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SECOND SECTION

## SIR WILFRID LAURIER; THE STATESMAN

By DR. ANDREW MACPHAIL.

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Sir Wilfred Laurier has served his country in its Parliament for 39 years. He entered the Legislature of Quebec in November 7th, 1871, as member for Athabaska. In 1874 he was elected to the House of Commons from the same district. Three years later, October 8th, 1877, he entered the cabinet with the portfolio of inland revenue. The following day he presented himself for re-election and in October 17th, when the polls closed it was

men's toleration. He is always amused but never annoyed; and with all his experience, his experience has not made him hopeless or sad. He is a man of vision, of imagination, and yet he has never brought himself to really believe that the men by whom he is surrounded are angels, no matter how faithfully they may defend them, or that his opponents are always hopelessly in the wrong.

Possibly the education which he received in his youth may help to account for his sagacious and sympathetic attitude towards all opinions, no matter how absurd they may seem. The motherless boy attended the elementary school of his native parish till he was twelve years old. Then he spent a year at a Protestant school at New Glasgow, and lived with an Irish family. Much of his leisure was spent in the house of John Murray, who was an elder in the church of Scotland and had been educated for its ministry. In proof of this surmise his own words may be quoted: "The pure family life and the godly conduct of the Murrays impressed me and convinced me that a Protestant can be an earnest, true Christian, as well as a Catholic."

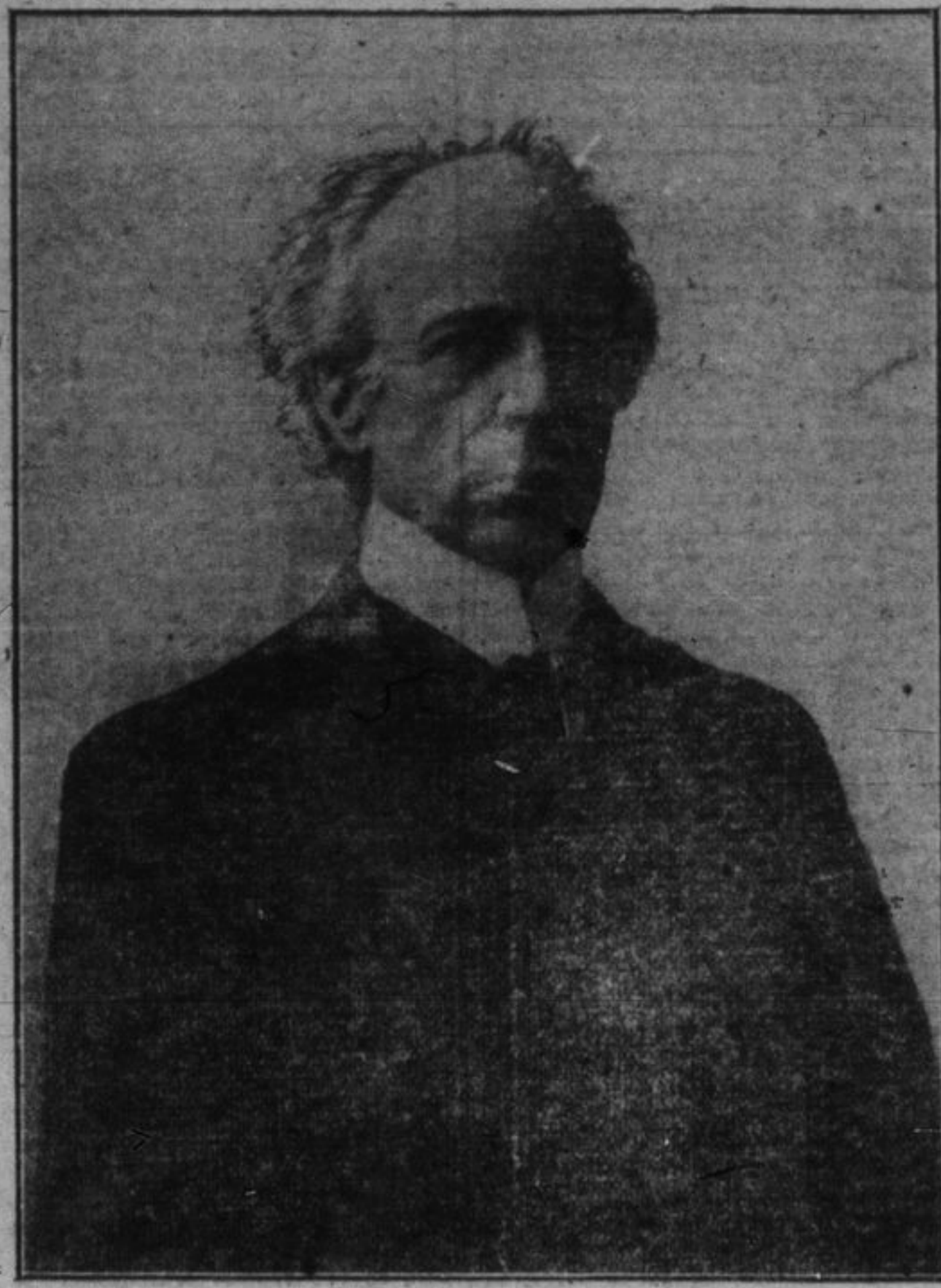
The next seven years were spent in L'Assomption College, one of those institutions which are the last refuge of education on the American continent. In 1861 he entered McGill University, and graduated from the faculty of law at the expiration of his course. In the valedictory address which he made to his fellow students he charged them that their mission was to cause justice to reign; to separate the true from the false; to maintain the rights of citizens; to preserve the general peace; to preserve for the family its inheritance; for the individual his honour; for the public the just repression of offences; to hold within limits the audacity of the powerful; and to relieve the wretchedness of the weak, without violence to the one, or indulgence to the other.



