

LAURIER AND THE LARGER CANADA SUPPLEMENT TO  
**THE DAILY BRITISH WHIG**

KINGSTON, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16th, 1908

**THE NEW CANADIAN ERA  
 BEGINS WITH LAURIER**

The Twelve Years During Which He Has Held the Premiership Mark an Epoch in Our History—His Work Will Always Live.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier may be fairly described as the first statesman of the new Canadian era. Much of the lifework of his predecessors had been done before Confederation. At Confederation Laurier was a young man, just beginning his practice at the bar, and it was four years after Confederation when he began his public career as a member of the Quebec Legislature. Three years later he made his first appearance in the House of Commons. For many years he was known as a graceful orator, little interested in the ordinary political strife, but always commanding attention by the dignity and grave courtesy of his bearing, and the distinction of his style.

From the time that he was elected leader of the Opposition in 1887 he steadily grew in public esteem. It was gradually realized that he possessed not only eloquence of speech and urbanity of manner, but strength, in an uncommon degree, simplicity, directness, and the power to make decisions quickly. He could rise to an occasion, and the greater the occasion the better. This characteristic was generally remarked in the various meetings that have been held in England for the discussion of Imperial affairs. His tact, judgment, and firmness gave him a high position among the leading representatives of the Empire. He is at his very best in deliberation upon affairs of national importance, upon Imperial questions and international questions.

The twelve years during which he has held the premiership have marked an epoch in Canadian history. Not since Confederation has there been such a vital change in the position of Canada, and in the Canadian outlook. For many years Canada has been a land of promise. It has become a land of fulfillment. Doubt, misgiving, disappointment have vanished; the hopes of the founders of Confederation, long deferred, have been realized, or assured of realization. Canada has become, in fact if not in name, a nation, with national aspirations, ready to do a nation's work in the world. The golden West, long unpeopled, is being rapidly turned into a country of homes. Religious and racial strife have vanished, and all the diverse elements of our population are working together to build up here a free and strong commonwealth.

With this splendid era the name of Sir Wilfrid Laurier will always be associated.

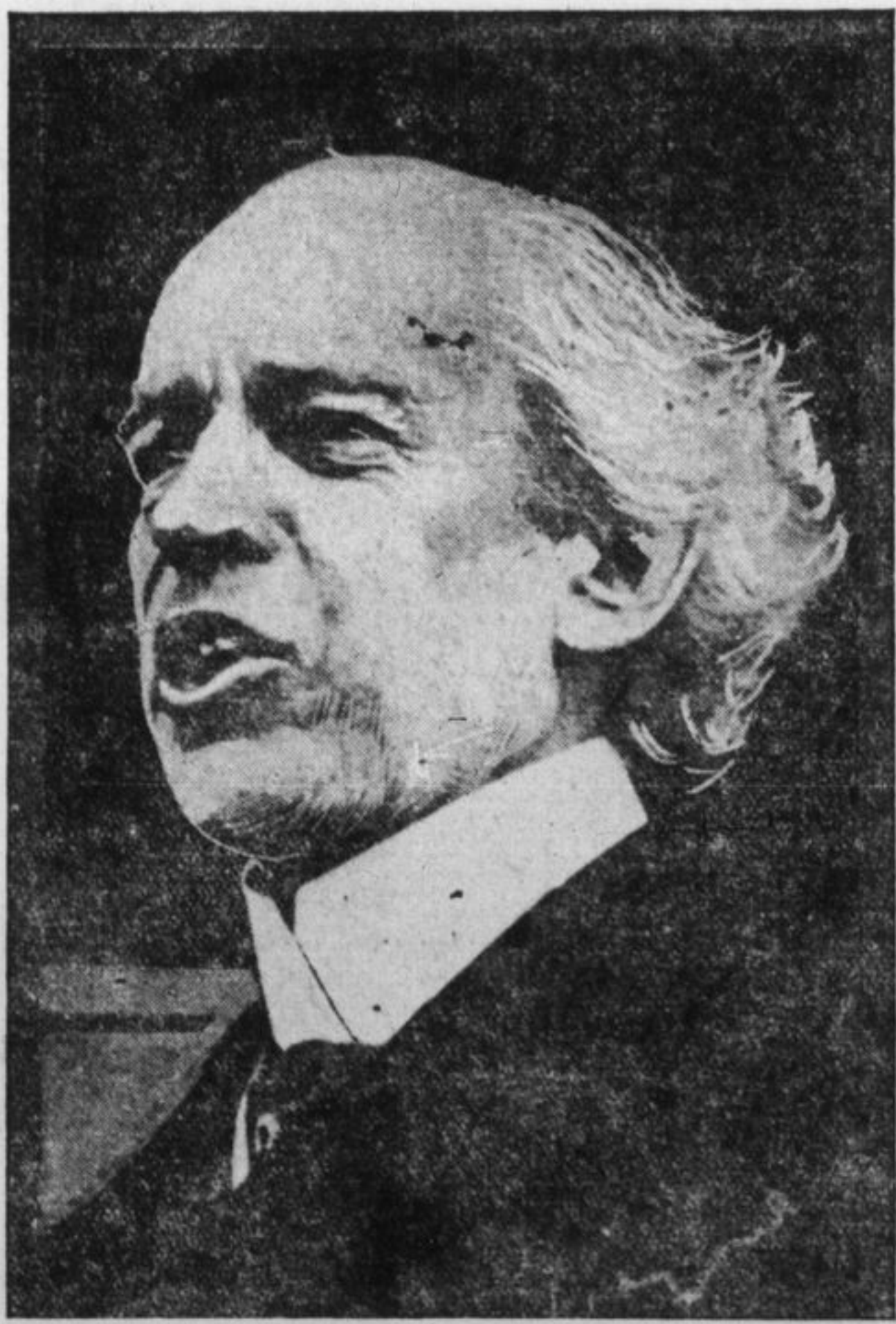
**OUR PRIME MINISTER  
 LEADS SIMPLE LIFE**

