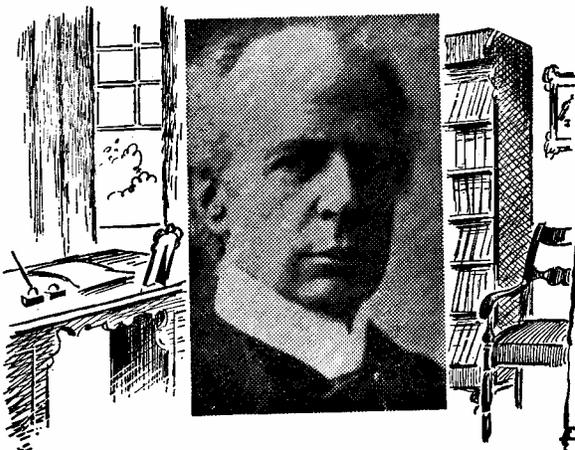


~~~~~ FAMOUS LETTERS IN CANADIAN HISTORY ~~~~~



End of Era

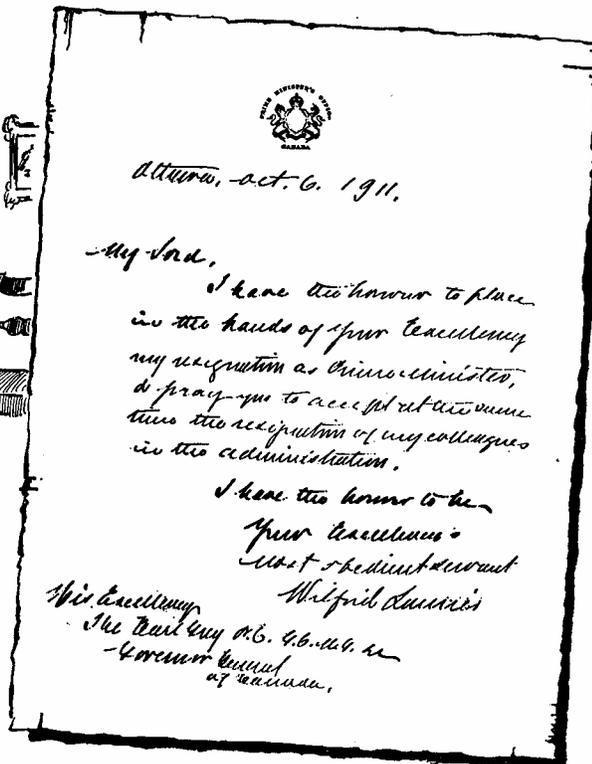
It took just 34 words for Sir Wilfrid Laurier to write the end to an era.

Fifteen days before this letter was written to Earl Grey, the Laurier government went down in defeat to Sir Robert Borden's Conservatives.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier was first elected to Parliament in 1847 and as leader of the Liberal Party was swept into office in 1895 and ruled Canada for the next 14 years.

Today he is recognized as one of the greatest leaders of Canadian history.

But when this letter, preserved in the Public Archives of Canada, was written the



Canadian people had turned against him on the issue of reciprocity with the United States.

Laurier's Letter of Resignation

Ottawa, October 6, 1911.

My Lord:

I have the honour to place in the hands of Your Excellency my resignation as Prime Minister and pray you to accept

at the same time the resignation of my colleagues in the administration.

I have the honour to be
Your Excellency's
most obedient servant,

WILFRID LAURIER.