

LAURIER'S NIAGARA RECEPTION

Thousands of People Greeted the Liberal Leader on Opening His Ontario Campaign.

Sir Wilfrid Made an Aggressive Fighting Speech

NIAGARA, FALLS, Ont., Sept. 16.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier, accompanied by cabinet ministers and other prominent Liberals, reached here from Toronto yesterday morning in a government car, and found Niagara Falls at the station to meet him. Local and visiting bands greeted him with "Oh Canada," and a huge crowd cheered enthusiastically as the Premier responded to calls and appeared on the car's rear platform.

There he was presented with an address of welcome by Mayor Carter. Replying, Sir Wilfrid warmly thanked the Mayor and crowd for the address and hearty reception.

Cheers were given and the "Maple

1901 and the verdict of 1906 was not reversed. Now that another election was coming the Tories had changed their tactics. They no longer attacked the platform and spoke of the dangers that would result if it were adopted. But they attacked those who made the platform, "me and my fellow leaders."

DENIES CONSERVATIVE CHARGE.

Now the charge is that we have deserted Liberal principles and failed to apply our policy. This is, it must be admitted, a very strange reproach in the mouth of the Conservative party, in Conservative organs and

gence made by Mr. Foster in the Maritime Provinces some days ago, Sir Wilfrid said:

"What is the evidence which he brings in support of the charges that we have been criminally extravagant? His evidence is that in 1896, the last year he was in office as finance minister, the expenditure was \$36,000,000 in round figures, and that last year the Liberal government spent \$76,000,000. That is to say in twelve years the expenditure doubled, and he calls that extravagance. Sir, if I were to ask how many men there are in this audience who in the year 1908 spent double the amount they spent twelve years ago, dozens and hundreds would rise up, because times have been good, and the public and private wealth has increased, and men can spend double what they spent twelve years ago.

"There is one easy criticism by which to judge extravagance, but Mr. Foster has forgotten it. If a man has a certain income and spends within that income he cannot be called extravagant. That is my logic at all events. It is not the logic of Mr. Foster. If there is a man in this audience who has an income of \$10,000, and spends \$8,000, in the eyes of Mr. Foster he is extravagant. But if he is a man who has an income of \$10,000 and spends \$500 more than that amount he would not be extravagant, but would be saving. That is the logic of Mr. Foster."

PRaises Fielding.

Figuring out Mr. Fielding's surplus for his twelve years, to a total of \$113,000,000, he exclaimed: "Now Sir, do you call that criminally negligent, criminally extravagant? I have told you I am not a financial man. I am not equal to Mr. Fielding. He is my leader in that line."

"When Mr. Foster applies to his opponents and his betters such words as 'criminally extravagant,' he would have done better to tell his hearers that out of millions expended, hundreds of thousands, in some cases approaching millions, have been spent in bringing from Europe large numbers of his immigrants, who have gone to the prairie land to help us to build up this country."

"If Mr. Foster had told his hearers that of those millions a large proportion were used for building the Grand Trunk Pacific railway, which has rolled the map of Canada over 100 miles northward; if he had told them that we were deepening the canals and in a thousand different ways have so improved the condition of things that the miracle has been performed, that our trade in twelve years has increased from \$230,000,000 to \$650,000,000. If he had told that out of these millions we have relieved the motherland of necessity of the expenditure for the maintenance of the garrisons at Halifax and Esquimaux, for if we have become a nation we are a nation under the British crown, and we should as far as possible maintain our own military expenditure, and so, if we can, relieve the motherland. If Mr. Foster had told of these things he would have presented a true picture."

"At the very moment Mr. Foster talks against our lavish expenditure, he goes to Prince Edward Island and promises a tunnel which at the lowest estimate would cost \$10,000,000. That is not bad for a man who preaches retrenchment."

THE TARIFF.

Coming to the tariff question Sir Wilfrid admitted Mr. Fielding had killed the national policy, but added that the result had been a policy which made the country prosperous. It was true the Liberals did not rush into radical reform. They were reformers not revolutionists. In our day a policy dare not be revolutionized. It must be improved gradually. The preference, when introduced, was a new thing, but now it was as much a part of the policy of Canada as any of the organic laws.