And Is Stronger Now Than He Was Six Years Ago—An Early Riser.

Four years ago when the last general election campaign was held the Prime Minister was a sick man. Yet, in the face of this physical handicap, he was here, there, and everywhere in the fight, encouraging his own following and ready at all times to meet his opponents face to face. But in the years that have intervened his remarkable vitality has given him victory over the tortures of indigestion. Sir Wilfrid is a much

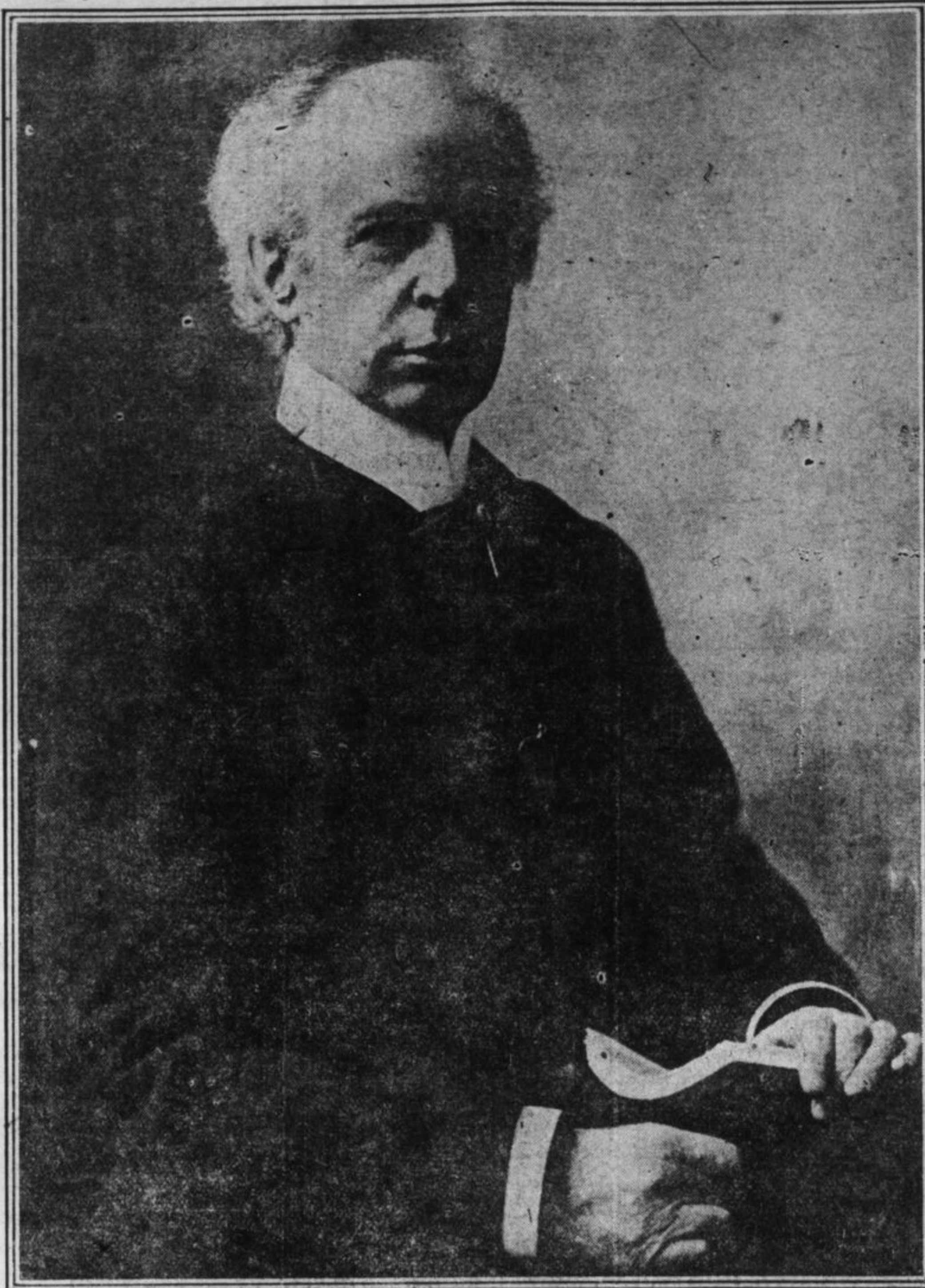
stronger man at sixty-six than he was at sixty, and in every way equal to the exertions which his campaign of the next five weeks will involve.

