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Boy's Sweaters as low as - 50c and up to \$3.00  
Men's Sweaters - 75c, \$1.00 and \$1.25  
Men's Cardigan - \$1.25, \$1.50 and \$1.75  
Ask to see our \$1.89 All Wool Oxford Pant sold everywhere for \$2.50.

**PETER FARRELL & CO**

## A CANADIAN'S EXPERIENCE AMONG THE MEXICANS

A "gringo" from the North never learns anything worth while about Mexico until he gets "stung" several times. Gringo is Mexican for "ten derfoot." With the exception of the few who have been in the Republic before and had not forgotten, we were all gringos. Our first real experience of an educative kind was at Queretazo, the city of the opal. Everybody who visits that quaint old city buys opals—except when he buys bits of polished glass. The editor of a New York religious weekly bought a handful of them—mostly opals, no doubt. The rest of us got the worth of our money either in opals or in experience.

You scarcely get straightened on your legs on the station platform before the chance to buy opals is pressed upon you. They are brought from the mines near the city. The sparkle on the piece of black velvet the seller holds in his hand. This time the seller is a man, and therefore any light in his eyes does not take your attention from the fire he tells you is in the opals. If you do not know the difference between a fire-opal and something that may look like a fire-opal this unschooled Mexican will sell you a piece of ground-glass. If you know the difference you can buy a peerless gem with a rich crimson flame or an emerald flash or a bright cat's eye green in its heart. It may be as precious as anything from Hungary. And you may get it for a price you will be almost ashamed to mention on your return home.

I found it useful to engage the friendly services of a newspaperman from Mexico City. He talked Spanish fluently. The opal-sellers understood English not at all.

"You say something to me, anything you like, as though you were mentioning a price you would pay," said my friend to me.

"Tell the pock-marked descendant of the blood-thirsty Aztecs that his zarape is faded and the pajamas on his skinny legs are out at the knees," I ventured to observe with some enthusiasm and a show of discrimination as to the opals he held in a favorable light.

"He says he will pay no more than fifty centavos (twenty-five cents Canadian) for this one," was my friend's translation into Spanish.

With a fine gasp of astonishment and disgust, the opal-man scorned the offer and named a sum ten times that amount as his closest price.

My part was then to turn away as though I had had enough, and to throw back some more irrelevant remarks, which my friend translated into another stage in the negotiations.

This sort of thing went on for some time. Then I walked unconcernedly away. In ten minutes we met again. In the meantime the rascal substituted a glass imitation worth nothing, and then offered it to me at my former price. My friend, who understood the game, again put a commercial meaning into my words and exposed the trick. Then the original opal was produced from up his sleeve. (Continued on page six.)

## SIR WILFRID LAURIER'S MONTREAL ADDRESS

(Montreal Herald)

The appearance of Sir Wilfrid Laurier at Montreal last night was, as had been expected, an occasion of the highest political interest. Not for ten years at least has he made a speech which showed so much evidence of careful preparation and deliberate purpose. Not in even a longer time than that has he made a speech of two hours outside the House. He seldom uses extraneous materials in his platform addresses. This speech was copiously interlarded with quotations from speeches of his own and others, with resolutions of Parliament and with proceedings of the colonial conferences. It was evident that this speech was meant for a wider constituency than even the vast audience which confronted the speaker, that it was meant to be distributed broadcast as the Liberal leader's explanation of his policy, and that therefore it should cover the whole ground of controversy. The preparation must have cost the veteran a good deal of labor, and the delivery of a two hours' address at top pressure must have cost him a great deal of physical effort, but when he had concluded he could at least have the satisfaction of knowing that the task was completed. Nothing needs to be added to the speech of last night as an exposition of the Liberal position on the navy question.

The meeting was originally planned as a fitting conclusion to the Western trip. It turned before long into a demonstration against the activity of Mr. Bourassa and Mr. Monk. Last night there was hardly a moment when these gentlemen were not well within the mental vision of all present. Sir Lomer Gouin first presented them to the inspection of the audience, with special references to the Nationalists. They were now vilifying, Sir Wilfrid, he said, as in 1907 and 1908 they had insulted and calumniated provincial ministers. Sir Lomer did not spare the sarcasm in his tones when he alluded to the subsequent alliance with Mr. Prevost, the main object of that attack. The next address was by Mr. Athanase David, a worthy son of Sir Wilfrid's oldest remaining friend, Senator David. In the fact itself there was an answer to the Nationalists. The Nationalist movement is essentially a young man's campaign, both as to leaders and followers. Here was a brilliant, it must be said a typical representative of the new generation acclaiming Laurier as hundreds of others of the younger generation cheering him to the echo as he closed his peroration. And he ranged himself behind the old leader the leader tried and proved. Both when Sir Lomer spoke and when Mr. David spoke it was evident that the undercurrent of anti-Nationalist feeling in the audience was giving volume to cheers. The anti-Bourassa demonstrations were therefore at its height when Sir Wilfrid rose to speak.

