

THE REVIEW SUPPLEMENT.

RICHIBUCTO, NEW BRUNSWICK, THURSDAY JANUARY 18, 1900.

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RICHIBUCTO, N. B., JAN. 18, 1900

The Speech

Delivered by Hon. Sir
Wilfred Laurier

At Sherbrooke, on Thurs-
day Evening, Jan.
11th, 1900.

(Montreal Herald.)

"Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, our friend, Mr. Prefontaine, whom you have had the pleasure of hearing, has told you that it was twenty years ago since he first came to Sherbrooke. Well, twenty years ago I had the advantage of coming here often. I was at the commencement of my career as an advocate, and my professional business brought me frequently here. At that time the Liberal party may perhaps have counted its supporters on the fingers of one hand. I remember it was customary to say that there was in Sherbrooke only one Liberal and a half. Three years ago I came here and the number of Liberals has increased. The campaign was in progress which ended in the Liberal victory of June 23rd, 1896. We were not entirely successful in Sherbrooke but we came very close. My friend, Mr. Alymer, who was your standard-bearer, just failed of election, the majority against him being 250. Now, in 1900, if I may judge by the enthusiasm manifested and by the presence of the ladies, who have evidently adopted the cause of Mr. Le Baron, I am sure that fifteen days from this Mr. Le Baron will be proclaimed the representative of the County of Sherbrooke. (Cheers.) If in 1896 we were not victorious, as we are going to be now, the reason was that our opponents kept dinning into the ears of the electors that our policy was a nefarious policy, and that, if we were successful, it would mean the destruction of all the manufacturing interests of the country, and that all the factories would be closed down. I need not tell you how absurd such reasoning was. Yes, it was repeated so often that it ended by producing an effect. Time has provided our vindication, and to-day we have our revenge in the spectacle your city presents. Not only do the lofty chimneys still stand, but their number has increased, and they send forth more smoke than ever. The Magog river turns round more mill wheels than in any other period of your history. There are more men at work than ever before in the factories of Sherbrooke, and wages are higher. I do not claim the credit of all this for the Government of which I am leader; but I can claim this: that our policy, instead of being fatal, was beyond contradiction the most beneficial that Canada has enjoyed up to the present. Need I say that our Government devotes itself to a study of the needs of the country and to ascertaining what it wanted in any particular time. You have been wanting snow in Sherbrooke for some time past. Well, this Liberal Administration brings it to you—(laughter)—(the reference being to the heavy fall of snow which had just commenced) Thus, we supply all your needs, and, as far as we can, give you all you require. Heaven is on our side. I understand that the decorations of this hall were prepared by the ladies of Sherbrooke. If the ladies are on our side, victory is ours, and heaven is also with us. (Laughter and cheers.) If the ladies are with us, Mr. McIntosh had better return to his sheriff's office.

ON THE TRANSVAAL WAR.

"I wish to speak in French of a question which now occupies the attention not only of the people of Canada, but of the whole world. The mother country is engaged in the greatest war, perhaps, that has been engaged in during the century—the war with the Transvaal Republic. We believed it our duty as a British colony to take part in the war, and to permit two thousand Canadian volunteers to enlist in the English army and to fight for the

mother country. (Cheers.) We did it because we believed it our duty to do it, in response to the unanimous sentiments of the people of this country. We are a free country; ours is a constitutional government, and our duty is to put into execution the popular will, and, the moment the popular will was known to us, we had but one duty to discharge, and we discharged it of our free will. There was no power to constrain us to act as we did; but, in the plenitude of our legislative independence, we had the right to reply to the popular will, manifested to us. We did not do it for the purpose of lending England a material aid, which she did not need, but we rejoiced at the opportunity of giving to the world a spectacle never seen before—the spectacle of the colonies behind the mother country, and that we could not remain indifferent when England had a war with one of her enemies.

"We showed the world that the British Empire was, above all, a land of liberty, and that there was enough liberty in that Empire to make it the duty of every citizen to affirm its unity when occasion presented. We are told that French-Canadians have nothing to do with that war. Gentlemen, I am here to speak no language but the language of truth. I am not here to say anything which I would not wish to repeat elsewhere. This war does not affect English and French-Canadians in the same way. With Canadians of English origin, it was the voice of the blood that spoke, the most powerful voice that can appeal to the human heart. When Canadians of English origin knew that their brethren were fighting in Africa, their blood boiled and they burned to go to their kindred's aid. It was not the same voice that spoke to us of French origin; it was the voice of gratitude, the voice of national solidarity which summoned us all to be united under the flag of the country in which we live.

