

done his compatriots. With party politics or party interests I have no concern. I desire to deal with facts alone. Nor shall I indulge in sentiment, no doubt good in its place, or with vain recriminations and fault-finding, at what has been said, a procedure that would serve no good purpose. Facts and facts alone shall have my consideration.

First, as to French-Canadian enlistments at the beginning of the war. As soon as the Valcartier Camp was opened, at least 1,500 French-Canadians joined the colors, a fair response to the call at that time. You are aware Mr. Premier, that towards the end of August, 1914, that is to say, only a few weeks after war was declared, an offer was made to the Government to raise and organize the 22nd French-Canadian Battalion. There was the usual delay in obtaining the necessary authorization from Ottawa. but in about a month's time that authorization was obtained, and by the beginning of November, 1914, that is to say, within a comparatively short period, the battalion was organized and at full strength.

That the French-Canadians were not backward in recognizing their duty and in doing it, is shown by the fact that there were over 5,000 applications to join the ranks, and as only 1,100 were required for the 22nd, authorization was then asked to raise and organize another battalion, namely, the 41st French-Canadian, as a support to the 22nd Battalion. Authorization having been obtained the 41st was organized and was at full strength in a few weeks. Another French-Canadian battalion, the 69th, was organised in the early spring of 1915, and was filled up at once. Subsequently,