And then the orator started in with an audience keyed up to the

right pitch of excitement to expound his naval policy as part of the evolution of a nation. He started from the declaration by Mr. Bourassa that Canada is not a nation. It is true that Canada is still a dependency in law, but legislatively Canada is independent. The history of the world as far back as man can penetrate the darkness might be searched in vain for another example of a colony being allowed by its mother country the exercise of such powers as Canada possesses. When Lafontaine and Baldwin had won responsible government for Canada they wrote a new chapter in the record of government. Confederation was another. The gain of the right to make our own commercial treaties was another. The formation of a militia service for land defence, and the formation of a naval militia for the defence of the seacoasts, were other advances in the same general direction. Canada, by a process of peaceful evolution unexampled in the world had become a nation, without altering its status towards the mother country. It has been very frankly commented by the shrewdest Nationalist leaders when they have allowed themselves a certain freedom of comment upon the position of Mr. Borden, that Sir Wilfrid be able to hold his own in Quebec because if he appealed for a navy it was for a Canadian navy. Here he was at it. Here he was proclaiming Canada a nation and defending the proposition against Mr. Bourassa's affirmation that it isn't. And, as had been foreseen, it went with a swing that kept the air vocal.

Nothing has been seen for many a long day quite so daring as the way the orator rested his whole case for the navy on the course he took at London in 1902 and 1907. In 1902 he had resisted a demand by the War Office for organic military and naval union of the Empire. In 1907 he had resisted alone a motion looking to naval undertakings. The case against him in Quebec is that he has given way, that he has by the new naval policy reversed these positions. Mr. Foster, last session, reviewing in his malignant spirit the history of the conferences, made out Sir Wilfrid to be guilty almost of constructive treason in taking the course he did. Now Sir Wilfrid says he pledged Canada to engage in her own naval defence as soon and as fast as her growing means would enable her to. In eight years population had grown thirty per cent., revenue a hundred per cent. only a start; and it was known to Canada was ready to start. It was incommensurate with the amount at risk on two great sea coasts, but it was in line with the evolution of Canada as a nation.

Moreover, this navy, taken for what it is, is to be under the control of the Canadian Government, the Canadian Parliament, the Canadian people. On that point he seemed unable to be emphatic enough. He argued it from every corner, considered all objections, distinguished between (Continued on page four.)

## ONE OF CANADA'S VETERAN STATESMAN

A Chat with Sir Charles Tupper—Interest in Affairs Yet Keen is in the Enjoyment of Good Health.

(Standard of Empire.)

Maintaining as deep an interest in the affairs of the Dominion as when he was one of the central figures in the political life of Canada, Sir Charles Tupper, former prime minister, and one of the "fathers" of confederation, is living a secluded life in rural England. He is now in his 90th year, and when I first met him in the Strand—he was jumping out of a taxicab—I could scarcely believe that the famous son of Nova Scotia had reached four-score and ten years.

Time has dealt lightly with Sir Charles. The passing of the last ten years has made little difference and his figure is as erect as when I last saw him in the House of Commons at Ottawa. After the strain of nearly half a century in the political arena, and after having passed through that troubled period—the stormy prelude to the calm of confederation—one would think that Sir Charles would be well content to rest, but conversation with him soon proves that he would much rather be near the scene of his many labors.

"I should much prefer to live in Canada," he said, "but the health of Lady Tupper makes an ocean voyage out of the question."

Sir Charles was good enough to grant me an interview at his house, The Mount, Bexley, Heath, Kent. He was very enthusiastic over the future of the Dominion, and speaking of its wonderful development, said:

"I have witnessed the immense progress of Canada with intense satisfaction. Forty years ago I was regarded as a very sanguine man in relation to the future of Canada, but its development has exceeded my most sanguine expectations. Occupying as it does, the best portion of the North American continent, it is obvious that at no very distant date it will have a most commanding position in the world."

"It has been suggested that Canada is destined to become the dominant partner in the Empire," I said. "Do you think that as it develops, Canada will desire to take a larger part in the government of the Empire?"

"The present generation," he replied, "will, in my opinion, see the population of Canada surpass that of the United Kingdom, but I see no reason to suppose that Canada and the other great Dominions, however important they may become, will not be proud to enjoy the position of sister nations. The position of the British Empire, under the development of its outlying portions, will command still greater influence in international affairs than it wields at present."

On the questions of annexation and protection, Sir Charles was quite emphatic.

"The question of annexation was settled in the contest of 1891, and in my judgment settled for ever. Canada owes all its present greatness to the protection policy, and that policy will be maintained. Certainly you will not see protection abandoned in your time."

Discussing the question of Imperial preference, Sir Charles said:

"I look upon a mutual preferential tariff between the Dominion and England and the outlying portions of the British Empire as a policy that will be attended with the happiest results, by bringing a strong bond of mutual self-interest to add to the sentimental loyalty that now exists in all portions of the Empire."

Few men at ninety have any hobbies, and I was much surprised when Sir Charles told me that he still played golf, "although my medical adviser restricts my participation in the game of putting." It is a consolation to me to know, he remarked smiling, "that nearly all championships of the game are decided on the putting green."

"It has been a source of unbounded satisfaction to me," he concluded, "that all the great measures in which I was permitted to take part have practically been solved in the direction of my exertion. The confederation of Canada, the binding together of the various provinces by steel bonds, and the opening up of that great granary between the Red River and the Rockies, which under a policy of Protection, Canada was able to achieve, enable me to look back with great satisfaction upon the settlement of the questions with which in my public life I was occupied."

"No country in the world, in my judgment, is prospering to such an extent as Canada, or on so sure a foundation, and it would pass the most prophetic vision to say that position she will occupy in the not distant future."

## WANTED

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