble eager only to escape with spoils looted from the public treasury. There is justification in Mr. Borden's promise that after victory there will come restitution.

A Prophetic Sacrifice.

Mckenzie King, formerly Deputy Minister of Labor, now Liberal candidate in Waterloo, reputed to be one of the strongest Liberal candidates, a man largely respected apart from his politics, is the latest prophet of Liberal disaster at the polls. He asks the electors of Waterloo to sympathize with him and vote for him on account of his great sacrifice in giving up his government post. Now Mckenzie King knows and we all know that should Laurier be returned to power he will be made a Minister, if elected. If not elected he will be given back his old position, Mckenzie King likewise knows, and the country is beginning to appreciate the fact that Laurier is not going to be returned to power—that therefore Mr. King if elected will simply be a private member in opposition, without salary, or if unelected, will have no chance to get back to his former post; hence Mr. King's feeling, voiced, as he touchingly put it, "in the presence of his father and mother and brothers and sisters", that he has in very truth too late found out that instead of bettering himself by becoming a candidate, with the promise of a portfolio in his pocket, he has in reality been called upon by his leader to make a "sacrifice", in the far from hope of trying to rally the ranks of the faithful around the discredited Laurier Government.

J. A. Mathieson, K. C., E. A. MacDonald
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GRAND Conservative Demonstration

R. L. Borden, Esq., our Leader, will address the Electors of the Province at MURRAY RIVER HALL, on TUESDAY, 20th OCTOBER, 1908, at 3 p. m. and at CHARLOTTETOWN MARKET HALL at 8 o'clock the same evening.

Special train leaves Charlottetown at 12.30 p. m., and will convey passengers to Murray River via Vernon after meeting. Passengers will be returned as far as Fodhla Station after the meeting in Charlottetown.

Special train will leave Summerside at 5 p. m. for Charlottetown and will return to Summerside after the meeting.

Cheap fares on all trains good to return up to Thursday afternoon.

AENEAS McDONALD,
 October 13th, 1908—li Secretary.

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