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## SIR WILFRID AND HOCHELAGA.

Hon. E. L. Patenaude, the new Nationalist Minister of Inland Revenue in the Borden Cabinet, was returned unopposed for the constituency of Hochelaga on October 15th, thus taking the seat vacated by Hon. Mr. Coderre, now a judge.

Liberals of Hochelaga who naturally resented the inclusion in the Borden Cabinet of still another Bourassa Nationalist, especially as this new Nationalist minister must become their representative in Parliament, were keen for a contest and confident that they could put a candidate in the field who would have little difficulty in taking the measure of Mr. Patenaude. Before taking definite action, however, they decided to submit the matter to Sir Wilfrid Laurier with the result that the Liberal Leader strongly expressed his desire that there should be no contest, no matter how confident the Liberals of Hochelaga might be of their ability to win the election. The public announcement was then made that Mr. Patenaude would not be opposed.

Commenting on this further evidence that Sir Wilfrid is determined to abide unalterably by the attitude assumed by him as Leader of the Liberal Party at the outset of the War, the *Montreal Star*, (Conservative), in its issue of October 14th, paid the following well merited tribute to the Leader:

**"Sir Wilfrid Laurier is to be warmly commended by Canadians of all parties—who realize that the first business of every British community today is to fight and win this war—for the decisive fashion in which he prevented a breach of the political truce in Hochelaga. Sir Wilfrid pledged himself to such a truce when the first German gun was fired, and most loyally has he kept that pledge. He is with those who believe that there should be no civil division—no party election—in this country until the war is over, and with him stand, we are confident, all the better and more patriotic elements in the community.**

**"He has resisted a considerable temptation in vetoing a contest at this time in Hochelaga, when it is felt by many that the ill-smelling war purchase scandals might have offered him an effective issue.**

But he believes, apparently—and, we think, correctly that the time is not yet for a discussion of these vital and far-reaching questions before the electorate. Undoubtedly, it is the duty of Parliament as at present constituted to discuss them, for this Parliament must stand until the war is finished as the trustee of the nation. The whole country has been shamed by the revelations before the Davidson Commission, and, in war-time, punishment for such offences should be even swifter than in the less critical periods of peace. But this is a far different matter from seeking to strengthen a political party in Parliament by contesting an open constituency.

"In taking this stand, Sir Wilfrid will have the support—not only of the saner sections of his own party—but of the less partizan portions of the Conservative party as well. He may not get his just meed of praise from sychophants who ever worship the risen sun—from self-seekers who fawn upon the powers that be—but he will receive his reward in the esteem of all manly men who neither partyism nor "patronage" can blind, and from the calm verdict of history which will immortalize the statesmen who stand most steadily by the State in this, her supreme hour of trial."

## THE MANITOBA PROSECUTIONS.

The course of the prosecutions against the four ex-ministers of Manitoba has run its appointed course since the formal arrest on August 31st of Sir Rodmond Roblin and Messrs. Montague, Coldwell and Howden. The preliminary hearing in the police court in Winnipeg, commenced a few days after their arrest, was completed on October 8th, when all four were committed for trial in the higher court. Since then it has been intimated that their trial before a jury on the original conspiracy charge will take place at the next regular session of the Criminal Assize Court of Manitoba. Thomas Kelly, head of the contracting firm which was found by the Royal Commission to have received some \$882,000 in excess of what they were entitled to on the Parliament Buildings contracts, was arrested at Chicago, October 1st, and extradition proceedings seeking to bring him before the Manitoba courts succeeded Nov. 11. Kelly went to the United States shortly after the Royal Commission commenced its sittings and had not since been in Canada.

The doings of the late Roblin government are being probed further at Winnipeg. Chief Justice Mathers, sitting as a Royal Commission, has been investigating for some weeks past the contracts for the new Law Courts in Winnipeg. The evidence to date has revealed some extraordinary proceedings in connection with the letting of the original contract and Chief Justice Mathers has commented severely on more than one occasion on the disappearance of documents which should have been available for the enquiry.