

*Mobilization Act—Mr. Dechene*

to-day I have vividly in mind two pictures which I only wish I had the words adequately to describe. I see first September 1, 1905, in the old exhibition grounds at Edmonton, on the flats, as we used to call them, just below the old Hudson bay fort, when the province of Alberta was inaugurated. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, then prime minister of Canada, addressed a great gathering in that indescribable setting. I cannot do justice to the beauties of that spot, which would compare favourably with scenery anywhere in the universe, with the great Saskatchewan river, the hills in the background and a tremendous crowd which had come from every part of the province. The old chief was impressed by the audience that was before him, and he told us things which I will never forget and which we should remember to-day. He referred to the fact that it had taken a century or more to compose the differences between men of the Anglo-Saxon race and those descended from old France. He went on to say how we had come to know and appreciate one another, as I do. May I digress here to say that as a French Canadian I have spent most of my life with Anglo-Saxons, and they have been my dearest friends. We all need friends at times, do we not? No man can live without at some time requiring the help and counsel of a friend, a man to whom he can say, "I am in trouble. What should I do?" Some of my best friends were of the Anglo-Saxon race. Who said that the Scots were stingy? They may be thrifty, but the greatest generosity I have ever encountered has been on the part of Scotsmen.

In the district of Athabaska, which I now represent, when everything was going Conservative in 1930 we elected a Liberal, a Welshman born in the old country, a returned soldier who had come to that constituency only a few years before, whom the French Canadians of Athabaska had come to love, admire and trust. He was elected with the greatest majority which has ever been given, either before or since, in any French-Canadian poll in Athabaska.

To continue my thoughts: The old chief then addressed himself to the newcomers, those who were then pouring into Canada from the Ukraine, from Lithuania, from Galicia, from Austria, from Poland, from the Scandinavian countries, from every state in the union—he made an appeal to all of them. He said, "In the folds of that flag which flies in the breeze of Alberta you gentlemen from other lands will find freedom and liberty. You can trust that flag; you can trust the government which exists under that flag. You can depend on what we say. You come here to a land of plenty, a land of bounty, a generous and a

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fertile land, a land where you may devote the energies of your arms as well as those of your hearts and souls." And he added, "I ask only one thing, and that is that you need not forget the lands of your ancestors. Do not forget those lands from which you originated. I am telling you to remember them, cherish them in your hearts. Remember the glories of those lands from which you have come, because there are glories on every hand. Every nation has its heroes and its history. Remember the lands where your ancestors struggled, lived and died, and, in keeping those remembrances in your hearts, keep your eyes to the future. Think of the future of this great country. Strive to learn our language; strive to become real Canadians, and to love the flag."

That was in 1905. Since that time, on two vital occasions, one issue has arisen to divide the people of Canada. But it started long before that. The hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker), who preceded me in the debate, has pointed out that some of my fellow members are supposed to have raised the issue of conscription in Quebec. I say to him that the issue is much older than that. I know he will grow up some day and read the history of Canada. When he does he will find that the issue is much older; it goes away beyond the time he mentioned. It goes back beyond confederation, but more particularly to 1910 and 1911, when the same kind of organization was developed to destroy the government, a government which could not be defeated in any way other than by racial and class appeal.

If my hon. friend will read history he will find what was said in Quebec by the canvassers and organizers of the party to which he belongs. When he reads that he will not be surprised that it was most difficult to elect a Conservative in Quebec, when they found out how they had been fooled. The year 1917, to which some of my friends across the floor owe their lives politically, was the time when the same kind of pressure was brought to bear. I say that, even if I am the only one to say it, because in my opinion it must be said. That was the time when the same kind of organization made appeal to those controlling the economic power of Canada.

We now have a Liberal government in office. We know that under the terms of the Atlantic charter something radically new is going to develop in the world, a condition under which every man and every class will have an opportunity. That is the new order for which we are fighting. But the organization of to-day, as it did in 1917, is attempting to bring about exactly the same result. There