

RUSSIA REJECTS AUSTRO-GERMAN PEACE PROPOSALS; GREAT STRUGGLE IN THE EASTERN AREA MUST BE CONTINUED

LIBERAL CHIEFTAIN VISITS BIRTH PLACE

Five Thousand People Honor Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the Little Village of St. Lin, P.Q.—Presented With An Illuminated Address and Made a Suitable Reply—Liberal Naval Policy Has Been Amply Justified—Appeal for Recruits.

St. Lin, Que., Aug. 8—Revisiting the home of his boyhood in the quaint old village of St. Lin, nestled in the shelter of the Laurentians, Sir Wilfrid Laurier on Saturday received from an assemblage of over five thousand people a welcome worthy of the occasion, and in response gave the great gathering an address characteristic of the old chief, who for over fifty years of public life has devoted his energy and ability to promoting in Canada and in the empire the principles of justice, tolerance and liberty.

In the illuminated address, presented to him by the parish, reference was made to his distinguished and unblemished career. It concluded with the prayer that he might long be spared in health and strength to further the great principles for which he had always stood, those of justice, tolerance and liberty.

That gave the keynote to Sir Wilfrid in the stirring speech of a little over an hour, in which he urged his compatriots from the Province of Quebec to recognize that in the great war in which Canada was now engaged with the rest of the empire, and with old France these principles were now at stake and to all Canadians came equally the call to fight beneath the colors.

"If I were young enough myself," Sir Wilfrid declared, "I, too, would be in the firing line and share the honor and the privilege of fighting for what the Union Jack stands for—justice, tolerance and liberty. For these things I have worked all my life. I shall do so to the end, for so long as God spares me."

It was a strong and vigorous appeal, not only to the great gathering which had assembled to welcome St. Lin's most illustrious son, but also particularly to the whole province of Quebec. There has been in some quarters of that province an effort to discourage recruiting, just as there was, four or five years ago, the agitation against the Canadian navy idea and Canada's entrance as a full-fledged daughter nation into all the responsibilities of nationhood within the empire. Then Sir Wilfrid was attacked for being too British. Yesterday he stood firmly by the ground he had taken then and to those of his own province who were lukewarm toward the recruiting movement and toward the redoubling of Canada's efforts in the European contest, he gave emphatic and striking reproof.

A WAR FOR LIBERTY.

Referring to a recent recruiting meeting in Montreal, where a returned Canadian officer was heckled by a small element in the audience, he declared that their action was "nothing short of a crime."

"I do not know the officer," he said, "but I know that he has fought in a just cause and that he is a hero. If any one here has the mentality to say that this war is not our business, and that Canada is not vitally concerned, I can only say that it is not my mentality. It is a war of absolutism against liberty. If you have liberty at heart, how can any of you say it is not our business?"

The duty devolving upon the people of Quebec, he declared, was a three-fold one—first, the duty of helping to defend the rights of the smaller nations; second, the duty of fighting for all that the British flag, under which their rights and liberties have been guaranteed, stood for, and third

the duty and privilege of helping to defend the land of their ancestry—old France.

A ROUSING WELCOME.

Yesterday's demonstration in numbers and enthusiasm was a magnificent one. A special train of over twenty coaches took nearly two thousand people from Montreal in the morning. From the neighboring counties of Montcalm, Terrebonne, Laval and Lassomption, the inhabitants drove in by the hundreds. This town of some five hundred inhabitants was dressed for the occasion. Flags and banners and flowers were everywhere. Three hundred children gave Sir Wilfrid a great welcome as he stepped from the train, accompanied by the Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux and the Hon. Sydney Fisher. A hundred young men on horseback led the procession, formed at the station, to escort the former premier through his natal town. As he entered the waiting automobile, on which two of his young grand nephews stood as couriers, fire crackers and rockets were discharged and the church bells were rung.

The welcome was a typical French-Canadian welcome and Sir Wilfrid was greatly touched by its fervor. There were, of course, very few of his old boyhood friends left to greet him. It is over half a century since he left his old home to begin his career as a lawyer and parliamentarian.

At one of the stations en route from Montreal, the mayor of the parish, an old grey bearded man, boarded the train, and came to Sir Wilfrid.

"Do you remember me?" he asked. "Of course I do," replied Sir Wilfrid. "Why, it's Morin, my old school mate," and Sir Wilfrid shook hands cordially.

"Sometimes we used to make fun of you then," said the mayor, "but I know now we were mistaken."

"Lots of people have made the same mistake," replied Sir Wilfrid.

VISITS PARENTS' GRAVE.

Later on, after the afternoon meeting which was held in the open air near the parish church, Sir Wilfrid, accompanied by his nephews visited the old graveyard where the modest tombstone marks the resting place of his father and mother. Carolus Laurier, who died in 1886, and Marcelle Martineau, his wife, who died in 1848. The inscriptions shows that both were born in the year of Waterloo, the former on March 17 and the latter on March 15. Sir Wilfrid wandered through the church yard, glancing at the names on the various stones and as he left he remarked to a friend:

"There are a few still in the village I remember, but the most of my old friends lie here."

