

The Carleton Sentinel.

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WHOLE No. 2872.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER'S

Thrillingly Eloquent,

Impassioned

AND

Patriotic Address

IN THE COMMONS.

In Moving Resolution to King Edward.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said: "I rise to move the resolution of which I gave notice yesterday, which seems to me eminently called for by the fatal occurrence under which we have met. We have met under the shadow of a death which has caused more universal mourning than has ever been recorded in the pages of history. In these words there is no exaggeration; they are actual truth. There is mourning in the United Kingdom, in the colonies and in the many islands and of the continents which form the great empire over which extended the sovereignty of Queen Victoria.

"There is mourning—deep, sincere, heartfelt—in mansions of the great, the rich and in the cottages of the poor and the lowly; for to all her subjects, whether high or low, whether rich or poor, the Queen in her long reign had become an object of almost sacred veneration.

"There is sincere and unaffected regret in all the nations of Europe, for all of the nations of Europe had learned to appreciate, to admire and to envy the many qualities of Queen Victoria—these many public and domestic virtues which were the pride of her subjects.

"There is genuine grief in the neighboring nation of 75,000,000 inhabitants, kinsmen of her people by whom, at all times and under all circumstances, her name was held in high reverence even when in the darkest days of civil war the relations of the two countries were brought almost to the point of snapping. The poet Whittier well expressed the feeling of his country when he exclaimed: 'We bow heart and knee, to England's Queen; and bless her.'

"There is wailing and lamentation amongst all her subjects, and even among barbarian peoples it is heard to-day in the wigwags of the Indian tribes, in the huts of the colored races of South Africa and of India, to whom she was at all times the great mother, and the living personification of majesty and benevolence. Aye, and there is mourning also as genuine and unaffected as in England in the farmhouses of South Africa which have been lately, and still are devastated by war, for it is a fact that above the clang of arms, above many dangers engendered by the war, the name of Queen Victoria was always held in high respect—even by those who are fighting her troops—as an example of justice, and perhaps her kind hand was much relied upon when the supreme hour of reconciliation should come.

"Undoubtedly we may find in history instances where death has caused perhaps more passionate outbursts of grief, but it is impossible to find an instance when death has caused so universal, so sincere, so heartfelt an expression of sorrow. In the presence of these many evidences of grief, which comes not only from her own dominions but from all parts of the globe, in the presence of so many tokens of admiration where it is not possible to find a single discordant note, in the presence of the unmeasurable void caused by the death of Queen Victoria, it is not too much to say that the grave has just closed upon one of the great characters of history.

"What is greatness after all? We are accustomed to call 'great' exceptional beings upon whom heaven has bestowed some of the choicest gifts to astonish and dazzle the world by splendor of faculties phenomenally developed, but this is not, in my estimation at least, the highest conception of greatness.

"The equipoise of a well-balanced mind, equilibrium of faculties well and evenly ordered, luminous insight, calm judgment are gifts which are rarely found in one human being as the possession of the most dazzling or less concealed qualities are found combined with a purity of soul, a kindness of heart, a generosity of disposition, an elevation of purpose and devotion to duty. That is what seems to me to be the conception of greatness, the greatness which is the foundation of a happiness and glory of the people under

such a sovereign; and, if I mistake not, such was the character of Queen Victoria and such were the results of her rule. It has been our privilege to live under her reign, and it must be admitted to be one of the grandest in history, rivaling in length and glory the long reign of Louis XIV, and more than the reign of Louis XIV to project its lustre into future eyes.

"If we cast one glance back over the 64 years into which was compressed the reign of Queen Victoria, we stand astonished, however familiar we may be with the facts, at the development of civilization during that period. The age of Queen Victoria must be held to be on a par with the most famous since history began. Of course many facts and occurrences have contributed to make the reign of Queen Victoria what it was, to give it the splendor which has created such an impression upon her own country and which has shed such luminous rays all over the world. Many took place apart from her influence. Many events took place in relation to which most partial panegirists would have to say that they were simply the happy circumstances of the time in which she lived, and that these might have obtained the same degree of development under another monarch.

