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Canada's position between England and the United States demanded great tact from her leaders during two world wars. Twice she remained for several years a country at war next to a neutral state, whose population was, for the greater part, opposed to participating in the war, and watched with distrust every influence emerging from Canadian borders. In both wars, Canada had to take into account the aversion of Americans towards England. She also had to realize that those of her own population that were averse to entering a European war were being strengthened in their position by the attitude of others from beyond the border.

All the while, Canada continued to be highly sensitive to anything that might be taken to be an attempt by England to influence Canadian home politics.

"Daughter am I in my Mother's house,

But Mistress in my own,"

Kipling had written. The French Canadians, as well as many others, were especially difficult when it came to the question of conscription for service overseas. As France was not beaten in the first war, and ready optimists could imagine her safe, it would have been impossible to get the French Canadians to vote for conscription. Laurier, the Liberal leader, had strongly opposed compulsory measures. When conscription, after three