THE PREMIER'S LIFE ASPIRATION

"As for me, I have devoted my political life to a single idea: I may succeed or I may fail; but, in any case, when I am in my grave, it can be inscribed upon my tomb, 'Here lies a man who desired to make the Canadian family a united family, under the same flag.' (Loud cheers.) I do not ask my fellow countrymen of French origin to feel the same enthusiasm about that war as that which naturally inspires our fellow countrymen of English origin. I know how to make the distinction; but I ask my French fellow countrymen to do from a sense of duty what our English fellow countrymen do under the impulse of enthusiasm. I have said that I have given my life to the realization of an idea. That idea does not originate with me; it commenced with a Liberal leader, Sir Louis Hypolite Lafontaine, who said, before the act of union was passed, 'Our safety is in the union of Upper and Lower Canada, and the union of French and English reformers.' Need I recall it? What feelings are stronger than race feelings? I am a British subject; but there was a time when our liberties were withheld, and when we had to fight for them. There are some here who come from the banks of the Chambly River, and who remember the battles fought in 1837 for our rights, and they remember that at the battle of 'St. Denis, the commander was not a French-Canadian, but an Englishman, Dr. Wolfred Nelson, and that at the battle of St. Charles, he who commanded the rebel troops was Mr. Thomas Brown. I mention these to show that the cause of liberty is above distinction of race and creed.

"It is said that the Boer war is an unjust war. I do not intend to examine the question. The war is going on; our mother country is at war; it is enough for me. If we go further, we shall find that, after all, the origin of this war is simply a question of civil justice and religious and political liberty. If the Boer of the Transvaal had been willing to give what we in Canada give to all who come here—religious and political liberty—that war would never have taken place. I do not desire to speak ill of a brave nation. We all admire bravery, and the Boers deserve our admiration for their valor. I admire their courage; but I cannot help seeing that, brave as they are, nevertheless, at bottom they have remained what their ancestors were in the seventeenth century that is to say, they do not know what religious liberty is, and they cannot accord it. They are Protestants; it is their right; but they refuse religious liberty to the other nationalities and other creeds. Do you seek a proof? Something occurred lately after the battle of Magersfontein which shows the intolerance of those people. After the assault by Lord Methuen upon the position occupied by the Boers, there was great loss of life, and the plain remained covered with dead. Among the British killed were some Irish and Scotch Catholics. Naturally, these people had

hoped that, if they fell in the field of battle, their burial would be conducted by their chaplain. Lord Methuen asked for an armistice in order to bury the dead. The Boers agree; but they stipulated that no services should be conducted by a Catholic clergyman, but that only one Protestant clergyman should be allowed to officiate. Gentlemen, could intolerance go further? If that is how they treat the dead, what would they do with the living?

"I am surprised at one thing. There is a paper which is called the *Semaine Religieuse*, but which I have long known to be more political than religious, conducted in the interest of all that was most extreme in the Bleu party. I am surprised that a paper calling itself a religious paper should display so much enthusiasm as that paper has displayed, in favor of the Boers. If the editor of that paper was in the Transvaal, and published articles in such a strain, he would be promptly shut up in jail; but it is the mobility and greatness of the English institutions under which the publisher of *La Semaine Religieuse* lives, that those institutions can be insulted with impunity. That is the difference between British institutions and the institutions of the Transvaal Republic. I do not intend to speak at greater length on this matter. I wished to explain in a few words the position we had taken.

"And now, may I say a few words as to the attitude of the Conservatives on this question. The party of Mr. McIntosh represented on one side by Mr. Charles Thebaud, and on the other by Mr. McIntosh himself. On one side they say, 'Laurier has not done enough; he is a Frenchman.' On the other side they say, 'he has done too much; he is an Englishman.' Because I did my duty, putting aside questions of race and creed, I am attacked on both sides. But in my turn I am now before French and English Canadians, and to both I appeal to support the truly national, truly British, and truly Canadian policy we have inaugurated on that question. There, gentlemen, is the principal question I had to treat this evening.

"I have others which I shall discuss in the English language; but, before leaving you, my fellow countrymen, let me say this as a last appeal: You and I are of the same race; but you and I live with English neighbors on all sides. Is there not in this country enough liberty, justice and enlightenment? Have not all an equal share of happiness and prosperity? Is there not room enough in this country for a great nation? Is there not room enough for each of us to preserve the pride of his origin, and at the same time to aspire to great things in the future? I have a last word to offer. If I appeal to your sympathy, the only appeal I make to you is to return to the House of Commons Mr. LeBaron, standard bearer of the Liberal party.