Whether as Prime Minister, or as the country editor and lawyer, he has throughout his career followed the simple life, and it is wonderful indeed to those who have known him from boyhood to see how little his habits of living have changed. On the mornings when everyone else is sleeping in after a particularly late sitting of the House of Commons, Sir Wilfrid is up as usual, shaves himself, and is finished with his simple but substantial breakfast in time to get down to business as early as the earliest clerk. His private secretary is on hand at that hour, with the overnight mail, and an hour, or an hour and a half, is enough as a rule to dispose of the correspondence.



"OUR HEART IS IN THE FUTURE."

"The different nationalities were separated in the past, but the past is forgotten. Our heart is in the future, in unity, harmony, peace, and concord for our beloved Canada."—From a speech of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.



SIR WILFRID LAURIER, CANADA'S GREATEST STATESMAN.

**"I AM TRUE  
 TO ENGLAND"**

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, While in Opposition, Described Himself as an English Liberal.

TRUE TO CAUSE OF LIBERTY AND JUSTICE

Said He Belonged to the School of Hampden, Pym, and Burke.

G. W. ROSS' APT DESCRIPTION

Referred to the Dominion Premier as a "Picture Gallery All by Himself."

In the Liberal press and on the hustings throughout Canada the appeal is made by Liberal speakers in the present campaign that Sir Wilfrid Laurier should be allowed to finish his work referring to the construction of the new Transcontinental Railway, which is to open to settlement the great hinterland of Canada. But, perhaps, after all, it may not be through this great conception of the future destiny of the Dominion that his name will go down in history, so much as it will be through his work as a conciliator in a land where the greatest need is peace.

"French by birth, but British by citizenship," has been his boast alike in French and in English-speaking Canada, and happily, before his public career has closed, to Sir Wilfrid Laurier as Prime Minister has been given the privilege of witnessing the lasting reconciliation of the English and French races in Canada.

An English Liberal.

In one of the notable speeches of his Opposition days, he made profession of his principles in the following terms: "I am true to my race, I am true to Canada, I am true to England, and I am, above all, true to the cause of liberty and justice. Sir, I am of French origin, and I have the pride of my race; but in politics I am an English Liberal. The principles which I profess, such as they are, are the outgrowth of study and reflection. They did not come to me from the land of

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**LOVES SCOTTISH SONGS.**

Sir Wilfrid has always had a warm corner in his heart for the Scotch, and he always enjoys a meeting among them. Deeply bedded in his sensitive nature are the roots of a love for Scottish loyalty and Scottish tolerance, which came to him from his residence as a boy with a Scottish family named Fraser, in the Province of Quebec. At a French-Canadian concert, not long ago, a friend made the remark that no songs equalled the French. "But that is not so," replied Sir Wilfrid. "There are no songs that touch my heart like the Scotch." The spell of those sweet simple lays of Scotland, to which he had listened so often in the days of his youth, had never been broken. "Mid all the changing scenes of his after life, and this is characteristic of the man—his directness, his broad-mindedness, and his steadfastness of purpose."