Prof. Dr. Andrew Macphail, M.D.

found that he had been defeated by a majority of 29 votes. On November 25th he was returned from Quebec East, and has represented that constituency till this day.

On September 17th, 1878, the government was defeated by a majority of 86. On October 9th, Mr. Mackenzie resigned office, and on April 28th, 1880, he retired from the leadership of the



RIGHT HON. SIR WILFRID LAURIER.

He can manage a campaign or a debate in parliament with equal ease, his favourite method being to encourage his opponents to raise a cloud of dust in which they cannot find their way. That plan worked to perfection in the debate upon the naval bill.

And yet, on the other hand, he has a mind of extreme innocency, directness, and—had almost said—simplicity.

He has the faculty of getting hold of a thing by the right end, of seeing into the heart of a matter, and handling his material in the most natural way. He gives the impression which one receives upon beholding a practical craftsman engaged in tasks which to the inexperienced are impossible or done only with much labor.

It is easy to know what he will do in any given case. All one has to do is to ask one's self, what is the common-sense of the thing. Then one knows what course the premier will take, whether it be a question of giving schools to Protestants or to Catholics, making a treaty, building a navy, sending armed forces overseas, or providing for the consolidation and defence of the empire. But he must not be hurried. No one understands better the solving power of time upon political problems.

No man in Canadian public life has received more attention at the hands of political calculators. He has been blamed by Protestants for being a good Catholic, and he has been accused by Catholics of being a bad Catholic. At one election it was affirmed that he was a Protestant minister, an apostate, and a companion of the excommunicated.

The English have blamed him for speaking French; and his own people have blamed him for speaking French with an English accent. All this means that he is a man first, and a Catholic and Frenchman afterwards. Even the crime of treason has been laid to his charge but all the notice his detractors received was a epigram and a few chance reflections upon their foolishness rather than upon their wickedness. In forty years, however, no opponent has been so base as to utter a slander which touched his personal honor, the purity of his private life or the righteousness of his character.

He has opponents but no enemies; and that is the highest achievement of a man, who has been in public life nearly all his days. In the tortuous course of the political way, no matter how sudden the emergency, he has never been known to utter an ill-natured expression and rarely a harsh one.

