

farms that are being fired by the Germans, but it is the land and the farms of France. It is not our cathedrals, it is not our churches, that the German bullets demolish, but they are the monuments and treasures of France, and they are French women that are outraged and massacred. French-Canadians who listen to me now, is there one among you who can remain unmoved before these acts? This is why 70,000 Canadians have already gone to defend justice and liberty. (Cheers.)

#### The War Policy of the Government Must Be Supported.

"I support this policy of the Government, and speaking before you with all the authority that my long political career gives me, I say that while I exist, I shall not desist in this attitude. We have an interest to take part in this War. We are fighting for liberty and we are combating absolutism. If you have in your heads a desire to see justice and liberty triumph, you cannot rest indifferent to this conflict. If Germany triumphs it will be the end of our ideal of civilization.

#### The Montreal Incident.

"In Montreal there are to be found men who would prevent recruiting. Recently Major Ranger wanted to address a meeting, and there were men there who actually wanted to close his mouth. I do not know Major Ranger, but I will say, to his honor, that he is a hero. It seems to me that it was a duty on the part of those who attended the recruiting meeting to permit a man who had sacrificed his life in the trenches to express his opinion. I claim for my country the supreme honor of bearing arms in this holy cause, and if I support the Government it is because I have the heart to do my duty. (Applause.)

#### No Fear of Conscription.

"For my part," I do not believe there will ever be conscription either here or in Great Britain. England has never forced conscription on any part of the Empire. The British people have always objected to forced service and the fear of conscription in Canada is as groundless now as it was in 1911, when some of the people of Quebec were told that the Laurier naval policy involved conscription and the hauling away of peaceful citizens to be disembowled in European conflicts."

#### On Naval Question.

In the Province of Quebec the last general election was not fought on the question of reciprocity alone, but was fought equally on the naval question. Recent events, had justified the attitude taken by the Liberal party in regard to the naval policy. "Canada has not always been the country she is to-day." "There was a time when Gaspé and Lake Superior were, generally speaking, our extreme points. To-day the state of things existing then has changed. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are washed by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the

other side of the same waters in Europe, exist France, the home of our ancestors; England, our Mother Country, and Germany, our enemy. On the other side we find British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba—Manitoba, where no later than yesterday the people vindicated their honor, outraged by a certain government. (Loud cheers). On the western coast the oceans connect Canada with the thickly populated countries of Asia. On the Atlantic Ocean, on the Pacific Ocean, and on the St. Lawrence River there exist to-day rich and flourishing cities. All these cities are open. In time of war they are exposed to the enemy, THAT IS WHY WE NEED OUR NAVY."

#### War First, On Other Questions Economy Must Be Practiced.

"I do not want to make party capital out of these questions, but simply to explain the position in which we find ourselves. The present policy is ruinous, and is increasing the cost of living, and although we support Sir Robert Borden in Canada's participation in the War we cannot support him on his internal and fiscal administration. We voted the money necessary for the sending of an expeditionary force to Europe, but we could not support the Government on the measures they had taken to assure our economic stability. In the crisis which we are passing through the Government should have adopted a policy of rigid economy. It had not done that.

"The last year of our administration we spent \$98,000,000. Last year the present Government started a page of deficits. The Laurier Government had never known deficits. Last year the Conservative Government had a deficit of \$10,000,000, and with the expenses of the War they have augmented the public debt of \$110,000,000. The duty of the Government knowing that we were entering on a bad year was to practice economy. We are at War, and if we do not practise economy we cannot pay our expenses."

#### SIR WILFRID'S SPEECH AT ST. LIN STIMULATES RECRUITING.

(From Montreal Gazette, Conservative, August 12th, 1915.)

It was stated by a number of recruiting officers that there has been a marked difference in feeling amongst possible French-Canadian recruits for the battalion since Sir Wilfrid Laurier made his speech at the St. Lin demonstration last Saturday.

"I never expected to have met with such success in organizing my battalion," said Lt.-Col. A. Dansereau yesterday. "Not only did recruiting start off well, but it has steadily improved and now instead of getting around twenty men a day, as at the start, I am getting thirty and forty and even more."