

Borden at once gave the answer by placing the entire resources of the Dominion at the disposal of the Motherland; and on receiving an intimation from the late Lord Kitchener, that men were the first necessity, immediately called Parliament together to vote the necessary money. His government commenced the training and equipment of a first volunteer expeditionary force of 35,000, with provision for its further extension at need. This expeditionary force was partly trained at Valcartier camp, Quebec, and partly at Salisbury Plains, England, and first went into action at the second battle of Ypres in the spring of 1915. In the words of Viscount French, at that time Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in France, it "saved the situation" and barred the way to the Channel Ports from the Germans. In 1915 Sir Robert, who had been honored with the title of G.C.M.G. shortly before the outbreak of the conflict, visited Great Britain and France and, convincing himself that the struggle would be very long and difficult, pledged Canada to provide an aggregate of 500,000 trained men should the need arise. He and his government also made arrangements whereby Canadian manufacturers should engage largely in the production of munitions, the credits for such contracts being financed by the Canadian administration. The same policy was pursued in connection with contracts for food supplies, with the result that throughout the war there was a continued trade expansion and financial opulence that enabled Canada to make sacrifices that would otherwise have been impossible to her. During his visits to the front Sir Robert kept himself fully in touch with the needs of the Canadian army, and resolved to make it a first consideration in all his policies. A trip to Great Britain and France in the early part of 1917 convinced him that, in view of the dark outlook for peace, it would be necessary for Canada to adopt the policy of conscription, which had already been reluctantly adopted in Great Britain by Mr. Asquith, and had become the policy of the United States, which had recently entered the war. It was clear to Sir Robert that this policy could only be effectively imposed by consent of both parties in the House of Commons, and on his return to Canada in May, 1917, he announced conscription as his policy and an abandonment of party government. He was at first stoutly opposed both in the ranks of his own party and by his political opponents. Nevertheless, after long and patient negotiations he was successful in winning practically

the entire body of English-speaking Liberals to his way of thinking, and conscription carried in the House of Commons in the latter part of July, 1917, by the greatest majority ever given so momentous a measure. He then proceeded to form a Union Government almost equally representative of Conservatives and Liberals. Early in December of 1917 this government, with Sir Robert as Prime Minister, appealed to the people, and was supported by almost the entire mass of English-speaking constituencies, giving him the largest majority that any political leader has ever enjoyed in this country. As a result of the adoption of conscription, Canada was enabled by the time peace was declared to fulfil her pledge of sending 500,000 men to aid in the war against autocracy—a contribution which has made this country famous throughout the world. Already, on January 1, 1912, Sir Robert had been sworn in as a member of the Imperial Privy Council, the highest office that up to that time had been held in the Motherland by a Canadian. On his arrival in London in June, 1918, he was invited by the Prime Minister, Hon. David Lloyd-George to become a member of the Imperial War Cabinet, a post which he held during the duration of the war. This was followed in November of 1918 by an invitation to become one of Great Britain's Imperial representatives at the negotiations preliminary to and coincident with the Peace Conference to resolve the disasters of the war and at once proceeded overseas. Sir Robert's Imperial services have been such, and his legal attainments are so well known that at the time of writing his elevation to the peerage as a colonial representative on the legal committee of the Privy Council, which is the Court of Appeal for the whole Empire, is being strongly advocated in the Motherland. In his private relations Sir Robert is greatly beloved, and though his duties have brought him in contact with all the leading figures of Great Britain, France and the United States, he is a thorough democrat in bearing. His favorite recreation is golf and he has played with many world-famous statesmen, though he does not claim to be a champion. He is an Anglican in religion and a member of many clubs on both sides of the Atlantic. In September of 1889 he married Laura, daughter of the late T. H. Bond, of Halifax, and never fails to acknowledge the great aid and assistance that has been rendered him by Lady Borden in building up his illustrious career. They reside at 201 Wurtemberg St., Ottawa.