**TWO ELECTION STORIES  
 THAT HIT RIGHT HOME**

Hon. Mr. Fielding Tells a Pair of "Tunnel" Anecdotes with Points to Them.

At the Massey Hall meeting Mr. Fielding told two stories that hit political nails on the heads. One of them he told "off the bat" in reply to a remark from someone in the audience. One illustrated his remark that "if we have given you a \$100,000,000 budget, we have also given you a \$100,000,000 country." In this particular tunnel was a train, as trains have a habit of being, and in the train was a young couple, as young couples have a habit of being. As the train emerged and the girl was adjusting her veil, "George," she remarked, "do you know that this tunnel cost millions of dollars?" "Hum," he said, smacking his lips, "I don't care a darn if it did; it was worth it all, and more too."

Speaking of tunnels, Mr. Fielding was reminded that Mr. Foster, who is so opposed to election promises of public works, has been offering Prince Edward Island a tunnel if the Conservatives are returned to power. "He is safe in doing that," shouted someone, amid roars of laughter. "That reminds me," and he proceeded at once with a tale of the man who went to a grocery store. "How much does \$2.00," said the grocer. "But I went to Jones and asked him what his price was, and he said \$2.00." "Then why don't you buy from Jones?" "Well," confessed the customer, "you see Jones is out of flour."

The story hit straight home.

A Clean Campaign. In the Laurier campaign no effort is being made to stampede the vote, the addresses are logical, blatancy and scandalizing are eschewed.

**CANADA NOW LAND  
 OF FULFILLMENT**

Has Always Been a Land of Promise, But Now Is Something More.

THE GOVERNMENT'S SHARE

If Industry Languished It Would be Blamed, So Now Credit Should be Given.

Canada has for many years been a land of promise. In the last twelve years it has become a land of fulfillment. There may be honest difference of opinion as to the extent to which this result is due to the acts of the present Administration. If the country were in the midst of deep depression, if the industries were languishing, if its farmers were unable to find a market for their produce, if the West had failed to attract a stream of immigrants, does any man in his senses believe that these calamities would not be ascribed to the Liberal Government? Every other accusation against the Government would be subordinated to the grand indictment that it had ruined the industries of the country, turned a garden into a desert, discouraged the people and sent them abroad into foreign lands to earn their bread. The Mackenzie Government was defeated by the use of such argument and by none other. Its honesty is now fully admitted by Conservatives, and Mackenzie has been canonized. There would be neither fair play nor common sense in blaming a Government for hard times, and giving it no credit for such abundant prosperity and amazing progress as Canada has enjoyed during the last twelve years. There was a short season of prosperity after the introduction of the National Policy, and Conservatives never failed to take the credit to themselves. One of them went so far as to say that the N. P. caused the hens to lay larger eggs.

**SIR WILFRID VIGOROUS**  
 Going through Campaign With Abundance of Health.

Sir Wilfrid himself is going through this campaign with an abundance of physical as well as of mental vigor. Back of those steady eyes of his the lamp of thought seems burning continually. His is the convincing clear-cut face of a man whose private and public life is unblemished. Not an apology has he to make. With the confidence of a statesman, who has done his best, and that nobly, he faces his people unafraid and undismayed.

**THE PERSONAL MAGNETISM  
 OF SIR WILFRID THE MAN**

The Ties Which Bind Him to the People and Give Him His Hold on Them.

HIS IMPRESSIVE SINCERITY

Nothing of the Hypocrite About the Chieftain—The Premier in Action.

