

may find representation in a Cabinet which he says is not attractive and is unworthy of that great branch of the Canadian family.

If I did not misunderstand the honourable gentleman, he stated that in 1917 the French Canadians were not represented in the Cabinet, but he is aware that we went to the people with two French Canadian members of the Cabinet, Hon. Mr. Sevigny and Hon. Mr. Blondin. Their fate was the fate of political parties in time of great strife or stress. Well do I remember the National party under Mr. Mercier, of whom the honourable gentleman was a follower. He was the father of the National party in the province of Quebec long before R. L. Borden was thought of in the public life of Canada. Well do I remember the keenness of that struggle which resulted in that honourable gentleman having not a single English-speaking representative in the local House at Quebec. The honourable member for DeLorimier (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) will agree that such a situation was not due to ill-will or a desire to deprive any one of his constitutional rights and privileges, but was simply the result of an election. And what happened? A way was made for Col. Rhodes in Megantic county, because we desired to have a representative in the provincial cabinet; not because we believed in that cabinet, not that we were in agreement with Mercier and his National sentiment, but because we thought the English-speaking people of the province of Quebec should have at least one representative in the Government. And Col. Rhodes remained in the Government until defeat.

It was unfortunate that when the Union Government was being formed, the offer of a fifty-fifty arrangement was refused by the late lamented Sir Wilfrid Laurier and those associated with him. It was unfortunate for the province of Quebec, and I shall ever feel that that right honourable gentleman missed a great opportunity to unite the people of Canada when he declined to make whatever personal sacrifice was called for and to enter the Cabinet which was at that time being formed for the prosecution of the war. The attitude which he then took created a certain sentiment in our province, and naturally his advice was followed.

Honourable gentlemen, permit me to say that in this House, as well as outside, I am known as a Liberal Conservative, and the ideals and traditions of the Liberal Conservative party are as sacred to me as the ideals and traditions of any other persons are to them, no matter what language they speak, and while I deemed it my duty to

give to the Union party when it was formed, and to this Union Government, in the interest of unity and the prosecution of the war, all the support and influence I possessed, yet I do not feel that I have forsaken a single one of my principles or ideals. And, honourable gentlemen, I will go further and say that if Union Government can make good, if they can do as great things and can go forward as fearlessly, regardless of popularity and party politics, in peace time as they did during the war, they will still have my support, although I am a Liberal Conservative. As president of the Eastern Townships Liberal Conservative Association, which has its ramifications in nine or ten counties, I am calling the members of that association together at a very early date. We did not meet during the war period, because the Prime Minister of Canada said that political matters and political organization should not be taken up during the war. In 1917, when the writs were issued, we met and decided to take no part in the elections. The members of the organization were to have a free hand. I went my way as I saw fit, and others, of a different nationality, went their way as they saw fit, and now that that strife is over, now that that difficulty is passed, I see no reason why we should not bury any hard feelings that may have been engendered.

But my honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) says we are not fighting the by-elections, but are putting up independent candidates to fight them on principles and ideals, and he does not understand that. I am not surprised that dyed-in-the-wool Liberals like my honourable friend cannot understand. It is because they never had any principles or ideals, never fought for any, and do not know anything about them. Any set of ideals and principles that they ever published at any of their conferences were violated and thrown into the scrap basket when the opportunity arose to put them into force. My honourable friend is astonished and surprised, and I sympathize with him in his miserable condition. But, gentlemen, I am not the keeper of the Government. Whether or not they shall go forth to fight these by-elections, it is not for me to say; but if they do go forth, armed with principles and ideals, I venture to say that they will come back having won some victories.

The honourable gentleman spent some time in dealing with the question of finance. I am not a financier, thank goodness. I am thankful too that I do not possess any-

Hon. Mr. POPE.