

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Cheery Greeting To The People Of The Western Provinces

Great Meeting at Fort William---Sir Wilfrid the Centre of Cheering Throngs---
Inspects the Harbor and the Great Works, Finished and in Progress---A Word
of Counsel to the Twin Cities to Sink Their Jealousy and Work Together---
Sir Wilfrid Answers the Opposition Inquiries as to the Objects of the Trip, and
Assures Them There Will be No Election This Year---The Transportation
Problem Discussed---Deepening the Welland and Building the Georgian Bay
Canal, Both Necessary National Works.

Fort William, July 9—"I come to you, I greet you, not as Sir Wilfrid Laurier, not as the Prime Minister of Canada, not as the politician, not as the statesman, as you have flatteringly designated me, I come to you, good people of the great west, as Wilfrid Laurier the man, your fellow-citizen a fellow-Canadian. This title to me has a value greater far than all the badges and trappings of office. Let me move among you all as a fellow-citizen and let us reason together for the common good of our common country. What is the object of our tour? It is a plain and simple one I give it freely, in order to remove the doubt and speculation with which some would surround it. I am eager my colleagues and friends are eager, that we should become better acquainted with the new, far and rapidly progressing western country. That we should visit and see with our own eyes the cities, towns, villages, and communities springing into being as if by magic. We want to extend the warm hand of welcome to our new fellow-citizens who have come from Europe and the United States to make our country their country, to become Canadians, and to make Canada a country of which we will be still more proud. We come to ascertain the wants and requirements of our common country to perform the duty and responsibility devolving upon us who have been entrusted with its government and expansion. This is our object—nothing more and nothing less. It is part of the duty which we owe to our fellow-citizens who

conferred upon us their confidence."

A WONDERFUL ASSEMBLAGE
Such was Sir Wilfrid Laurier's message to the mammoth meeting of residents of the twin cities of Port Arthur and Fort William, which taxed the capacity of the big Arena Rink in the latter centre tonight. The great gathering was an auspicious inauguration of his western tour. It was intensely enthusiastic, with the spontaneous infectious enthusiasm of the growing Canada.

NO ELECTION THIS FALL.
The Premier, in opening, referred to the comments in the Conservative press of Ontario and Quebec proclaiming the tour to be the harbinger of an autumn election and alleging it was the Government's intention to take advantage of the dissension and disorganization of their political opponents. "They do not read us aright," said Sir Wilfrid "The party which I have the honor to lead exists for the country and not the country for the party. There will be no election this fall. In the true spirit of constitutional government we will go to the country only upon some big question demanding the verdict of the people, or wait until the time comes for it, according to the terms of the constitution."

The meeting was the climax of a memorable day. The Premier was at his best. His years of earnest service to his country rested more lightly upon him. He renewed his youth at this gateway to the great new west. He caught something of the spirit of

the country. He looked into the future with the confident eyes of youth, tempered by the sober wisdom of experience. He breathed the air of ambitious going ahead, the optimism of great cities in the making the industrial hum, the sound of the hammer, the throb of machinery, the roar of harnessed power. He came into personal contact with that purposeful zeal which is at the back of a miraculous transformation wrought in nation-making. He moved among men of a new Canadian citizenship, welded units from older lands, sons of the pioneers of yesterday, blazers of the new industrial trails of today. He saw big things in their beginnings. He gazed upon the world's greatest elevators, already beginning to pulsate with industry; he looked upon the huge lake vessels which serve the markets of continents; he noted the dredging operations, the enlargement of the harbor, the wharf building, the twenty-six miles of harbor frontage; the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific drydocks and terminal; the various industries and manufacturing; all these and more he assimilated in a busy day of outing and inspection and everywhere master and man united in doing him honor. Whistles heralded him with shrill screams, factory horns belched their welcome, and from windows artisans and mechanics waved a less boisterous greeting. At eventide the church chimes contributed to the occasion in melodious tolling of "The Maple Leaf," "The Marseillaise" and the National Anthem.

A NEIGHBORLY SPIRIT WANTED.

Yet the Premier put his finger on erring upon the tragedy of the twin cities. He did it gently, mingling commendation with kindly counsel. He was accorded two separate civic receptions. Mayor Matthews assured him that Port Arthur was "the key of the situation." Mayor Pelletier impressed upon him that Fort William was "the gateway to the west." Both asked special further consideration in transportation and harbor improvements. Sir Wilfrid urged reconciliation and union. "The key of the situation will be that," he observed "which will unlock the two combination gates and open the one way westward. The key of the situation is Port Arthur and Fort William combined. You cannot divide the head of Lake Superior. I trust I may live to see one great city, one great harbor here. One can scarcely conceive the magnitude of its possibilities. The Government are wont to help those who help themselves; you have not been laggard; you are doing wonders. Will you do more? In the development of the head of Lake Superior the Government would be prepared to take two steps to your one, to spend two dollars to your one. The spirit of the Canadian people will not begrudge this aid. It knows no distinctions. What is good for the part is good for the whole." The kindly counsel was received with a hearty outburst of cheering.

