

(d) On the outbreak of war in 1914, public opinion accepted without question Canada's involvement, as a British colony, in the situation where the Crown was at war. Although Canada still had the right to decide the degree and form of its participation in the overseas war, the country unanimously felt it to^{be} its duty to participate actively in the defence operations of Great Britain and its European allies overseas. Parliament was not in session, and the Government acted expeditiously, with a formal declaration of war and the organization and preparation for despatch of contingents, before Parliament could meet. As soon as it assembled, however, Parliament gave an enthusiastic support of the Borden Government's measures. The War Measures Act, passed promptly in the special session, confirmed these early steps and gave extraordinary powers to the executive considered appropriate in time of war. (1) *

During the war years, Borden and his Cabinet, with the help of various wartime Cabinet committees,

(1) Glazebrook, op. cit. p.294.

* In Great Britain's entry into the war in 1914, Sir Edward Grey claimed that it had been sufficient to consult Parliament only in the final crisis, and the extent of Britain's prior commitments was not fully known either to the putative enemy, or to the British Parliament itself. (Beloff, op. cit.).