

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Let us get it into committee.

Mr. DORION: I understand there is a motion for second reading of the bill. Before the motion is carried I have a few remarks to make, and I would ask you, sir, to call it six o'clock.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. FREDERIC DORION (Charlevoix-Saguenay): Mr. Speaker, as I said at six o'clock, I have just a few words to say on this motion for second reading of the bill, and at the end of my remarks I shall move an amendment.

According to the latest declarations made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and by the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Abbott), on the eve of a general election the government is endeavouring to convince the people that there will not be compulsory service in the war against Japan. The hon. member for Westmount went on to say that after the war in Europe was over the mobilization act would be repealed. Such promises are not altogether new to the people of the province of Quebec. During the course of the last twenty-five years we have been told the same thing at every federal election, as well as at provincial and even municipal elections. We were called upon to give our support and confidence to the Liberal party. We were assured that by so doing we would be saved from going into any future war. Unfortunately for the Liberal party, however, when world war No. 2 was declared it was a Liberal government that was ruling Canada. Then all previous engagements taken and promises made to the province of Quebec suddenly vanished. They had gone with the wind. Now that we are about to venture upon another political campaign the Liberal party thinks the same old hackneyed story still stands. I am sure, and the by-elections held during these last few years have abundantly shown, that the Liberal party has lost the confidence of the old Liberal province of Quebec. The motto of Quebec is "Je me souviens" or "I remember." Hence, on the next polling day, before casting their votes citizens of Quebec will remember and tell themselves:

I remember 1917 when you told me, you Liberal members, that I must condemn those who, even if they have not made any promises,

had declared war against Germany; those who imposed conscription; those who had chased my sons whether they were farmers or sons of farmers.

I remember 1921, when you Liberal members asked me to vote confidence in you because my sons had been gaoled by the Union government for failing to report to the military authorities during the war. You told me that, even if my sons were defaulters, they should not have been prosecuted.

I remember 1925 and 1926, when you came back to my province and told me that I should not forget the hardships of 1917 and 1918, as imposed by the Union government. I remember the cartoons which appeared at the time in *le Soleil*, the official Liberal newspaper in Quebec, showing the leader of the Union government with blood-stained hands offering Canada to the imperialists.

I remember 1930, when you came back to my province and advised me that if I voted for the Conservative party my sons would be dispatched at once to European battlefields. I remember the day preceding the 1930 election, when you published in *le Soleil* and *la Presse* a false telegram entitled "London, the Tories and the War," reading as follows:

In Great Britain it is hoped that the Conservatives shall triumph in Canada, so that war may be waged in Egypt and India.

I remember 1935, when you told me that Hitler was becoming dangerous in Europe and that I should vote for the Liberal party in order to prevent Canada from becoming engaged in a second world war.

I remember 1938, when the late minister of justice stated in Quebec city, as reported at the time in *le Soleil*:

Instead of going to war in foreign lands, we shall stay home to defend the Canada we love.

I remember 1939, when in the course of a provincial election you told me that even if you had declared war, nevertheless you stood as a bulwark against conscription and against every form of compulsion.

I remember 1940, when you told me that if the Liberal party was returned to power we should have a moderate, voluntary and free war effort.

Remembering all these things, how can I have any confidence in this party after what has been going on during these last five years? War was declared by the Liberal government. Mobilization of all the national resources was imposed by the Liberal government. Total conscription for service anywhere was forced upon us by the Liberal government, notwithstanding prior engagements taken or promises