

ing to recruit new regiments in the province of Quebec. Among those still in the theatre of the war we have Brigadier General Landry, Lt.-Col. Edouard Panet, Lt.-Col. Henri Panet, Majors Lebel, Gagnon, Verret, Milot, Chaballe, Captains Lefebvre, McDonald, Lemieux, Lacroix, Brosseau, Darche, H. Beaudry, Lieut. Pinnode, Capt. Garon, Capt. Leblanc (son of Quebec's Governor), Capt. Caron, Capt. Duchene and Capt. Picard. Some of the best families in the province of Quebec are represented, among them De Beaujeus, DeSalaberrys, Laviolettes, Babys and de Lanaudières. And surely it is a spectacle to be admired when we see the descendants of those who fought against the British for supremacy in Canada fighting side by side with the Allies.

My hon. friend from Red Deer (Mr. Clark) has the proud advantage of having one if not two sons at the front. Let me congratulate him sincerely. And may I be permitted to say that there are five men of my own name, of my own flesh and blood, who are now wearing the King's uniform and doing their duty in this war—there were six, but one has made the supreme sacrifice on the field of battle.

I have shown that the Prime Minister's announcement at the beginning of this war was well received by this House, by the press, and by the country, and that is due, I have no doubt to the united efforts of the political leaders. Let me call attention to a point which was referred to in the speech of my hon. friend from L'Islet (Mr. Paquet), and it is this: the Catholic Church in the province of Quebec, as in days of old, has done its duty. At the very beginning of the war, a pastoral letter was issued by the archbishops and bishops of Quebec calling upon their flocks to respond to the call of duty and to serve the flag. The memorable words quoted in this House the other day by my hon. friend from L'Islet and also by my hon. friend from Yukon (Mr. Thompson) are there to show that the Catholic Church, the hierarchy and the clergy, in the present war as during the Napoleonic wars, are faithful to the British flag and to the free institutions which have given them such great liberties in the Dominion of Canada.

And what has been the result of all these efforts? Up to the first of December, 1915, there were at least 9,000 French-Canadians enlisted in the army. It is difficult to tell the exact number of French-Canadians now enlisted or the number that were enlisted at that time, because as hon. members of

the House are aware, many of those British soldiers who came across with Wolfe settled in Quebec and adopted the language of those among whom they came to live, so that to-day there are Frasers, Blackburns, Warrens, McLeans, and many others of similar names the descendants of, these hardy British soldiers, who speak not one word of English. But I take from the official lists which have been furnished me by the Militia Department, that on the first of December last, there were 9,000 men bearing French names who had already enlisted.

This is not enough. We did not consider the province of Quebec, when it enlisted 1,000 men was doing its full duty, and every effort has been put forward to ensure that in this great cause the province of Quebec shall bear its full share in the defence of the Empire. At the present time, apart from the regiments of Colonels Gaudet and Archambault which are on the other side of the ocean, there are now organized or being organized in the province of Quebec, regiments under Colonels Dansereau, Barré, Readman, Piuze, and last, but not least, under Major Asselin, the Nationalist. Let me say here that all praise is due to Mr. Asselin. I take it that it is not a crime for a man to change his views or his political opinions.

Mr. MURPHY: When he changes them rightly.

Mr. CASGRAIN: When he changes them right. In the words of M. Guizot, "celui qui ne change pas d'avis est un sot." But, Sir, when I spoke of the unanimity of sentiment in the province of Quebec I was not forgetting what had been published in a paper which is well known to many members of this House, and from the columns of which I desire to read a few articles. On September 18, 1914, *Le Devoir*, of Montreal, under the signature of M. Henri Bourassa, published an article in which that gentleman first laid down the principle that Canada, as an irresponsible dependency of Great Britain, had no moral or constitutional obligation in regard to or immediate interest in the present conflict, and then this article proceeded:

Independently of these colonial obligations, which from the standpoint of history, the constitution or the facts, are inexistent, is it possible for Canada as a young nation (nation embryonnaire), as a community of men, to remain indifferent in respect to the European conflict?

To this second question, as to the first, I reply without hesitation: no!