

certain individuals that the only people opposed to conscription are the French Canadians. As I have just shown, there is no justification for any such idea but the campaign by which it is sought to give currency to this idea in the English parts of Canada is fraught with such possibilities of grave danger to the State that I know of no better public service that can be rendered at this juncture than to place before Parliament and the country the resulting situation as it affects the whole people and to suggest how best, in my judgment, to deal with the situation.

We have heard a great deal about recruiting not being satisfactory in the province of Quebec. Indeed, the Minister of Trade and Commerce addressed himself to the leader of the Opposition as if that hon. gentleman alone, although in Opposition, were responsible for the poor recruiting in Quebec. In effect, the Minister of Trade and Commerce said to the leader of the Opposition: "Look here, Sir Wilfrid; we want to govern the rest of this country but you must govern Quebec and we will hold you responsible for everything that happens in Quebec." That from an hon. gentleman who, on the night of the Drummond-Arthabaska election in 1910, joined with the Nationalists in intoning the Te Deum over their victory by sending a telegram couched in the words: "Anything to beat Laurier."

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I have heard of that telegram so often that I would be infinitely obliged to my hon. friend if he would give me a copy of it.

Mr. MURPHY: I will try to oblige my hon. friend. I think this is the first time he has ever asked to be furnished with a facsimile of his own writing.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I do want it now badly. I would like to put it in my scrap book.

Mr. MURPHY: If it be the case that recruiting is not satisfactory in Quebec the Government cannot shift the responsibility from its own shoulders. What did the Government do to encourage recruiting in Quebec? Nothing. It did even worse than that, if I may be pardoned a Hibernianism, it placed in charge of recruiting in Quebec an English-speaking clergyman, of estimable character and highly respected, it is true, but not a soldier, and differing in race, language, and religion from the overwhelming French-Catholic majority of that province.

Mr. Speaker, that was not giving the French people leadership—that was deny-

ing them leadership. And, all the time, the Government had at its disposal the services of General Lessard, a brave and accomplished French-Canadian soldier, with a magnificent record in South Africa, a man whose appointment at the head of recruiting in his native province at the outbreak of the war would have appealed to the imagination and the enthusiasm of his fellow-countrymen and would have stimulated enlistment as nothing else would have done. But General Lessard was kept away from Quebec; he was assigned inferior duties in other parts of the country, and Canada and the Empire were the losers. The Government's initial blunder in Quebec was followed by others just as inexcusable. These I need not enumerate, but I may point out that a belated recruiting campaign was started by the Postmaster General (Hon. Mr. Blondin) a short time ago and was then abruptly called off. But it lasted long enough to enable the Postmaster General to publicly declare that recruiting in Quebec had been bungled from the start, and that if proper methods had been adopted in the beginning the response of the French Canadians would have been satisfactory in every respect. There is the testimony of a member of the Government, responsible for recruiting. How can the Government escape the condemnation of one of its own members, and how can the Government justify a Bill which one of its own members makes it manifest is introduced for the purpose of covering up its own blunders?

There is another state of affairs of which notice must be taken if we are honestly desirous of understanding the attitude of French Canada towards recruiting. One phase of that situation is created by the open and covert attacks made upon the French people. Let me cite a few instances, beginning with one mentioned the other evening by the hon. member for Rouville (Mr. Lemieux). Not many weeks ago, as hon. gentlemen will recall, it was publicly charged that a troop train was stoned while passing through the province of Quebec. The charge was widely circulated, and some credence was given to it even in this House. Much indignation was aroused, and, as usual in these cases, there was some senseless talk about reprisals. To the credit of the Government, I must say that, when my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) asked that the charge be investigated, the Government promptly appointed a commission for that purpose. And what was the result? The inquiry completely