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Political Parties in Canada.

THE political parties in Canada have undergone a change since the death of Sir John Macdonald on the 6th of June, 1891. In these thirteen years many of the old landmarks have disappeared, and some of the old political issues have been removed.

There are many men prominent in Canadian life who were strong supporters of Sir John Macdonald, who are today strong supporters of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Nearly every week a new name is published in the press as belonging to a man formerly prominent in the Conservative party, and now desirous of allying himself with the Liberal party. There are two gentlemen in the very city of St. John, where the Conservative, leader opened his campaign a few days ago. There is an ex-member of parliament in his own province of Nova Scotia. In Montreal, of course, they are more numerous. In Winnipeg there are at least three prominent men of the country who have publicly announced themselves as intending to support the government at the coming election. In the Northwest Territories there is a prominent and old Conservative who has written a letter

to this effect for publication. Many men see nothing to hold them to the party built up by Sir John Macdonald, who represented something in his own person. He had convictions, even though he sometimes subordinated them to the exigencies of political life. His personal acquaintance alone constituted a large following, an element of considerable strength.

Even before Sir John's removal, Wilfrid Laurier had grown to be a very prominent and strong figure in the public life of this country. After the death of Sir John Macdonald, there was practically an alliance between Mr. Chapleau and Mr. Laurier. That gave the Liberal leader an unquestioned supremacy in the province of Quebec. Where Mr. Tarte came in was simply as an organizing factor among the Chapleau Conservatives. The great organizer under Mr. Chapleau, and the strongest man among the Chapleau Conservatives, Mr. Dansereau, is now a thorough-going supporter of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

While the Conservative party in Canada lost its great leader in 1891, the Conservatives in Ontario were practically bereft,