

would desire it is that the policy of Canada on this great question, and the resolution announcing it, should meet with the absolute and unanimous approval of this Parliament and of the country.

What suggestions I have to make, I make with the sincere desire that we may shape a resolution of which we can all approve and which shall go forth to the world as a ringing declaration that if the mother of nations has to fight the battle of her life, the people of Canada without distinction of party or of creed will stand by her side in that fight. This is too great a question for the introduction of party strategy; it is a question in respect of which we should all rise superior to all party motives, and so I purpose making to my right honourable friend one or two suggestions which I know he will receive in the spirit in which I make them.

The result was that Sir Wilfrid and Sir Robert got together, Sir Wilfrid's resolution was amended and the House unanimously adopted a resolution saying that Canada should take part in the defence not only of her own shores, but also of the British Empire as a whole, and that we should have a navy in this country. Because we had unanimity in this country as to what we should do regarding naval affairs at that time, the Liberal Government, or perhaps the then Minister of Naval Affairs, communicated with Great Britain and she put at our service the cruisers Niobe and Rainbow. The Niobe was a ship which had seen service in the British Navy, yet was still well suited for the purpose of training our young men. She came to this country in 1910 and was stationed at Halifax, while the Rainbow went to the Pacific coast and was stationed at Esquimalt.

The election was over. I do not need to dwell on what happened at that election in 1911. At that time I, like a great many others in this country, was a partisan. I took part in that election as a supporter of the man whom I regard as this country's greatest statesmen, Sir Wilfrid Laurier. I have never been ashamed of the support I gave to my leader then, any more than any member of the other party need be ashamed of the support he gave to his leader. But it is to be regretted, and especially at this time, that that election was not fought on the resolution I have read with regard to the Canadian Navy. Other things came up, with the result that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a man who had given his life to the public service of the country, was referred to in the English provinces as an enemy of Great Britain, and in his own province of Quebec as a traitor to his race and creed. At that election, for some reason best known to themselves, certain people decided to go back on what they agreed to during the parliamentary discussion in 1909.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Will the honourable gentleman pardon me? I do not doubt for a moment that he is speaking in good faith. But I do want to say this and have it on the record. I took part in that election, in more than one province, and I never at any time heard anything of that nature said with reference to Sir Wilfrid Laurier in any province. It may have been said—no one could say it never was said—but I can say, certainly, that it never was said with the approval of the Conservative leader or of anyone of any importance in the Conservative party.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: "La maudite marine à Laurier."

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: We can only speak of things as we ourselves know them. I have had occasion more than once to say in this House that the Nationalist movement in the province of Quebec, which carried twenty-five seats by the slogan, "No contribution towards Imperial wars except for the defence of Canada," was conducted under the banner of Mr. Bourassa and Mr. Monk, a lieutenant of Mr. Robert Borden, and financed from A to Z by the Conservative party.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I think the honourable gentleman had better not have made that statement, for he does not know the facts and I do not think he is correct. However, I was not speaking on that point. I rose merely to make the one statement, because I did not think what the honourable gentleman from Lunenburg (Hon. Mr. Duff) was saying was fair to the provinces concerned.

Hon. Mr. DUFF: Of course, I understand that my right honourable friend would not stoop to those tactics.

Hon. Mr. PARENT: What the honourable gentleman from Lunenburg said was surely correct so far as Quebec is concerned.

Hon. Mr. DUFF: And so far as the English-speaking provinces are concerned I know of my own knowledge that because Sir Wilfrid Laurier tried to make an agreement with the United States under which our fish, among other things, could be sent to that country free of duty, he was held up as an enemy to Great Britain; and because he was willing to contribute to the British Navy he was held up in his own province as a traitor. I think perhaps the greatest tribute that was ever paid to Sir Wilfrid Laurier was paid a week ago, when the leader of the great Conservative party of this country was man enough to say,