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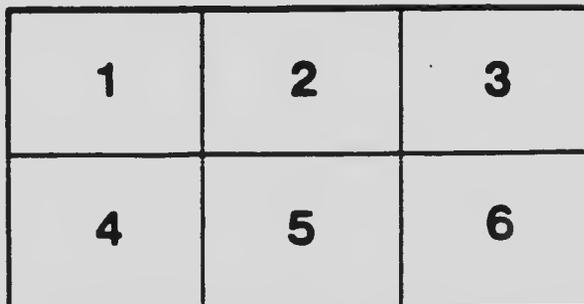
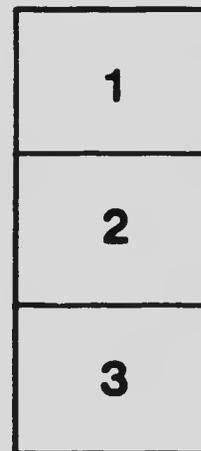
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**LAURIER
LUCK**

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“Laurier Luck”

“A little more Laurier luck is what this country needs just now,” said an Old Political Observer the other day.

“Why,” replied a Conservative friend who had been offering reasoned explanations of the present depressing conditions, “you don’t seriously suggest that luck is a political policy do you?”

“No,” replied the old P.O., “and I do not pretend to understand why good luck follows one man and bad luck follows another man, whether it is in cards, or in love, or in business, or in politics. I only know it does.

“You may remember that when the elections of 1911 brought Mr. Borden into power this country was at the height of a prosperity such as it had never known. Well, at lunch one day I said to a friend of mine, a Conservative, ‘I don’t grudge you people your success, but I’m afraid of this man Borden. He’s unlucky, and he’s almost sure to spoil the Laurier luck?’ ‘Don’t talk nonsense’ said he, ‘Canada will now just strike into her stride. And anyway, why do you say Borden is unlucky?’ ‘Well,’ I answered, ‘one day I was going East on the Intercolonial train, and as we passed the Quebec Bridge everybody in the car went to the windows to admire it. Next day I got back to Quebec by boat, and what was the news we heard? First that the bridge had fallen. Next that Mr. Borden had been there making a speech. Now Mr. Borden rarely or never went to Quebec; why should he go there just the day the bridge was to fall? It wasn’t his fault; it was his luck. Now you look out for him. With Laurier it was just the other way. I was in Moose Jaw when

he got there in the summer of 1910 on his political tour of the West. That was a drought year. It hadn't rained for six weeks, and Moose Jaw was so dry that with every breath your throat was lined with dust. And at three o'clock, just before the meeting opened, **It Rained.** It seems this experience was repeated time after time in the dry belt. But when he went to Prince Rupert, the rainiest place in Canada, the sun shone all the time he was there. Why, I remember away back in 1897, when good times were just beginning in Canada, I asked a farmer at the Market in Guelph whether his crops were good that year. "Yes, young man," he said, 'and you mark my words; the crops will be good and the times will be good as long as this man Laurier stays in power." How did he know? I don't know, but he was right, wasn't he?"

"And now," continued the Old Political Observer, "You see I was right. Borden didn't make the War, but it was just his luck. Some years ago it used to be a joke in Montreal that he brought bad weather with him. If there was snow out of season, it was more than an even chance Mr. Borden was registered at the Windsor. You can't beat your luck, and it was foreshadowed that if Bad Luck Borden became Premier hard times would be sure to put in an appearance.

"Well," commented the Old Political Observer's Conservative friend, "however it is, 'we're here and you're there,' and you'll need something more than luck to win this next election."

"May be," agreed the old P.O.; possibly Canada is not at the end of her bad luck period yet. But you mark my words. If Bad Luck Borden stays there you'll hear a lot about bankruptcy, national and individual, and if the fates give us four years of Laurier the sun will begin to shine again. When the luck is good, you can't beat it. When the luck is bad, you can't beat it either."

PUBLISHED BY
CENTRAL INFORMATION OFFICE
OF THE
CANADIAN LIBERAL PARTY
OTTAWA, CANADA, 1915





