

repudiating these for the sake of so-called party uniformity. There was only one course for honest men to take, that was to stand by their convictions. I took that course, and that is why, and the only reason why, I am in Union Government. Neither the Liberals who entered Union Government, nor their Conservative colleagues, were asked to sacrifice any of their principles, and they sacrificed none; but they did agree to unite in devoting their energies to the supreme tasks which faced Canada at that time, and which were set forth in a statement issued by the Prime Minister after Union Government was formed. The course we pursued was approved by almost all the leading Liberal newspapers of Canada and by the Liberal Prime Ministers in every Province of Canada save Quebec.

For the course I then took I have no apologies to make, but if for the sake of Party uniformity I had failed to follow my convictions, if I had refused to stand by the men overseas, I or any other public man similarly situated would have deserved to forfeit the confidence of all patriotic and public-spirited citizens.

George Brown and Confederation.

THE position of the Liberal Party in 1917 bore a striking analogy to that of the Liberal Party in 1864, immediately prior to Confederation, when Brown and Dorion were the most outstanding leaders—Brown from Ontario, Dorion from Quebec. Brown believed Canadian Confederation was essential to the solution of Canada's existing constitutional difficulties and to the safeguarding of Canada's future, and that the way to bring it about under the then existing conditions was to join with Sir John Macdonald in the formation of a Coalition Government. On the other hand, Dorion, who led the Liberals from the Province of Quebec, was strongly opposed to Coalition and Confederation. The relations between George Brown and Sir John Macdonald were probably more strained than have ever existed between any other two great political leaders in Canada. There was a strong personal hostility between them, so much so that they did not speak to each other. George Brown and the Liberals who thought with him had to face the issue—whether Party unity and personal feelings or the national interest should be the paramount consideration. They chose, and rightly chose, the national interest; and George Brown and two of his colleagues from Ontario, Oliver Mowat and William MacDougall, entered the Government of Sir John Macdonald to bring about Confederation, while Mr. Dorion and his colleagues from the Province of Quebec, assisted by dissentient Liberals from Ontario, opposed the Coalition and Confederation. It was a case where the viewpoint of the Ontario and Quebec Liberals differed. The Ontario viewpoint prevailed, and who is not profoundly grateful for the part played by George Brown and the men who followed him, and who by their action made Confederation possible? To-day the people of Quebec unite with those of Ontario in acclaiming George Brown as one of Canada's greatest political leaders.