His knowledge is so exact, his mastery of public affairs so great, and the discipline of his party so firm, that parliament is disposed to rely more absolutely than it ought upon the direction of one individual. In this Sir Wilfrid has the defect of his quality.

To write the life of Sir Wilfrid Laurier is to write the history of Canada for half a century. That is not the present intention, especially as the task has already been so admirably performed by Mr. Willison; but rather to give a view from near observation of the person of a great and faithful servant of the people of Canada, and of the British crown.

But the art of writing can convey a complete idea of his humorous face, his expression which is more than quaint and not quite whimsical, his old-world way of standing and moving, his gentle courteous bearing, his affable, complaisant, winsome, cheery manner, which may all be summed up in the word debonair.

Lady Laurier is no less interesting a figure than her husband. She gives one the impression of being in her own home entertaining her neighbors. The friendly frankness of her speech, the accuracy of her comment, the shrewd wit, the justness of her opinions, especially upon the conduct proper to women is a refreshment, the more especially when it is heard in so high a quarter. Lady Laurier would be a model premier in a parliament of women, though I fear the deliberations would not be very prolonged.

The French have a word, *bonhomme*, that is, a person who is in possession of bonhomie, which is a mixture of good nature, honesty, humour, wisdom, and simplicity. Such a person one may sometimes see sitting by his door in the evening of his life having done good in his time and quietly rejoicing in his labours. I should say that this term, which was once applied to him by Mr. Thomson, more accurately than any other defines Sir Wilfrid.

Every man who is presented with an umbrella is expected to put something up.

A girl is willing to walk when she is courted; she wants an automobile when she is married.



SIR WILFRID'S OTTAWA RESIDENCE.

opposition. He was succeeded by Edward Blake, and he in turn retired June 2nd 1887. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was unanimously chosen as leader on June 7th, and has occupied that place for twenty-three years. In 1896 the liberals were returned to parliament in the majority, and their leader became prime minister, a post which he still holds.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier was born on November 20th 1841, at St. Lin, in the County of Assomption. His father was a land-surveyor. His grandfather was a farmer, yet interested in mathematics and the science of those days. His mother was Marcelline Martineau. Her only child was Wilfred, and she died when he was four years old. On May 13th 1868, he married Zoe Lafontaine, of Montreal. That a man is both and is married—these are two of the four events of real importance in his life.

The most notable servants of the crown in the overseas Dominion are Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Louis Routh, and neither is of English birth. They are the most useful of that race, nationalists, and patriots. These sentiments were uttered nearly 40 years ago, and the speaker has never since departed from them. Unless one gains a close apprehension of the central thought, he can form no estimate of what Sir Wilfrid Laurier has done for Canada and for the world. Still less can one follow the course which he has consistently pursued.

He is not an idealist. He is a practical statesman who prefers to get a thing done in the best way it can be done rather than not get it done at all. He is not fond of the impossible. What he cannot effect by persuasion he never attempts to do by force. He is fully aware how complicated a business the world is, how selfish some men are. For both he has an im-

He was brought up in a hard school. Before he was yet thirty he was in the thick of real political and religious strife. Politics was not then a question of awaiting a contract or filling an office. The issue was whether free-born men should govern themselves, or whether they should be governed by the terms of the "Programme Catholique" which was the last political expression of ultranationalism, or by the "Protestant Defence Association," or by both.

Those were the days, too, when Canada was a congeries of widely separated provinces with different or hostile interests. The sound of the "Papineau gun" had scarcely died out; Louis Mackenzie's efforts had not yet fully decided if the Executive was to be subject to the control of Parliament, or if it would surrender to the people the privileges which it had usurped and had insolently retained. It is little wonder then that Sir Wilfrid learned how to handle himself as he does in a debate over the production of some papers we shall see, or at an imperial conference where the choicest wits of the empire are assembled.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier came to the scrutiny of British institutions with a fresh eye; and he was quick to discover the high place which government by party holds. Before a party can govern it must get into power; and if it would continue to govern it must stay in power. Sir Wilfrid never forgets that, whilst he is prime minister, he is also leader of a party, and he is as adroit in performing the duties of the one as of the other. Any one who supposes that he does not understand the management of a campaign will find himself sadly mistaken; and opponents who resort to subtlety, adroitness, and skill in contriving are very likely to find themselves over-matched.