"It is possible that literature might have flourished under the reign of another monarch. I think the contention can be advanced that the literature of the Victorian age to some extent reflected the influence of the Queen. To the eternal glory of the literature of the reign of Queen Victoria be it said that it was pure and absolutely free from the defects and grossness which disgusted us in former ages and which still unhappily is the shame of the literature of other countries. Happy is indeed the country whose literature is of such a character that it can be trusted as the intellectual food of the family circle so that it can be placed by the mother in the hands of the daughter with abundant assurance that, while the mind is permeated, the heart is not blighted. Such is the literature of the Victorian age. For this blessing no small credit is due to the example and influence of our departed Queen. It is a fact well known in history that in England as in other countries the influence of the sovereign is always reflected upon the literature of the reign. In former ages, when the court was impure, the literature was impure; but in the age of Queen Victoria, while the life of the court was pure, the literature was pure also. If it is correct that there is a connection between the court of the sovereign and the literature of the age, then I say without hesitation that Queen Victoria has conferred not only upon her people, but upon mankind at large, a gift for which we can never have sufficient appreciation.

"There are features in Queen Victoria's reign which are directly traceable to her influence and there are three in particular. It has been stated that she was a model constitutional sovereign. She was more than that. She was not only a model constitutional sovereign but she was undoubtedly the first constitutional sovereign the world ever saw; she was the first absolutely constitutional sovereign which England ever had. Up to her time the history of England was a record of contests between the sovereign and parliament for supremacy. That contest was not stopped by the revolution of 1688; for, although in that revolution, the contest never took any violent shape, it continued for many reigns in court intrigues and plots, the struggle on the part of parliament being to rule according to the views of the people.

"Queen Victoria was the first of all sovereigns who was absolutely impersonal, politically, I mean. Whether the question at issue was the abolition of the corn laws, or the Crimean war, or the disestablishment of the Irish church or home rule in Ireland, the Queen never gave evidence of what her views were upon any of these great political subjects. She had views, for she was a woman of strong intellect, and we know that she followed political events with great eagerness. She left the praise or blame always for those who were responsible to the people. That was wise conduct upon the part of our late sovereign and it is bearing good fruit in ever increasing abundance. The reward of the Queen was not only in the gratitude and affection of her people but in the security of her throne and dynasty.

"When the troubles of 1848 came, when all the nations of Europe were convulsed by revolution, when thrones were battered by infuriated appeals through popular passions, England alone was absolutely peace-

ful. Thrones crumbled to pieces like steeples in an earthquake, but the throne of the sovereign Queen of England never was disturbed. Victoria was firm in the affection of her subjects. As time advanced there was more freedom under the monarchy of England than under any democratic or republican government in existence.

"The most remarkable event in the reign of the late Queen was the marvellous movement in colonial development, a colonial development based upon local autonomy which has tended towards imperial expansion. Let us remember that in the first year of the Queen's reign there was rebellion in this country. There was rebellion in upper Canada and in lower Canada. Let me say at once that the rebellion was not against the authority of the young Queen, but against the pernicious system of government which then prevailed. That rebellion had to be put down by force. If any one had predicted then that when the Queen's reign came to an end these colonies should not be rebellious and yet had not earned their independence but that they should have grown into a nation covering one-half of this continent—to all intents and purposes independent nations under the flag of England—and that flag should not be maintained by force but by the affection and gratitude of the people, and the prophecy would have been characterized as visionary and a dream.

"But, sir, today that dream is a reality, that prophecy has come true. Today the rebellious colonies of 1837 are the nation of Canada. I use the word nation advisedly. Acknowledging the supremacy of the crown of England, maintaining that supremacy, not by force of arms, but maintaining it by only one garrison and that garrison composed of Canadian volunteers. The primary cause of the change is the personality of Queen Victoria. The visible and chief cause of all is allowing the colonies to govern themselves. But self-government in Canada would never have been effected had it not been that there was a wise sovereign in England who had herself given full constitutional government to her people. If the people of England had not constitutional government in the fullest degree at home she could not have given it to Canada.

