

who voted against Mr. Borden's proposals on the night of February 13th, and moved an amendment that a plebiscite should be taken before effect was given to these proposals, gave as his reasons for so doing that in the last electoral campaign he had said "We condemn the Laurier law, and we shall condemn later on, when the occasion presents itself, the project of contribution." In order to be consistent with myself I have believed it my duty to propose the amendment which is now submitted to the Chamber. For me it is a point of honour, since I have engaged my word to my electors, that which I wish above all is to be faithful to engagements which I have taken in the past, and that is why I take my present attitude.

"I know that I shall disappear before any long time. Since I have an enemy much more dangerous than the Liberal party, that is the malady which will finish me before long by triumphing over me. I wish that it should be said in the time to come that the member for Joliette has been faithful to his pledged word, that he has kept the promises he had made, and that he had been consistent with himself.

"There in a few words are the reasons which have led me to propose the amendment now before this Chamber. . . . What I hold above all is the approbation of my own conscience, and the satisfaction of a duty accomplished."

(Hansard, House of Commons Debates: February 13 1913, p. 3354.)

Mr. Borden's Loyalty Not to be Taken Seriously.

Whether the Nationalist in and out of the Cabinet who continued their support of Mr. Borden on the night of February 13th, were less scrupulous in their sense of honour, or had other reasons for going back on similar pledges made during the general elections of 1911 does not appear since very few of them gave any reason to parliament for their course of action. Be this as it may, the general public will be able to admire a man like Mr. Guilbault, who according to his light makes a pledge to the electors, and prefers the approbation of his own conscience in maintaining it to the blame of lesser men; but the people of Canada will find it difficult to reconcile the action of Mr. Borden in making and continuing an alliance for political ends with men whose pledge as respects British supremacy at sea has been "We condemn the Laurier law and we shall condemn later on when the occasion presents itself, the project of contribution" with his position at the time of leader of His Majesty's loyal opposition, and his present position as Prime Minister of a British Dominion.

In the light of his past and present compromises, with the Nationalists, in the circumstance that through the whole of the campaign of 1911, Mr. Borden never once spoke of a contribution of either money or ships, and when allusion was made to Naval policy, laid emphasis rather on what was to be done being placed in the first instance before the people; in the further circumstance that for more than a year after his Ministry was formed he did and said absolutely nothing towards assisting Britain in Naval defence, in view of the fact that in parliament since he has become premier, he has never once taken exception to Nationalists tactics and