

Preface to the English Edition

The excuse of the writer for issuing an English edition of a pamphlet which was written mainly for French Canadians is that his good friends in Toronto thought well enough of it to translate it, and to speak of it as they have done on a succeeding page. For their great kindness he is most grateful.

It may facilitate the reader's task if a sketch is given of the origin and scope of the work.

In July 1917 when this pamphlet appeared in French, the state of the war and the Military Service Bill had placed French Canadians in a most trying position. They had enlisted, under the voluntary system, in fewer numbers than the English. The vote on the second reading of the Bill had rallied nearly all the French members against its principle, in opposition to the almost compact group of English members. Mass meetings were being organized in Quebec and Montreal, where all sorts of speakers, mostly young men, some of them incited by spies of the Dominion Government, preached the necessity of resisting the law, even to the point of promoting civil war.

Appearances thus tended to show the French Canadians as "slackers" in the past, and as would-be rebels, and they were being condemned in Canada, the United States and Europe.

The writer, who belongs to no political party, felt it was a pressing duty to explain why such a judgment was wrong; and to try to enlighten his compatriots so that their future attitude might demonstrate it to be wrong.

This pamphlet was therefore written for a double purpose: 1st to apportion the responsibilities for the awkward French Canadian situation, and 2nd, to appeal to French Canadians for a thorough consideration of their own superior interests, and to warn them against the danger ahead.

To attain the first object, the main causes of the so-called failure of voluntary enlistment in Quebec were summed up, viz:

(a) The race-hatred which, by making the school question in Ontario more irritating than ever, has created, in our minds, the