He gave the Conservatives credit for placing in execution the building of the C. P. R., though he did not approve of the terms on which it was built. They were to use Foster's expression, criminally extravagant, but after the Conservative party had built the C. P. R., it fell asleep and for year after year let the country drift until in 1896, when the country was in a deplorable condition, trade and especially manufac-

turing was stagnated. Something had to be done, and the Liberals built the Crows Nest railway, brought the Intercolonial to Montreal, improved the grain harbors on Lake Superior and deepened the St. Lawrence channel.

Another question they were giving the greatest attention to and considering more seriously than all the others was the building of the national transcontinental. That project had been attacked by the whole force of the opposition but he was proud of it.

The figures of the Conservatives who said the Transcontinental in the end would cost the country \$200,000,000 were preposterous. The government might advance the money but would be recouped every cent of it except for ten years' interest.

The Hudson Bay railway would not cost people of the east anything. It would be constructed out of the price of the land set apart for the purpose. This railway was a necessity to the west, it would give an alternative grain route, which would not hurt the St. Lawrence route. There was trade enough for both. All the terminals and elevators will be built by the government and retained under government control.

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Tommy—Don't want to.

Mother—Oh, well, if you're going to be unkind to your new little sister, she'll put on her wings and fly back again to heaven.

Tommy—Then let her put on her wings and fetch her nightgown!

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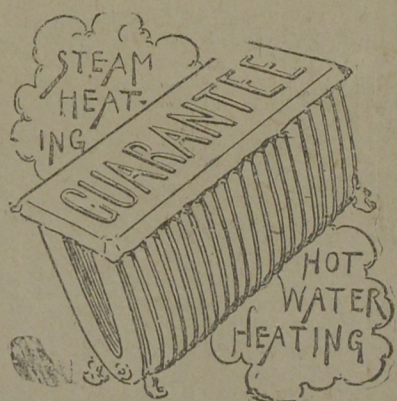
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RIGHT HON. SIR WILFRID LAURIER.

The Distinguished Liberal Premier of Canada.

Leaf" played, and then Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Hon. Mr. Graham, Hon. Mr. Lemieux and W. M. German, local M. P., went for an auto ride. A big procession from the heart of Niagara Falls to Queen Victoria park preceded the speaking of the afternoon. Bright weather marked the whole day's proceedings, and there was just enough breeze to keep the flags and banners nicely floating. The city was gaily decorated and nearly everybody wore Laurier badges.

Fully eighteen thousand people from Niagara district, comprising Welland, Haldimand, Lincoln and Wentworth counties, faced the Premier, when he and his colleagues, Hon. Mr. Graham and Lemieux, with Wm. German, M. P. of Welland, and many others mounted a specially erected platform at 2.30 in the afternoon, and received the plaudits of his admirers.

In his opening sentences Sir Wilfrid said he was not sure the election was to come off immediately, but it was not very far distant. He might make an announcement in a few days, when speaking at Strathroy.

Referring to the ovation given him, he said Ontario had always done well by him, though it might have done better in way of votes. In 1893, at the time of the convention of the Liberal party, the Conservatives had taken the ground that the principles adopted there were dangerous, and that if the Canadian people returned the Liberals to power the application of these principles would certainly be dangerous, if not fatal.

The Conservative party had come to believe that the Creator had made them of some sort of superior clay and that the lot of poor Grits was simply to hew wood and draw water for them. (Laughter.) Every day and every night they dreamed dreams of Joseph, and they saw small Grit sheaves paying homage to big Tory sheaves. The elections of 1896 came, and they were mighty undeceived. Their eyes were opened. They still believed that they were bound to rule and they expressed the opinion that the Liberal victory in 1896 was simply a fluke, that already the people had repented of what they had done and that as soon as they had opportunity of so doing they would reverse the verdict.

Opportunities came in 1900 and

Taking up the charge of extra-