

impression that we are actually carrying the burden of two wars—the distant European war, and the nearby provincial war, where our French language and culture are at stake.

(b) Politics, or rather politicians—who, in both parties, for a score of years enslaved by Imperialism, have spread the conviction that Canada's interests must be sacrificed for the benefit of the British Empire, and have utilized the war to promote their imperialistic object.

Political interference, furthermore, spoiled the very conduct of the Canadian war. The Government was primarily responsible for the manœuvres that were indulged in, in Quebec, to prevent enlistment, and to discourage French Canadian recruits instead of inducing them to enroll. The Opposition was also to blame for allowing the Government a free hand in its blunders and vexations. The Nationalists used the race war and the mistakes of the military authorities, not only to oppose the Conscription Bill—as it could be opposed, for instance, on economical grounds—but to preach the new gospel of no participation, even by voluntary enlistment, in what they called “a war for a foreign cause”, in which we had no interest and which was waged solely for imperialistic and profiteering purposes.

The result of all that had been to engender in the mind of the possible French Canadian recruit, a disastrous confusion of ideas, to make him lose sight of the real importance of the great war, to make him honestly believe that his true duty was to stay at home to defend his imperilled patrimony, and to isolate us, in the form, at least, of our opposition to the conscription measure.

The time had come, for the defence of Quebec, to assert that it had been badly treated, and badly led, and that, at heart, it was not responsible for its so-called backwardness.

The writer's second object was to urge French Canadians calmly and judiciously to enquire what their real duty was, in order to protect their true interests—which are those of the whole community—as well as to save their imperilled honor.

Plain speaking—not always devoid of passion—having been used towards the English fanatics who detract from the general good by presuming on their numerical strength—plain speaking was also used towards Quebec agitators who, under pretence of combating English