Sir Wilfrid proceeded to speak in English as follows:

SPEAKS IN ENGLISH.

"Now, gentlemen, I will address you a few words upon the topics which to-day interest our common country. I may say that it was not without emotion that I entered this evening your far-famed city. The spectacle was one for which I was little prepared: the vast throngs, the music, the cheers, the procession, the illuminated city—all this was a spectacle for which I would not have been prepared twenty years ago.

"The Government of which I am the head is about to have the supreme glory of having its policy receive the approval of this great and strong Conservative stronghold. Now, gentlemen, I may say that though this is very enticing, and though it is a prospect which I find very pleasing, yet I cannot help regretting that we are to-day in the midst of an election on account of the death of Mr. Ives. I may be permitted to say, before entering into the discussion of this contest, that the death of Mr. Ives was to me a matter of personal regret, for Mr. Ives was a friend of mine. We had met as opponents in the courts of justice, being engaged in opposite sides in the same case; we had met on opposite sides in the House of Parliament; but it is to me a supreme consolation to reflect that between him and me there never passed a word which I would be sorry to recall at this moment.

But now, sir, it is also a privilege for me to say that in this contest it is very much to the credit of Sherbrooke that both of the gentlemen who dispute for your suffrages are eminently respectable. You know Mr. LeBaron better than I do; but I have always known him to be brave, honest, valiant and courageous and so he will be to the end. Of Mr. McIntosh I have certainly nothing to say but good. He is an honest and respectable citizen. He has one fault, and one fault only; but it is a

bad one. He is on the wrong side. (Laughter.) But he has already received his punishment, for he has had been associated with Charles Thibault, and was present and did not protest when Charles Thibault vilified and insulted British institutions.

WHY CONSERVATIVES ARE WEAK.

"Sir, if you want to know why the Conservative party is not so strong here as it was twenty years ago, why the Conservatives are to-day in a minority here and the Liberals in a majority, I will tell you. The reason is, because the Conservative party of the present day will not fight an honest true Canadian battle. There is more than one Charles Thibault in this country. There are Catholic Thibaults, and Protestant Thibaults; there are French Thibaults, and English Thibaults; there are the Thibaults who go into the back concessions, and appeal to the prejudices of the Protestant, there are Thibaults who go to the back concession and appeal to the prejudices of the Catholics. That is the reason the honest men of this country, the true men of Canada, who believe that, whatever our race, creed or nationality, it is our duty to be Canadians first, last and all the time, will not stand by that party—(loud cheers)—will not stand by a party which will only thrive by appealing to prejudices. I want every man to speak his mind openly; but beware of the man who goes to the back concessions and appeals to the prejudices of the men whom he is addressing. Prejudices in themselves are not an ignoble thing. They are often but the exaggeration of a noble sentiment. No wonder there should be prejudices, in the minds of Protestant and Catholics; but, though there may be prejudices, let us fight them; let us not encourage them; let us not build our hopes on them, and let us, especially, not make them the basis of any political action. If we are to be a people, as I hope we are to be; if we are to be a nation, as I am sure we shall be, it is only by building on the broad principles of the constitution under which we live, which is broad enough to give shelter and to protect ever Canadian family, that we can succeed.

"There is another reason why the Conservative party is not so strong as it once was. It is because it has lost its leaders. It once boasted that it was the party with the instincts of government, and so it was in the days of Sir John Macdonald and John Henry Pope. Those men had the instinct of government; but when the hand of Sir John A. Macdonald was withdrawn, the Conservative party became powerless; it could no longer grapple with difficulties. It had recalled leaders and ministers, but ministers and leaders could only spend their time in miserable disputes, in ignoble quarrels; but they could never solve any of the questions which arose. When we came to office in July, 1896, there had been pending before the country one of those great questions which required solution. We were almost brought within the range of—I will not say civil war—but certainly civic commotion. We had been brought to this point that factions, religious and racial, had been aroused and pitted against each other. We had to settle the question which our opponents had had before them six long years. We attempted to settle that question. We ferred it to the Province of Manitoba, where it had arisen, and asked the people of that Province to settle that question, not by violence, but simple by the application of that doctrine of Christian charity which bids us do unto others as we would that others should do unto us. We asked them to give justice to the minority. Our appeal was not made in vain, and the question was removed from the arena of Dominion politics. Then there was another question to be dealt with, which had been attempted to be dealt with by our opponents, by the leader of the Conservative party, but with signal failure. We had a protective system in operation which went under the name of the National Policy. My friend, Mr. Patterson, used to call it the National Policy; but we will continue to call it the National Policy. There was a system of high protection in force, and it had played its part. It had not produced all the good expected and the people were clamoring for relief. I remember how at that time, Sir John Thompson, then Prime Minister, went to Toronto and made a speech there. He told the people of Toronto that the popular demand for tariff reform would be acceded to. He was the true Conservative who would lop the mauling branches from the National Policy tree. Mr. Foster would lop them off and all would be well. Mr. Foster, to do him justice, endeavored to reform the tariff, but what happened when he brought his pruning knife to cut off some mouldering branches. His hand was stopped whenever he put the pruning knife to a branch, some one called out, 'Not that branch Mr. Foster; that branch is sound,' and so all the mouldering branches remained on the tree, and a sad looking tree it was. When we came to office we were told, if we touched the tree the country would be ruined. We paid no heed to

