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Sir Wilfrid at Quebec Meeting

Eloquence Stirs French as He
Speaks of Duty of All Cana-

Quebec, Dec. 8.—The historic old hall at St. Peter's market, which has been the scene of many memorable political gatherings, and in which Sir Wilfrid Laurier received the returns of the elections in 1911, was again today the scene of a notable gathering when Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the leader of the Liberal party, addressed a large meeting under the auspices of the Quebec Citizens' Recruiting Association.

Thousands of people thronged to the hall, which was all too small to accommodate the crowd. Nearly three thousand people filled it, and twice as many more gathered outside, unable to gain admission.

The meeting was most orderly in every respect, and was presided over by Sir Lomer Gouin, who is chairman of the recruiting association. Sir Wilfrid delivered a stirring appeal, declaring that when England was at war Canada was at war. He outlined the duty of all true Canadians, and affirmed that if he were a young man he would take up arms and fight for the triumph of justice and humanity.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier was given a rousing reception, and was cheered to the echo as he resumed his seat.

An appeal to the young men present to join the colors was also made by Lieut. Chamuel, a returned French army officer, who announced that a French-Canadian brigade, commanded by French-Canadian officers, would shortly be formed in England.

As Sir Wilfrid concluded his speech,

Martin Madden, member of the Quebec legislature for Quebec West, presented the Liberal leader with a floral crown from the electors of the west.

In acknowledging the tribute Sir Wilfrid thanked the Irish of the Quebec division, and said he would take the bouquet to Ottawa and give it to their French compatriots there.

In his opening remarks, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that he had come to Quebec to tell the truth as he understood it, and to define the duties which belonged to Canada as a nation in the present war. He felt proud to be again amidst his electors in the good old division of Quebec East, with which he had been associated so intimately for many years.

For twenty-eight years he had the honor of having the destinies of the

Liberal party in his hands, and for fifteen years he had had the destinies of the entire country in his hands. The Liberal party had fallen in 1911, but they had fallen with their heads high, and their left a record against which nothing could be said.

"You all know," said Sir Wilfrid, "that the main issue in the province of Quebec at the last elections was not reciprocity but the naval question, and the cries of our adversaries were all about the navy."

"You have here over the province of Quebec," Sir Wilfrid declared, "the chairman of this meeting, Sir Lomer Gouin, and all will agree that he gives the best government that the province ever had, and no other province in Canada could compare with the province of

Quebec under the leadership of Sir Lomer Gouin.

"When England is at war, Canada is at war," Sir Wilfrid asserted with vigor, and said that with the war the provinces and cities on the Pacific coast were exposed. He recalled what a panic there had been when, at the outbreak of the war, in August, 1914, it became known that there were German cruisers in the Pacific ocean. The coast was defenceless. There was only the Rainbow, and he reminded his audience what a number of jets they had heard about the Rainbow at the last elections. In the hour of menace, however, there was nothing left for them to do but to call for the Rainbow to defend the western cities, and besides they hastened to Seattle and purchased two submarines to repel the apprehended German attack.

Taking up the question of why Canadians should fight in the present war, Sir Wilfrid remarked that some argued that it was all very well to defend Canada, but why go over and fight for England?

"What blindness; what injustice," exclaimed Sir Wilfrid.

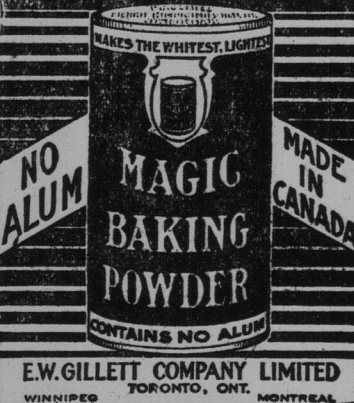
"Who is England fighting for today? For herself? No; England is not fighting for herself today," he affirmed. "It was not England that was invaded on the 3rd of August, 1914, but it was England that, on August 4, 1914, declared war on Germany to save Belgium from Prussian arrogance. We heard it said that Canadians should not go and fight, but where are Canadians fighting? Where are they shedding their blood?" asked Sir Wilfrid.

"Every drop of blood shed by French-Canadians is shed on French soil, the soil of the mother country. They have given their blood that France may live, and that is why young Canadians are called upon to fight."

"If it is an admission of England," said Sir Wilfrid, "I do not say that the history of England does not contain anything to which exception may be taken. The history of France is not more exempt from errors than that of England. If it were in my power I would like to wipe out those pages of England's history which record the ill-treatment of Ireland, which are a blot on her fair name."

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of this as Canada, and particularly French-Canadians.

Canada, he said, had a charter so comprehensive that nobody could prevent the country from taking part in the war. He had no confidence in the present government of Canada, Sir Wilfrid said, but as to its attitude on the war he thought the government was right and he had supported it.

Sir Wilfrid then pictured to his audience the programme of spoliation which the Germans had outlined, and he also depicted the atrocities which were perpetrated wherever the Germans had penetrated.

Sergeant (to Tommy who had fallen out on the march).—"Well, McNab, what's the matter? This is the sixth time you have fallen out today." Tommy—"Well, sergeant, ye see as it happens my feet are not my fortune." Sergeant (angrily).—"You ought to have joined the Flying Corps. You would only have had to fall out once then."

Belgians are Starving While Canadians Have Plenty

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We have given much—but barely enough to help keep the Belgians alive. More of them every week are calling for help, as their own resources are exhausted, and every one of the millions should have something more than three slices of bread and the pint of soup which is all the Relief Commission can supply out of present contributions.

If you have been helping, do more if you can till the war is over and Belgium is free. If you have not given yet, will you make up for lost time with a substantial contribution? Better still, will you give, every month, enough to feed one or more Belgian families, at the rate of \$2.50 each per month?

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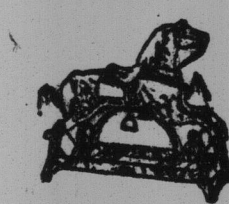
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