"There is another important feature of the Queen's reign little taken notice of today, but most important. Towards the end of the eighteenth century, all the colonies of England in America, with the single exception of the French colony of Quebec, claimed their independence and obtained it by force of arms. The contest, which was long and acrimonious, left in the breast of the new nation a feeling—shall I say the word?—yes, a feeling of hatred which has even extended to our own time. At this moment, happily, the feeling has largely abated. I would not say that it has altogether disappeared.

"Perhaps there are traces here and there, but it has largely abated and there is today between England and the United States an ever growing friendship. Of all the factors that have made this conciliation possible the personality of the Queen is doubtless the foremost. From the day of her accession to the throne, the Queen exhibited, under all circumstances, an abounding friendship toward that country, which, for the fault of a vicious government, would still have formed part of her dominions—a friendship which could not fail to twine the hearts of a sensitive people. This was manifest in time of peace, but more in the time of war and especially during the supreme hour of trial in the United States during the civil war. An event took place in the early months of the war which almost led to hostilities between Britain and the United States. A United States man-of-war stopped a British merchant ship on the high sea and abducted two envoys of the confederate forces, on their way to Europe. That act was a violation of territory of England, because England always held the decks of her ships to be part of her territory. It not only caused excitement in England, but it caused excitement of a different kind in the United States. The action of the commander of the war vessel in making the arrest aroused a great deal of enthusiasm among the Americans, which was reflected even in congress.

"Lord Palmerston was prime minister of Britain and he was not the man to brook such an affront. He had a despatch prepared peremptorily demanding the return of the prisoners and an apology. The despatch prepared was sent to the

Queen, and then was revealed the good sense and the kind heart of the wise and good woman who happened to be at the head of the British government. She sent back the despatch, remarking that it was couched in too harsh terms, and that it ought to be modified to make possible the surrender of the prisoners without any surrender of dignity on the part of the United States. This wise counsel was followed, the despatch was modified in accordance with her suggestion, the prisoners were released and the danger of war averted. That action on the part of the Queen created a most favorable impression on the minds of the people of the United States. Three years afterwards the civil war had ended, the world was shocked to hear of the assassination of the wise and good man (Lincoln), who had carried his country through that ordeal. Then the good heart and sound judgment of the Queen were again manifested. She sent a letter to the widow of the Maryland president—not simply as the Queen of Britain to the widow of the president of the United States, but a letter of sympathy from a widow to a widow, herself being then in the first year of bereavement. That action on her part made a very deep impression on the minds of the American people. It touched not only the hearts of the widowed women, but the hearts of the whole nation.

"We can say that it did not bring about conciliation; it made conciliation possible. It was the first rift in the cloud and, today, in the time of England's mourning, the American people have flocked to their churches to pay their devotion to the memory of Britain's Queen. For my part I do not hope, I do not believe it possible, that the two countries which were severed in the 18th century can ever be re-united politically; but, perhaps, it is not too much to hope that the friendship thus early inaugurated by the hand of the Queen may continue to grow until the two nations are united again, not by legal bonds, but by ties of affection, as strong, perhaps, as if sanctioned by the laws of the two countries, and, if such an event is ever to take place, the credit of it will be due to the wise and noble woman who proved herself to be one of the greatest of statesmen simply by following the instinct of her heart.

"In a life in which there is so much to be admired perhaps one thing most to be admired is that naturalness, that simplicity in the character of the Queen, which showed itself in the action first described. From the first day of her reign to the last she conquered and maintained the affections of her people, simply because under all circumstances and all occasions she did the one thing that ought to be done and did it in the most natural and simple way. Thus on the day of her accession she had to meet the council of state and she so performed her duties as to win the hearts of all present. The Duke of Wellington expressed his gratification in the fluent language of an old soldier by remarking that if she had been his own daughter he could not have expected her to have done better. So it was the first day, so it was every day, so it was on the last day.