these warnings. We faced the task that confronted us. We had to give relief to the consumer, and we had to consider existing industries. There was the danger of taking away too much of the protection under which certain industries had been fostered; but we performed our task satisfactorily, and the result is, prosperity such as never before prevailed. The proof of the pudding is in the eating; well, Canadians never had for their Christmas dinner such a pudding to eat as the one the Government put on their tables on that occasion.

"Now, sir, in referring to the tariff we introduced, it contained a new feature, the preference of twenty-five per cent. in favor of British goods, a feature in the direction of freer trade with Britain. That was a splendid policy. The Conservatives have never dared to attack it openly. Why did we give a preference to Great Britain? We did it first of all because we thought we owed a debt of gratitude to England. But, sir, while this was the sentiment, let me tell you this, that in politics it is not sufficient to be guided by sentiment. We had something in view and it was that, if we bought more from Great Britain, Great Britain would buy more from us, and the result has more than vindicated our expectations. Our trade has gone up by leaps and by bounds with Great Britain. Our exports have almost doubled themselves. It is true our imports have not increased in the same ratio. In 1897 our imports were \$29,000,000, this year they were \$38,000,000.

"We set our hands to the plough and determined to have the canals deepened in three years, and I have the proud satisfaction to tell you to-day that next spring we shall have an uninterrupted channel of fourteen feet from the head of navigation on Lake Superior to the port of Montreal. The consequence will be that whereas Buffalo has been the great distributing point for all grain grown in the Canadian and American Northwest, this condition of things is to be undone. A new Buffalo is to take the place of the old Buffalo, and the new Buffalo will be Montreal. (Cheers.) To-day you have capitalists from Buffalo, who are dissatisfied with the state of affairs there, coming to the city of Montreal to spend their money in the equipment of that harbor, so as to receive that grain coming from the West. The probability is that in the near future the trade of Montreal will have grown to incalculable proportions, and that all the grain grown in Canada or in the United States, will come down to Montreal in Canadian bottoms. To-day the American press is bewailing the loss of this trade. The young men here to-day will see, if I do not live to see it, the harbor of Montreal extending to Sorel, extending to Three Rivers, and even to foot of the ocean at Quebec. (Hear, hear.) That is what our policy is doing.

"Mr. Fisher alluded a few minutes ago to the Intercolonial. When we came into power we found the Intercolonial with its terminus at Chaudiere—a place which I do not believe many have heard of. It is a noble stream, almost as nature made it, with two houses on the west side and five or ten at most on the south-east, and that was where the Intercolonial ended in a field. Who ever heard of a railway ending in a field in a day when railways are all competing to get to the centres of production and distribution? The Canadian Pacific, the Grand Trunk, the Central Vermont, the Delaware and Hudson, and other lines were all competing to get into Montreal, but the Intercolonial, in which Canada had put \$50,000,000, ended in a field. I don't know the reason for that, but I know that the consequence was that we had a deficit of from \$100,000 to \$500,000 every year. We determined to put a stop to that, and to bring the Intercolonial to the great city of Montreal, there to compete for the trade of the east with the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific and all the other railways. We did it. We bought the Drummond County, we leased the Grand Trunk from St. Hyacinthe to Montreal, and the consequence was that instead of a deficit we had a surplus last year of \$60,000. These bargains cost us \$210,000 but although we had to pay that much more than in 1896, we had last year that surplus. Our trade is increasing, and it must increase, because we are doing business on business principles. (Hear, hear.) We have more business, and it is business we want in order to have success for that railway. I must say in all fairness and truth that when we said to the House that we were going to make that bargain our friends the enemy, the friends of Mr. McIntosh, were horrified at what they called our extravagance. Extravagance, sir, to spend \$210,000 to get back every cent of it, as we are doing? That is what the Conservatives call extravagance, but what you, gentlemen, will call business. (Applause.)

