

bird in hand is worth two in the bush." Thus speaketh the wisdom of nations.

After all this, the hon. Minister dares to pretend that he represents the province of Quebec, when he now votes for conscription. No, he does not represent it and, before long, he will have the opportunity to go and ask his friends, the Tories of Ontario, for a county, if he intends to sit again in this House, for if we are to believe that same paper, it seems that his good Tory friends have already offered him a dozen or so. I read from the same edition of the *Événement*, January 22, 1917, another editorial entitled:

What Would Happen if Hon. Mr. Sévigny Were Defeated in Dorchester?

The hon. Mr. Sévigny would then be elected by acclamation in Ontario. What would happen if the hon. Mr. Sévigny were defeated in Dorchester?

The small Liberals go around claiming it would be irretrievable condemnation of the Borden Government; that this Government would be defeated and that the Governor would order general elections.

The real truth is not quite so dreadful.

In view of the bare possibility of defeat in Dorchester, three or four Ontario members have already tendered their resignation to Sir Robert Borden, in order to give the new French Canadian minister a county wherein he would be sure of being elected by acclamation.

The Ontarians have committed particular wrongs against the French Canadians; but we must, however, admit that they understand their civic duties otherwise than many of us.

If, then, hon. Mr. Sévigny were defeated in Dorchester, he would be elected by acclamation in some county of the province of Ontario. As Cartier, he would have to loyally put his talents and his influence at the service of his constituents, and instead of having a minister to represent and help them in the Dominion Parliament the electors of Dorchester would have a Cannon—on the Opposition benches. The Dominion Government would be less embarrassed than the county of Dorchester.

And that is all.

Such was the case of Sir George Etienne Cartier who, on being appointed a minister, asked the electors of Montreal to ratify his ministerial mandate, and was defeated in Montreal. A Manitoba member gave him his seat and Cartier was elected in St. Boniface. Instead of exerting his talents and his ministerial influence in favour of the Montreal electors, Cartier loyally put them at the service of his constituents of St. Boniface. The Ottawa Government was not otherwise affected by the defection of the Montreal electors.

Well! let him get ready, Mr. Speaker, and fall in with his generous supporters. The province of Quebec cannot recognize in him the true representative of her views and feelings. She will prove it to him when he will run the gauntlet of an election even in Dorchester.

I cannot support this measure, because it is neither fair nor constitutional, and above

all because my fellow-citizens are unanimously against it. When I consider the stand taken by the representative of the province of Quebec in the cabinet, who disregards the opinion and the feelings of his fellow-citizens, I cannot but protest both orally and by my vote.

Mr. EDMOND FORTIER (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, as I do not intend taking up uselessly the time of the House, I shall dispense with repeating what many members have with good reason done and said against the Bill No. 75 introduced by the hon. Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden). Therefore, without any dilly-dallying, I shall deal with the subject and consider a few of the outstanding features of this debate, which has been going on for two weeks already.

Representing a rural division, I cannot let this opportunity go by without letting this House and the country know the stand I believe it my duty to take upon this selective conscription Bill, as well as on the amendment proposed by the leader of the Opposition (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). As for the amendment to the amendment, I consider it perfectly useless and I can immediately declare I shall vote against it.

When the extension of the parliamentary term was voted last year, not a single member of this House would have surmised that such a measure as conscription would be imposed upon the country. Since that extension has been granted, the leaders of both parties, as well as their friends, have declared that conscription would not be imposed. Volunteering alone was to be established for enlisting in His Majesty's imperial army, in order to assist the Allies and more especially the mother country and France, who are the principal powers having joined other countries to avenge outraged Belgium, to protect minorities and democracies, whilst safeguarding the rights of justice and liberty against Prussian barbarity, the vandalism of the Central powers of Europe and of their Balkan allies.

This war, Mr. Speaker, is not waged against any country in particular. It is rather against this Prussian militarism, this vandalism organized by Germany and her allies, in order to conquer and to subdue the world by means of this revolting prussianism of the Huns and assume world-wide supremacy. In order to reach their ends, the foe had to first strike at the most formidable powers, such as France, England and Russia, by overrunning smaller countries who are the martyrs of patriotism and whose heroism even exceeds all that