Sir Wilfrid always tells the truth, or rather, he never says a thing which is not true. At times he allows his opponents to remain in doubt, or even as victims of their own misconception. Yet one would not say that he was entirely simple-minded in political ad-

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## MAKE A NEW ALASKA

BEASTS ARE INDUSTRIAL FACTORS ON FROZEN PLAINS.

Revolutionized the Eskimos—Equivalent of Sheep in Affording Material for Food and Clothing—Takes Place of Horse.

Detroit News-Tribune.

Many people doubtless still believe the reindeer to be non-existent save in the love that accompanies the Yuletide celebrations, but old Uncle Sam, who has an eye for the practical side of everything, took pains to investigate the question of Santa Claus' steeds and discovered that the reindeer industry could be made vastly profitable. Uncle Sam set to work to raise reindeer some years ago and to-day, it is said, this animal has done much to revolutionize Alaska and the Eskimos as the automobile has done in the United States.

The invasion of the big business by the white men virtually put the Eskimo out of business, inasmuch as the profitable pursuit of their old occupations of hunting and fishing was discontinued. The only salvation for the Eskimo was the reindeer, which would fit them to be of use to the white men. The reindeer proved the key to this perplexing situation. The introduction of the horned animals made familiar to us all by the traditions of Kris Kringle, has put the Eskimo in the way of supplying the white men with food, clothing and transportation—the three things they need most and will pay the most for.

The very climatic conditions of this land of gold pronounce it ideal for the activities of the reindeer, for in that five-sixths of the surface of Alaska which is barren, so far as agriculture is concerned, the only vegetable substance, in large amount is reindeer moss. Now this reindeer moss is not food for man, but it is the best food for the reindeer, and statisticians who have gone to the trouble of carefully investigating the matter for the United States government, estimate that the 400,000 square miles of rocky formation covered with reindeer moss to be found in Alaska will support fully 12,000,000 reindeer. At the rate of one reindeer for the support of one inhabitant, this would provide subsistence for more than a million people in a territory that now has a population of little more than 20,000.

The reindeer is the equivalent of the sheep in respect to affording material for food and clothing, and is the equivalent of the horse for transportation in the northland. Moreover, the average reindeer furnishes more or less times as much meat as an ordinary sheep, whereas a reindeer hide makes the best of Arctic clothing. A steer such as is pictured in Santa Claus' sleigh, can travel from fifty to 100 miles a day over a smooth track, drawing a man on a sledge. A train of eight or ten reindeer, with a good leader, each drawing one sledge and arranged tandem will draw a ton of freight twenty or thirty miles per day in the section of Alaska where the reindeer finds his special forte, there are no roads and no bridges in summer, but in winter—which means virtually five-sixths of the year—the streams are bridged with thick ice, and all the level region is one vast snowy field with a hard surface, furnishing highways in any direction for the reindeer sledge.

The herds of reindeer imported from Siberia to Alaska by the United States government some years ago have multiplied rapidly. The census of the reindeer taken last spring will probably show 1,000,000. The animals and at the same time of increase there will be not less than a quarter of a million reindeer in Alaska ten years from now. Not only has Uncle Sam started the reindeer industry, so to speak, but he has through the government schools conducted under the auspices of the United States Bureau of Education, trained young Eskimos as reindeer herders and drivers.

That the government has thus set up young Eskimos in a decidedly pro-

**"Every One Thought I Had Consumption. Pe-ru-na Saved Me."**

"I THANK DR. HARTMAN FOR PE-RU-NA."

MRS. MOISS PARIZEAU.

