

The Disruption of Canada.

INTRODUCTION.—If, after many years of abstention from politics, I venture, at this most serious period of Canada's history, to offer counsel to my fellow electors, it is because Canada is being disrupted, and because, in discharge of duty to my country, I deem it necessary to say that, in my opinion, Sir Robert Borden is, in very large measure, responsible for that most deplorable situation. Having in 1910-1911, for mere party purposes, abetted the propagation of anti-British sentiments among the people of Quebec, Sir Robert, without the slightest effort to counteract what had been done, suddenly turned upon those same people with a law which his friends had taught them to detest, and which he knew could be carried into operation only through the display of force. By the work of these friends, as countenanced by himself, and by his subsequent abrupt and sharp antagonism to those whom they had educated, he is, I say, disrupting Canada. When that is happening, I feel that I cannot, and that I ought not to keep silence.

It was inevitable, as Canada emerged from her degrading colonialism, that difficulties should be encountered, that differences of opinion should arise; and it was possible that racial and religious antagonisms should render still more arduous the solution of the many problems which would necessarily attend the readjustment of our political status. It was not inevitable that the leader of one of the great political parties should add enormously to the perplexities of the situation. I charge as against Sir Robert Borden that that is what he has done.

THE SITUATION.—To understand the situation, a few preliminary words are necessary. The war-relationship between Canada and the United Kingdom was very clearly stated in a memorandum submitted by the War Office to the Colonial Conference of 1902.