Those of his old friends who still remain he was careful to look up.

After luncheon at the home of his nephew, Sir Wilfrid was escorted by the mounted young of the district to the temporary stand where the meeting was held. The member for the county, P. A. Seguin, gave the first public welcome, briefly reviewing Sir Wilfrid's career from the time he left the old home up to the present. A Liberal of the old school and the greatest Canadian, St. Lin welcomed him back with open arms, said Mr. Seguin.

Addresses of welcome were also given by Walter Reed, M.P.P.; Mayor Morin and Mayor Thivaud. (Continued on page five.)

WAR HORSE PATRIOTS NOT ON HAND

Sir Charles Davidson Probing Purchase of War Horses In Nova Scotia

Kentville, N. S., Aug. 6—Four of the most important witnesses in the investigation being conducted here by the royal commission, now looking into the matter of certain war horse deals in the maritime provinces, were absent when the commission opened its first session here today. When the announcement was made of the absence of these witnesses it caused quite a sensation.

H. W. Sangster, of Windsor, presented an application to appear on behalf of Dewitt Foster and it was granted. Mr. Thompson, counsel for the commission, said that the two purchasing agents of Dewitt Foster who had the contract for horse purchases in Kings county, and also the two veterinaries, who passed upon the said horses, are not available for evidence.

Sir Charles Davidson, the commission, urged upon Mr. Sangster, counsel for Mr. Foster, who was present in the court, the importance to the former member of parliament of securing the evidence of these witnesses.

Douglas Woodworth and Frank Keever, the two agents referred to to be in the United States at the present time.

Dr. Chipman, one of the veterinaries who participated in the purchasing of these horses in question is said to be in a sanatorium in the United States, "in an advanced stage of tuberculosis."

Dr. Wood, another veterinary, left these parts shortly after the purchases were made and went to London (Ont.), his home. Efforts made by Mr. Thompson to find him at his home failed. "He also disappeared," said Mr. Thompson.

The only witness examined were Major Walter Crowe, of Sydney, regarding purchased horses last August. Major Crowe was on his way to Kingston for training and had thought it necessary to testify before the commission in view of rumors which had been spread by persons in Cape Breton county regarding his horse transactions. He produced documents and made statements to show that everything that he had to do with the purchases was above board.

Sir Charles Davidson said that he understood that two of the missing witnesses were in possession of the receipts. Mr. Sangster said that all the receipts which Woodworth had were now in Mr. Foster's hands. As for Keever's receipts he had said that he had lost them.

Sir Charles said "it was of vital importance to have these witnesses. 'Why don't they come here?' asked Sir Charles. 'Why not telegraph them?'"

"We'll do anything your lordship suggests," said Mr. Sangster.

"Do they think it's necessary to obtain a safe conduct?" asked his lordship.

Mr. Sangster was not in a position to say as to that, it might be an inducement.

Mr. Thompson said that two other important witnesses the veterinaries Dr. Chipman and Dr. Wood ought to be present. Sir Charles said he thought Mr. Foster might make some very earnest effort to have these witnesses here. Of course if Dr. Chipman was ill he could not come.

Mr. Thompson said he had not subpoenaed Dr. Wood. He had understood that he was in London, (Ont.), but had found that he was not there.

The commission will resume its hearing at 10.30, Monday morning.

Rev. J. A. Cooper of Bathurst, is at the Queen.

London, Aug. 9—Russians having rejected what in England is regarded as a bona fide proposal made by the German emperor for peace with part of Poland traded for Galicia the great struggle in the east must continue, and as there is no indication of an immediate general offensive by either side in the west the struggle of the Russian forces to shake themselves free of Austro-German grip remains the chief factor in the war news.

THE BALKAN SITUATION

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

London, Aug. 9—Gallipoli field will be closely watched because of its possible bearing on the Balkan situation which is again simmering. By reason of the renewal of the Quadruple Entente pressure on Bulgaria and Greece.

ITALIANS ARE ACTIVE

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

London, Aug. 9—Latest official reports from Rome recent activity by the Italian mountain troops, resulting in gains. In Cadore the Austrians have been forced back as far as the south slopes of Burgstall in the valley of Seften. The statement declares, while counter attacks by the Austrians on Carso Plateau are characterized as "weak" and largely repulsed. Austrian official report declares all Italian attempts to advance were repulsed.

UNDER AMERICAN PROTECTION

London, Aug. 9—The British consulate at Riga, the Russian seaport which is being evacuated by the civil population has been placed under American protection, according to the Petrograd correspondent of Reuter's Telegram Company. The correspondent states that women are replacing the sailors on board Volga River steamboats.

AN OFFER OF PEACE

London, Aug. 9—Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd transmits the following: "The Bourse Gazette learns from an unimpeachable source that the German emperor made an offer of peace to Russia last week, through the King of Denmark. The answer sent to the king stated that the question of peace negotiations could not be raised at the present time"