"I hardly know how to thank you for the good Pe-ru-na has done me. I suffered five years with pain in the stomach. About a year ago it became so bad I could hardly bear it. I coughed day and night and grew weaker and weaker. The pain extended through my body and I also had difficulty in breathing, which made me cough. Everyone thought I had consumption. My husband heard of Pe-ru-na and bought five bottles. This treatment virtually cured me and now I recommend Pe-ru-na to every one who is suffering. I thank Dr. Hartman for this excellent remedy." —Mrs. Moiss Parizeau, Ste. Julie de Vercheres, P. Q., Canada.

A NEGLECTED cold is generally the first cause of catarrh. Women are especially liable to colds. These colds occur more frequently during the wet, sloppy weather of winter and spring than any other time of the year. Often they are not considered serious and are allowed to run on, or they are treated in such a way as to only palliate the symptoms, while the cold becomes more deep-seated and the patient finally awakens to the fact that she has a well-developed case of catarrh.

By reason of their delicate structure, the lungs are frequently the seat of a cold, especially if there is the slightest weakness of these organs. The treatment of catarrh of the lungs is also more difficult and discouraging than catarrh of any other organ of the body. It would be wise therefore, to guard against it by every precaution possible.

Pe-ru-na has been found the most reliable of all remedies for coughs, colds and catarrh, by reason of the fact that it goes at once to the very seat of the trouble. It searches out every crevice, every duct of the body. It quickens and equalizes the circulation of the blood, thus relieving the congested mucous membranes. It excites a healing and soothing effect upon the mucous membranes, no matter whether they are the more exposed membranes of the head and throat, or whether they line the remotest cells of the lungs. Mrs. Jauchob, 1631 Hicks St., Toledo, Ohio, writes: "When I wrote to you for advice, I had trouble with my throat. Often I could not breathe through my nose. It also had pains in my chest and a cough. I took Pe-ru-na according to directions and it has cured me."

## You Can Have a Model Kitchen

as cool and white as a dairy. No smell, no smoke, no heat, no dust. No old-fashioned contrivances. The

### New Perfection Oil Cook-stove

is the latest practical, scientific cook-stove. It will cook the most elaborate dinner without heating the kitchen.

Boils, bakes, or roasts better than any range. Ready in a second. Extinguished in a second. Fitted with Cabinet Top, with collapsible

rests, towel rack, and every up-to-date feature imaginable. You want it, because it will cook any dinner and not heat the room. No heat, no smell, no smoke, no coal to bring in, no ashes to carry out. It does away with the drudgery of cooking, and makes it a pleasure. Women with the light touch for pastry especially appreciate it, because they can immediately have a quick fire, simply by turning a handle. No half-hour preparation. It not only is less trouble than coal, but it costs less. Absolutely no smell, no smoke, and it doesn't heat the kitchen.

The nickel finish, with the turquoise blue of the enameled chimneys, makes the stove ornamental and attractive. Made with 1, 2 and 3 burners; the 2 and 3-burner stoves can be had with or without Cabinet.

Every dealer everywhere; if not at yours, write for Descriptive Circular to the nearest agency of the

The Queen City Oil Company, Limited, Toronto.

Whiskey and Onions. Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Senior Elisha Root's onion story is an illustration of the difficulty of teaching evil practices.

"Take the case," said Mr. Root, "of old John Bolowin. John was a lawyer's confidential clerk, and he had the pernicious habit of going to a neighboring saloon every morning at 11 o'clock, and taking a small glass of whiskey. He was not proud of this habit; hence, after the whiskey, he always took a Move.

"But one morning it happened that there were no onions in the bar, and John, after having considered the matter, ate a small raw onion from the free lunch tray. That would destroy the tell-tale whiskey odor, no doubt, as well as the clerk had always done, and he, thinking he returned to his desk.

"It was a double deal. At it he and his employer sat face to face. John on his return was soon aware that his employer noticed something. The man's nostrils quivered, he smiled, and finally, with a grimace of disgust, he broke out:

"Look here, John, I've stood whiskey and onions for nineteen years, but I draw the line at whiskey and onions."



LADY LAURIER.