

elections of 1917 the Borden candidate in South Renfrew, the man for which the Mercury is published was a Roman Catholic. He ran as a Liberal Unionist against a Liberal who was of a different faith. It can therefore be assumed that when the Mercury speaks of the Big Intolerance and the Religious Cries it speaks from experience and knowledge. In an editorial on the passing of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, published in its issue of Friday March 7, 1919, the Mercury very clearly puts the situation as follows:—

"Rev. Dr. Taylor, of Renfrew, in pointing a few morals in the Methodist church on Sunday evening from the life of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, said that the deceased statesman never failed to mention, no matter in what province he might be speaking, that his blood was French and his religion Roman Catholic. Dr. Taylor might have added, with equal truth, that there were others forever pointing out the same facts and using them as ammunition against him. Wherever it was politically profitable to belittle Laurier because of his race and religion, it was done; while in Quebec the same agencies were wont to decry Laurier as being half English and more than half Protestant.

"What was at the bottom of such infamy? Ordinary politics? No. The thing at bottom was a desire to maintain a protective tariff in Canada and keep it as high as possible. Laurier might have been Hottentot by race and Mohammedan in religion for all the main assailants, the assailants launching the cries against him, would have cared, if he were but favorable to a protective tariff. Sir John Thompson, who for a while was Prime Minister of Canada, changed his religion from Methodist to Roman Catholic, but being in favor of trade barriers his religion was all right.

"Beneficiaries of tariffs regret exceedingly that D. D. Mackenzie, the new Liberal leader, is not French and Roman Catholic; for it is not so easy to inflame the majority of the Provinces against a Scotchman by descent and a Presbyterian in religion. They will now require to cultivate Quebec intensively, and whisper in other parts of the Dominion that Mackenzie is in some respects worse than Laurier. We are accustomed to speak of Hun propaganda as if it were the last word in subterfuge and intrigue, but Hun propaganda is a crude and transparent thing as compared with that carried on in this country in the interests of trade restriction.