"They did more; they shouted 'corruption.' They thought we did business as they did. They did not think so much money could pass without some of it sticking to the fingers of someone. We said, as Mr. Fisher has told you. We give you a committee, name your own members, bring forward your charges. When we did so there was no rat-hole too small for them to crawl into. They withdrew all their charges, they said. We never said there was corruption; we merely said you paid too much. Let them tax us with extravagance, this is the extravagance; let them bring their charges of corruption; they will be met and they will all fail as that one did. (Applause.)

"Now, there is another thing I want to say a word about. It so happens, and we all deplore the fact, that at this moment Great Britain is engaged in war in South Africa, a most deplorable war, but a war undoubtedly undertaken by Great Britain not for any aggrandizement, not for more territory, but for the vindication of those principles of religious liberty and political liberty for which England has been the great pioneer of the world. (Cheers.) We have thought that we should contribute

our mite to that war; we have thought that we should allow our volunteers to go and fight the battle of the motherland. This we have done, and we have done it with the concurrence of the whole Canadian people, of whatever creed or origin they may be, because, of whatever creed or origin, the whole majority of the Canadian people has expressed its approval of our action. Not because England wants our help—England has fought her own battles in the past; she will fight them in the future—but because we wanted to show to England that her colonies, which, under her flag, enjoy self-government, has some gratitude; because we want to show to the world that wherever the British flag floats the same hearts beat in the same way. Our action has been approved. It is not an issue in this election, I know, except in this: You meet the Thibaults of all creeds and nationalities, the Protestant and Catholic Thibaults, the French and English Thibaults; in one section of the country the Government is abused because we did not do enough; in another, among my French compatriots, because we did too much. We did whatever England demanded from us, but more than that we could not have done at the time; less than that we could not have done.

"I rely on the common sense, on the patriotism, on the intelligence of all my fellow-countrymen of this section of the Dominion, whether they be of my creed or not, whether they be of my own race or not, but because I and they are of the same country, not to give way to these prejudices, but to stand up for the policy we have inaugurated and which we intend to carry to the end. One man who is the champion of these principles to-day is Mr. LeBaron. Mr. LeBaron and I differ on some points. We differ in creed and origin, but we are one in the same Liberal principles which we are met here to support, and let me say that unless I mistake altogether the temper of this meeting, and I don't think I do, a fortnight from this day, and in this very hall, you will proclaim Mr. LeBaron the new member for Sherbrooke." (Prolonged cheers.)

But it is not for that we have made the preferential tariff. I do not despair of increasing our trade, that this will come when we shall have freer trade and freer relations than at the present time. We could not do more than we have done, because the Belgian and German treaties were in the way. We had to desire to extend to Germany the same preferences as to England. Germany does not treat us as England does, and Germany is not Britain. For many a long year we endeavored to bring about the denunciation of these treaties; we succeeded at last, because Britain was bound to grant our demand, to allow us to give her a preference in our tariff.

Canada is a nation almost unbundled in its possibilities. We have taken up the question of properly developing its natural transportation routes, and I flatter myself that we have succeeded somewhat. Of thirty millions of grain in the Canadian Northwest exported to Europe, only ten millions have been going by the Canadian route. We are endeavoring to change that, and to provide that Canada shall get, as it ought, the bulk of the traffic of both the United States and Canadian West for the St. Lawrence route.

RAILROADS.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY

On and after Monday, Oct. 16th, 1899
trains will run daily (Sunday excepted
as follows:—

LEAVE KENT JUNCTION.

Accommodation for Moncton and St.
John.....12.17
Accommodation for Newcastle and
Campbellton.....13.04

Vestibule Sleeping and Dining Cars on
the Maritime Express between Montreal
and Halifax.

All trains are run by Eastern Standard
Time. Twenty-four Hour Notation.

D. POTTINGER,

General Manager.

Railway Office, Moncton, N. B. 12th
Oct. 1899.

KENT NORTHERN RAILWAY.

TIME TABLE.

Time	Dept.	Richibucto, Arr.	Time
10.00	Dept.	Richibucto, Arr.	15.90
10.15		Kingston,	14.45
10.28		Mill Creek,	14.25
10.45		Grumble Road,	13.56
10.51		Molus River,	13.50
11.15		McMinn's Mills,	13.35
11.30	Arr.	Keat Junction, Dept.	13.20

Trains are run by Eastern Standard
Time.

Trains run daily, Sunday excepted.
Connect with I. C. R. accommodation
trains north and south.

WILMOT BROWN,

General Manager and Lessee.

Richibucto, Oct. 15th, 1899

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