"She was a queen, but she was also a wife and mother, and she had her full share of all the joys and sorrows of life; she loved and suffered. Perhaps after all she had a larger share of the joys than of the sorrows of life because, as Chateau Brand says: 'We have not all to know the most of tears.' The life of the Queen was one of the noblest we have ever seen. It can be summed up in the statement that it was a happy life though death placed a cold hand upon her happiness; in the removal of the noble companion of her life at an early age. From that moment she never was exactly the same—to the end of her life she mourned, like Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be consoled even after the lapse of 40 years of widowhood, and we can apply to her the beautiful language of the French poet: 'In her first tear she drowned her heart.'

"She is now no more. No more? Nay; I boldly say she lives—lives in the hearts of her subjects; lives in the pages of history and, as ages revolve, the verdict of posterity will ratify the judgment of those who were her subjects. She ennobled mankind, she exalted royalty. The world is better for her life.

"Sir, the Queen is no more. Let us with one heart say: 'Long live the King.' I propose that we should unite in a resolution to His Majesty to convey expression of our sorrow at the loss he has suffered—a loss which we may say with every respect is ours also. I propose that we should unite in conveying to the King, expression of the loyalty of his Canadian sub-

jects. Only a few days ago His Majesty, in a message to his broad dominions, across the sea, said it would be his aim in life to follow in the footsteps of his great and noble mother. We did not want that assurance on the part of His Majesty to know that the wise policy and wisdom of the great Queen whom he had succeeded on the throne, would be his guide in life. We had believed from the first that he who was a wise prince would be a wise King, and that the policy which had made the British Empire so great under his predecessor would also be his policy and that the reign of King Edward VII would simply be a continuation of the reign of Queen Victoria.

"On our part, let us offer to his Majesty the expression of our loyalty—loyalty which does not spring from any sycophancy—from grateful hearts who duly appreciate the blessing of living under British institutions. Let us wish him God-speed and let us hope that his reign may be as fruitful of good as the reign of his wise predecessor.

"To the King's Most Excellent Majesty; Most Gracious Sovereign:

"We, your majesty's dutiful subjects in parliament assembled, humbly beg leave to approach your majesty with the expression of our deep and heartfelt sorrow at the demise of our late sovereign lady, Queen Victoria.

"In common with our fellow subjects in all parts of the empire we deplore the loss of a great ruler whose manifold and exalted virtues have for three generations commanded the respect and admiration of the world.

"As representatives of the Canadian people we mourn for the beloved sovereign, under whom our dominion first rose into being and to whose wise and beneficent sway are due in no small measure its growth and prosperity.

"May we venture to add that above and beyond these sentiments which the sad occasion naturally calls forth there has come to each one of us a sense of personal bereavement which, we say it with all possible respect and duty, makes your majesty's sorrow our own.

"We pray that the God of consolation may comfort your majesty and the members of the royal family in their affliction.

"It is with feelings not less deep and sincere than those to which we have just given utterance that we hail your majesty's accession to the throne of your ancestors. We beg to assure your majesty of our devoted attachment to your majesty's person and government, and to express our unclouded confidence that the glory and the greatness of the British Empire abroad and the happiness and well being of your majesty's people at home will suffer no diminution under your gracious rule."

TOWN COUNCIL.

A New Night Watch—Preparing for New Assessment.

The meeting of the Town Council, Friday evening of last week, was attended by a full board.

Minutes of last meeting read by the clerk and adopted.

Coun. Balmain said he found the duties as chairman of the fire committee so arduous that he was compelled to resign the chairmanship of the printing and audit committee; Coun. Lindsay was substituted as chairman.

On motion of Coun. Lindsay, the usual fees were voted poll clerk, etc, for late town election.

The following were appointed surveyors of wood, bark, etc.: B. Harry Smith, W. S. Skillen, John Connor, W. L. Carr, J. W. Astle, J. Albert Hayden, Donald Munro, John Pickles, R. J. Lindsay, C. N. Scott, John McCormac, Frank McClement, E. M. Boyer.

Moved Coun. Lindsay, seconded Coun. Dibblee, that Owen Kelly be appointed night watch for ensuing year, at the usual salary \$1.25 per night.