A VETERAN LIBERAL
One of the happiest incidents of the

day occurred when the yacht Sigma, on which Sir Wilfrid inspected the harbor called at the Fort William landing. Here, accompanied by his son, Mr. Alexander Mackenzie a veteran Liberal in his 91st year, came on board. Mr. Mackenzie is a cousin of his illustrious namesake, the late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, Liberal predecessor of Sir Wilfrid in the Premiership of the Dominion. "I have cast more Liberal votes than any other man here," the nonagenarian proudly assured the Premier "and I have taken The Globe since its first issue."

Sir Wilfrid invited the veteran to the cabin-bridge, where they chatted together for some time on the achievements of George Brown, who, in the days of auld lang syne was a personal friend of the aged visitor and the early struggles of Liberalism. It was Mr. Mackenzie's first meeting with Sir Wilfrid. "One of my two ambitions has been accomplished," he said at the close of the trip. "I have always wanted to meet Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Senator Jaffray of The Globe." Mr. Mackenzie has been a resident of Fort William for 33 years coming to the west from Huron county.

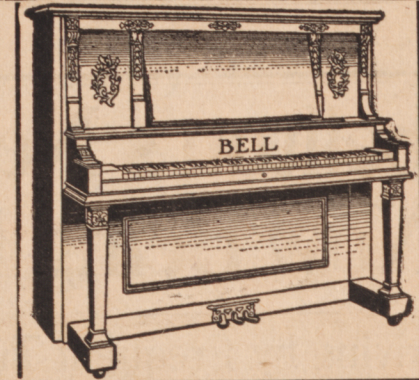
Following the civic receptions in the afternoon and the tour of land and water, Sir Wilfrid and his party were conducted to tonight's meeting by a procession of gaily-decorated automobiles, headed by the Fort William Citizens' Band. Great evergreen arches, illuminated by myriads of incandescents lights, canopied the thoroughfares, which were lined by thousands of spectators from both cities. Mr. George Graham, President of the district Liberal Association, occupied the chair.

SIR WILFRID'S SPEECH.
The Premier in the address emphasized the new conditions confronting Canada by her great western growth. He traced the opening up of the north and west, the cultivation of the prairies, and the advent of new avenues of trade and commerce. Great problems of transportation and settlement confronted the Government. Their duty was plain. "And," observed Sir Wilfrid, "our policy is our duty." He outlined the Welland and Georgian Bay Canal projects, and furnished significant statistics showing that the Saint Ste. Marie Canal was already carrying four times the annual tonnage of the Suez Canal. Dealing with the naval policy, the First Minister declared that the Canadian navy

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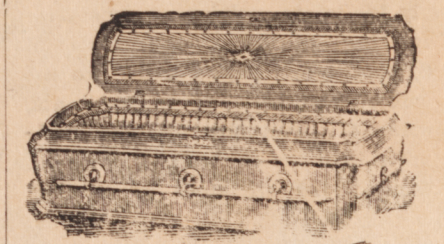
would lead to closer union with the motherland. He deprecated the vacillation and dissension in the Opposition, and urged united Canadian action. "We have grown to nationhood," the Premier declared with enthusiasm; "we glory in our own parliament, our own laws, our own constitution, our own militia, our own navy—call it a 'tin-pot navy' if you will. But, if the time ever comes—and may God forbid it—that the old home is in danger, our hearts and brawn will be ranged at her side against any enemy, no matter whence that foeman hails."

GREETED WITH OVATION.

Sir Wilfrid, on rising, was greeted with prolonged cheering. He expressed his deep appreciation of the cordial welcome given him. Whatever success has characterized his political career he attributed largely to the happy circumstance that he was "the captain of a crew who are better than the captain himself." He paid tribute to the energy and ability of Senator Gibson and Messrs. Macdonald, Pardee and Commee. The last named he declared to be "a good fighter, who is as proficient at teaching engineering to engineers as he is at teaching law to lawyers at Ottawa." The Premier highly eulogized his ministerial colleague. "Three years ago," said Sir Wilfrid, "it was

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