

SIR WILFRID FAILED TO KEEP HIS HOLD ON WINNIPEG AUDIENCE

Enthusiasm at Meeting Was
Not That of
1911

Winnipeg, Dec. 14.—With mixed emotions some ten thousand people heard Sir Wilfrid Laurier in Winnipeg. There was no suggestion of a hostile demonstration and the score of police scattered through the hall early withdrew. The jeers provoked by Sir Wilfrid's frequent allusion to aliens who had been invited to make a refuge of our great Dominion were quickly silenced by the overwhelming sentiment of those present.

With Hartley Dewart, M. P. P., of Toronto, and A. G. McKay, M. P., of Edmonton, the secondary attraction, it was an impatient crowd, and catcalls, hisses and laughter was interspersed with noisy demonstrations. When McKay undertook to defend the alien enemies and to criticize the Government for disfranchising them, he was rebuked by such an uproar, that the sentiment of the audience was unmistakable.

As compared with Laurier's reception in 1911 the meetings were tame and uninteresting. There was a plentiful sprinkling of returned soldiers in the audience, and they were silent except when Laurier asserted that there were enough Canadian troops overseas to reinforce four divisions at the front for over a year. Then there were shouts of "No, no. You know better than that." When he declared that there was no real danger and that it was unimportant if the referendum was not taken until next June, many of the soldiers rose to their feet and there were shouts of "Shame" and "No, no."

There was a spark of temper displayed when Laurier denounced the efforts at recruiting in Quebec. Cries of "No, no." "You're a bunch of quitters in Quebec." "Cold feet," and "Yellow," continued for some time.

Feeling Against Aliens.

But the most serious mutterings came when Laurier undertook to defend the Austro-Germans and scored the Disfranchisement Act as a deliberate insult to a class of citizens who were loyal to their adopted country. The concerted efforts of the Laurier following placed at advan-

tageous, points could not be
booming.

But McKay, of Edmonton, former-
ly Liberal leader in Ontario, did not
receive the consideration he deserved
his chieftain when he took to
praise the Teutonic cities of Al-
berta and Saskatchewan when he
said they were good cities and loyal
and that it was a shame to disenfran-
chise them the rage of a thou-
sand loyal Canadians went out in
a roar. It was some time before
order was restored, several persons
rising from their seats.

The Telegram, editor analysing
the occasion, says that "Laurier
is making an inglorious end of a bril-
liant career. His measure was
a pitiable affair. It was a magic, for
he found in the vast majority his only
supporters were German Austrians,
disappointed French-Canadians and a
few renegade English-speaking Can-
adians whose patriotism has been
drowned in a flood of sectarian bigot-
ry."