Moved Coun. A. E. Jones, seconded Coun. R. B. Jones, in amendment, that Thomas McCarron be re-appointed night watch at same salary as last year.

Coun. R. B. Jones was glad that Mr. McCarron had changed his mind and would accept a re-appointment as night watch. Mr. McCarron was an efficient official, and the ratepayers all regretted the fact that he had resigned.

Coun. Carr said McCarron, by resigning at last meeting, had placed the Council in a very peculiar position. It was necessary to secure a man and, thinking the resignation was final, several councillors had promised to support another man for

the office and they could not as honorable men go back on that promise. He was sorry that Mr. McCarron had resigned, but he had brought this position, as it was now, on himself.

Coun. Dibblee was situated similar to Coun. Carr. If the councillors, who at last meeting moved that McCarron's salary be raised, had consulted other councillors and had not sprung the motion on the board, this unpleasant duty would not have arisen. He had promised to support Owen Kelly for the place and he would vote for him, but if Mr. Kelly's name was now withdrawn he would vote for McCarron.

Coun. R. B. Jones—As far as not taking the Council into my confidence, I knew nothing of the motion to increase McCarron's salary any more than Coun. Jones did, until I took my seat at the board last Monday evening.

Coun. Balmain had a conversation with McCarron after Monday's meeting, and that gentleman told him he was glad that things had turned out as they did; that he was satisfied to be out of it, and that he had another position. He (Balmain) thought that settled it, and he had promised to vote for Mr. Kelly. McCarron had no one but himself to blame. He would vote against the amendment and, as an honorable man, support the man he had promised.

Coun. A. E. Jones—I always understood that the council was the place to take up business, and did not think it necessary to go around to each councillor, and make a deal with him that McCarron would get an increase. I told McCarron he had better not apply for this raise, or at first go to Coun. Lindsay, the chairman of the police committee and ask him. For myself, I do not think \$1.35 a night any too much salary for the work.

The Mayor—Before the motion is put I may say that I know several councillors thought, after Mr. McCarron's resignation that they must seek for a new man. They were under an obligation to the town to do this. I know something of Mr. McCarron's peculiarities and felt from the beginning that he did not really intend to throw up his office, and I pledged myself to no one. I made up my mind when I was elected that no old official would be displaced, as long as he did his work well, by any vote of mine. McCarron has been a good officer to the town. While we may get a man just as good, if the council see their way to reinstate Mr. McCarron, it will be gratifying to me as well as, I am sure, to a majority of the people of the town.

Amendment was lost, only the mover and seconder voting for it; the motion was carried, Couns. Lindsay, Dibblee, Carr and Balmain voting yea.

Coun. Lindsay said he was one of the committee instructed to wait upon Mr. Carvell in connection with the proposed armory. That gentleman was unable at the present time to say how much land would be needed for the building, neither did he know the kind of building proposed to be built. The committee would try to get a sketch of the building, and, for the present, it would merely report progress.

Moved Coun. Carr, seconded Coun. Balmain, that the chairmen of water-works, light, fire and streets, be a special committee to buy a horse for the town, and report at next meeting. Carried.

Coun. A. E. Jones thought that Coun. Carr should allow the mayor to appoint the committee. His worship always appoints the committees and it was unusual for a councillor to make a motion that he be one of a committee.

The retirement of Driver Kennedy on April 1st, will necessitate securing a new driver and it was thought better that the whole Council should make the appointment rather than the above committee.

Coun. Carr asked if the police magistrate's monthly report was forthcoming, and if not why not?

Coun. Lindsay thought it was unnecessary to raise a tempest in a teapot as they did a year ago over this matter. As chairman of the police committee, he would have a report monthly from the P. M., who, like other men, may be coaxed, but could not be driven.

Moved Coun. Dibblee, seconded Coun. Lindsay, and ordered that Donald Munro be appointed superintendent of water works, sewers, and caretaker of the steam fire engine, at the same salary as last year \$480.

Coun. Dibblee said that it would be economy for the town to build a house for the engineer of water works. This house could be built on their own land and cost say \$1200. On motion the water committee was instructed to prepare a report on the

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