The secrets of Sir Wilfrid's hold upon the public are manifold. Some of them have to do with the man in the silk topper, the imposing figure of a world-statesman who is also a Canadian. But there is another tie which binds his people to him. It is the settled conviction that the man in the old soft hat, the Sir Wilfrid of the leisure hour, is exactly the same Sir Wilfrid as the man who steps upon the platform with his data carefully enunciated in the silk topper upturned on the table beside him. It is all summed up in the spontaneous expression of one loyal patriot who watched him at one of his recent meetings. "Say, boys," he soliloquized, "I think that man's straight," and he meant straight in something more than public life. He meant that the Chieftain is sincere; no hypocrite. If he had seen the Premier lounging in his car in the beloved comfort of an old felt hat, he would possibly have remarked that the felt hat life of the man and the silk hat life of the leader are pretty much in accord, and that neither has been besmirched.

His Favorite Gesture. Offhand, an observer would probably

**A CAMPAIGN INCIDENT.**

Even the most bitterest of trials have their humorous side. A supporter once telegraphed to Sir Wilfrid from a remote constituency: "Report in circulation here that your antagonism to religion is so strong that you have never had any of your children baptized. Very damaging to party. Telegraph me if untrue." Sir Wilfrid's reply was characteristic: "Statement is unfortunately quite true. I never had a child to baptize."

say that the eloquent French-Canadian is a man of many moods. He is. But there are two or three which he uses again and again, and of these, one, which is his favorite and his best, Sir Wilfrid of the outstretched arms, palms to the people, baring his breast, as it were, as one who would say, "I leave you to judge of it all"—this is the Chieftain convincing, the Premier with a record which he is not ashamed to own. Other aids to eloquence he has which are strong and free. The clinched hands held almost at a level with the face defy the criticism of the foe. The open left, with the right fist pounded into it; this is the clincher of the finished argument. Many, it must be remembered, at the recent open-air meetings held in Ontario where vaster concourses came together than could be reached by a human voice, knew nothing of the leader's discourse save what they gathered from this hand-play, with a word occasionally wafted on the flicking breeze. Yet they laughed with Sir Wilfrid's hands; became earnest with Sir Wilfrid's hands; mocked his foes by Sir Wilfrid's hands; and most of all, were convinced by Sir Wilfrid's open-record surrender of himself and his record to their judgment and their will.

**FIFTY THOUSAND HEARD HIM,  
 TRIUMPHANT ONTARIO TOUR**

Nothing of the Glad-Hand Artist About Sir Wilfrid—His Is Quiet Dignity.

Accepting the very lowest estimates of attendance, it is conceded that over 50,000 people went to hear Sir Wilfrid in the triumphant course of his seven meetings in Western Ontario. Many of them walked miles, others drove more miles, others went by train still more miles. Many saw him, not one-half heard him, but the magnetism of the man held them all. More than this, of course, there was the realization that the figure before them was a world-figure, that no utterance of his could be more important than his achievements. They saw in Sir Wilfrid the man who had done things. That, after all, was their best guarantee that he would do things still.

The Laurier gatherings were not solely Liberal; neither will the Laurier vote be

Sir Wilfrid is neither a glad-hand

vote-juggler, nor a hurrah artist. There have been statesmen who have bluffed voters into camp by an affected bonhomie, by getting "down with the boys," by a shrieking assumption of patriotism and waving of the flag. Of this type Sir Wilfrid Laurier is not. He does not lose poles even when he gains enthusiasm. His is the quiet dignity of conscious power. His hand-shake thrills, but it thrills because it is sincere. Hundreds have shaken hands with him, and if one thing has been noticeable more than another it has been that they have been of the type of "gushers" who rush forward to clasp hands and yell "Hurrah, Bill!"

As for the demonstrations accorded the Premier, there can be no discounting the real regard with which they thronged. Non-partisan addresses hailed the First Minister as a man of ideal private and of zealous public life. The Canadians and Americans at Niagara, the Scotch at Strathroy, the French at Tibury, the Germans at Berlin, men and women of these and other nations at Clinton, North Bay, and Jackson's Point—all have united in a tribute of unsurpassed solidity to the man who has made Canadians prouder of Canada than ever Canadians have been before.



"OH, YE OF LITTLE FAITH."

"We want to provide another railway to Hudson's Bay. There will then be the present route and the Hudson's Bay route, and the man who raises wheat and cattle will have two outlets for his production. We have been told, 'Are you not going to hurt the trade of the St. Lawrence if you do that?' 'Oh, ye of little faith,' the trade of Canada is too great even for these two outlets."—From speech of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

**Vote on October 26th For Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Unity, and Progress**