

### **How the Conservative-Nationalist Ministry came to be formed.**

Sowing to the wind in this reckless fashion, Mr. Borden was sooner or later to reap the whirlwind. In the meantime more immediate consequences had to be satisfied; the conditions of the compact had to be fulfilled, a Conservative-Nationalist Ministry had to be formed. The first political act of the Leader of the Conservative party after his election as Prime Minister was in the nature of an embrace of the Parliamentary Leader of the Nationalists. Mr. Borden had little dreamed when he associated himself so intimately with the Nationalists at the beginning of the campaign, that the result could be more than a possible reduction of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's substantial majority in the House. He was prepared to risk a more or less doubtful association, but as the campaign proceeded he became more and more involved, and as has already been said it was "anything to win" and, the "anything," it now appears, included an understanding or pledges that if returned to power there would be in his Government ample Nationalist representation, and in any course of policy which he might follow, full recognition of the Nationalist point of view.

**The sacrifice of British interests as respects immediate action and permanent policy, the basis of Nationalist-Conservative union in Mr. Borden's Cabinet.**

The basis of union of the Nationalist-Conservative Ministry is apparent enough. The Nationalists held firmly to their position as dictated by Mr. Bourassa and Mr. Lavergne, that there should be no permanent policy without an appeal to the people, and Mr. Borden, notwithstanding his insistence in 1909 on the insertion of the word "speedy" before the words "organization of a Canadian Naval Service" in the resolution of March 29, whether by silent or open consent, yielded absolutely. It now appears that he is prepared to abandon the idea of a Canadian Naval service altogether, if only he can retain enough of his Nationalist following, and at the same time find some means of satisfying the jingoists.

Hon. L. P. Pelletier, Postmaster General, speaking at Jeune Lorette, before his electors of Quebec County, on October 27th, 1911, when re-elected by acclamation as a Minister in the Borden Government said: "It has not been necessary in order that I might accept a portfolio in this new Government that I should retract one word of what I said when I was a candidate before. As a re-elected Minister I am here before you on this question (the Navy) with the same ideas, the same words, the same programme as formerly. . . . I have declared that if there were a plebiscite and the majority of the electors pronounced in favour of this new orientation in our politics that I would submit to that verdict, and I still hold to this declaration. In two words I was for the plebiscite I remain for the plebiscite. If better were offered me it goes without saying I should not refuse it." (L'Evenement, Quebec, October 28th, 1911.)

But there are evidences that there were even further conditions either tacitly or avowedly made, in the union effected between the Conservatives and the Nationalists at the formation of Mr. Borden's Cabinet. It will be remembered that the position of the out-and-out