

tunity to declare my attitude with regard to Canada's participation in the war was at Schermer Park, in the month of September, 1914. I recall the occasion because I think it adds another to the many proofs which have been given by honourable gentlemen on this side who have preceded me, that the Government have been most slack and most derelict in not taking advantage of the unquestioned enthusiasm which was manifested in the province of Quebec at the opening of the war. At the meeting at Schermer Park there were 15,000 French Canadians. They were addressed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, my friend the late lamented Thomas Chase Casgrain, the Honourable Rodolphe Lemieux, Mr. Maréchal (now Mr. Justice Maréchal), our colleague the honourable gentleman from De Lorimier (Hon. Mr. Dandurand), Colonel Gaudet, myself, and others; and at no other recruiting meeting I have attended has an appeal been as well received as the appeal, so plain and so definite, made on that occasion by all these French orators—for not a single word of English was spoken.

How is it that the Government has taken as little advantage of that magnificent enthusiasm, demonstrated in the large city of Montreal so early in the war? As the hour is late and I know honourable gentlemen are anxious to vote, I am not going to take as much time as I had intended in giving the facts and arguments to show why the province of Quebec has not done perhaps as much as was expected of her, as much as she would have done if she had received one-tenth of the encouragement she should have received, if her manifest determination to take her full share in this war had been duly recognized and properly encouraged and assisted; if she had been differently treated by the Federal Government and the government as well as the press of some of the English-speaking provinces. I shall mention only a few points, because I do not wish to take up time unnecessarily.

If you will look over the names of members of commissions, committees and various bodies and persons appointed by this Government to take some share or other in the conduct of this war you will find that out of the hundreds of gentlemen who have been asked to serve on these bodies there are but very few Liberals, and fewer French Canadians. May I be allowed to mention one of the most recent instances? The Advisory Council which was appointed yesterday, I think, or the day before, in connection with the control of food. In a list of over fifty names of persons appointed on that council, how many Liberals do you sup-

pose there are? I could count only two. How many French Canadians? One. I mention these facts merely to show that in all these instances the Government of Canada from the outset decided that the conduct of the war should be monopolized by it and that Liberals were not to be allowed to take any share or responsibility therein. What is the reason? I can imagine no other reason than that at first, and for many months after the war began, it seemed to the Government of the day that there would not be enough glory to go around; it was expected that the war would not last very long, and they wanted to monopolize all the patronage and all the glory. I can find no other explanation; I have heard of no other; but there is one fact that is certain, and that is, that at no time have the Liberals of this country received anything like the recognition which they should have received. If they had received that recognition, conscription would have been absolutely unnecessary.

May I mention my own case in connection with two matters with regard to the war? I was one of the very first who took upon himself to write to His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, the very day after the establishment of the Patriotic Fund, sending my subscription, which I believe was the first to go in. It was not large, as my means are limited, but it was as generous as I could possibly make it. No recognition was made of it in any way, and no position on the committee was assigned to me; I heard no more about it, except, of course, the letter of acknowledgment from His Royal Highness. I thought nothing of it, but later on a local committee of the Fund was formed, and a large number of my good Tory friends were put on that committee, all the offices being assigned to Conservatives of Ottawa; and in this city, where one-third of the population are French Canadians, not a single French Canadian was put on that committee. Would you believe that I had to apply three times, first personally, and finally in writing, requesting that my name be added to the committee, because I was anxious to serve; and when I was put on I was the first and only French Canadian. True, after that a few other French Canadians were put on. We are told: "Why, you French Canadians don't do anything; you don't subscribe to the Patriotic Fund, you don't take part in Red Cross work, you won't serve, you won't do your bit." As regards recruiting, what occurred in my own case was this: In September, shortly after my return from Europe with our colleagues whom I have mentioned.

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