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Montreal, November 26th, 1925

To the Editor,
The Montreal Star.

Dear Sir:-

Hon'l Mr. Taschereau and his friends have been denouncing the Rt. Hon'l Mr. Meighen very bitterly, (very unjustly, in my opinion, and/disgraceful methods) for the part he took in connection with the enactment of the so called "Conscription Act", and in a recent statement given to the press, he refers to Mr. Meighen's statement at the time war threatened between Great Britain and Turkey when Mr. Meighen made use of the phrase "Ready, Aye Ready."

To show the inconsistency of Mr. Taschereau, let me call the attention of the public to the remarks made by him at a banquet given by the Ontario Government to Sir Lomer Gouin and his colleagues in the Banquet Hall of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, October 15th, 1909. Reference to the files of "The Toronto Globe" of October 16th, 1909, will corroborate my assertion.

Mr. Taschereau is quoted as follows:-

"As grandson of Jean Thomas Taschereau, who was imprisoned by Governor Craig for sedition in 1810, and who, two years later, at the head of the Third Battalion of New Beauce was at Chateauguay fighting for the British flag, Hon'l Mr. Taschereau said that he had a mission to present the views of the people of Quebec on the question of a contribution by Canada to the naval defence of the Empire. "Make no mistake, gentlemen," he declared, "Quebec is ready and will consent to do its part; the call of the Mother Country should be heard. We leave it to those in charge of the Government to decide what form this contribution should take and whatever they decide we will gladly accept."

"If we build a navy our children will show that the descendants of those great mariners of the first days of the Colony, Jacques Cartier and Champlain, have lost nothing of the courage, the energy and the ability of their ancestors, and I hope some day to hear great things of the Admiral Jean Baptiste."

After having recalled the contribution of Quebec to the South African War, Mr. Taschereau added - "What Quebec has done in the past it will do in the future. When the call comes, as true Canadians we will answer "Present".

It would appear from the above, therefore, that Rt. Hon'l Mr. Meighen learned his lesson from Mr. Taschereau, because if language means anything, the statement made by Mr. Taschereau in October, 1909, is quite as strong as anything Mr. Meighen has ever uttered.

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