

duty as the leader of a party, upon that occasion, to put aside all party preferences and to give the government every possible support they could need in order to carry on the business they had undertaken of helping England to defend the cause of liberty and civilization on the continent of Europe. (Applause).

### True To Principles.

"I think I can say, without any possible presumption, without being taxed with exaggeration, that I have stood true to those principles from that day to this, even when it was my duty to differ from the government.

### Sir Robert Borden did not ask Sir Wilfrid's Assistance.

"When did Sir Robert Borden appeal to me to help him in recruiting? I am not conscious that he ever did. (Hear, hear). I know on one occasion he asked me to help in what he called the National Service Commission.

"Two days after Sir Thos. Tait had been obliged to abandon his position, Sir Robert Borden appealed to me to become a member of that board. Was I to step in where Sir Thos. Tait had just stepped out? I will not play that game. I will not go into a commission in which there was so much partyism that the chairman was forced to resign. (Applause). I was justified on that occasion by the event, because I ask you what that commission has accomplished. Has it accomplished anything? It has spent thousands of dollars in salaries, but it has not accomplished one thing which you can mention. It has been a miserable and complete fiasco.

### No Quebec in Australia.

"Some few weeks ago the question of conscription was taken up by our new solicitor-general, Mr. Hugh Guthrie. It was taken up in this way: He compared Australia with Canada. He had to admit that Australia had rejected conscription; he could not deny it. But he said 'There is no Quebec in Australia.' I thank my friend Mr. Guthrie for having brought the word 'Quebec' into this debate. There is no Quebec in Australia, and in so saying Mr. Guthrie has removed a multitude of misconceptions.

### Real British Country.

"There is no Quebec in Australia. It is a truly British country. There is not one of its inhabitants who does not come from the British Isles, and that country, composed as it is of all the races which comprise the United Kingdom, deliberately rejected conscription. If Australia, which has no Quebec, which is all British, has rejected conscription, then the question is not a racial one, as is affirmed by so many papers in this country.—(Applause). There must, therefore, be some other reason than the question of race to induce the loyal people of Australia to reject the system of compulsory enlistment. The reason is not far to seek. I know it as well as anyone else. Everybody who is familiar with British history knows it as well as I do. It is because Australia has remained true to the principles which has prevailed in all British countries, in Great Britain and all its dependencies, from time immemorial up to three years ago, namely, that the British people will do their duty—will not have to be compelled to do it, but will come forward like men to do what is necessary to defend their country.—(Applause).

### Question of Tradition.

"If there is a boast which is natural to a British heart, it is that up to the year 1915 there never was any conscription in Great Britain; that all the battles she had to fight—and she had to fight some of the greatest wars in history—she had to carry on the war against Napoleon for years, a war in which she at last vanquished Napoleon and brought down the colossus—she fought them under the voluntary system. Two years ago Great Britain

changed around and came to the conclusion that she must do as the other nations of Europe have done, and she adopted conscription also. But while Great Britain has come to that conclusion Australia has not yet done so. Australia remains true to the voluntary system, and therefore it is not, as has often been stated, a question of race; it is rather a question of historic tradition amongst all peoples of British origin.—(Applause).

### Sir Wilfrid has Formed no Alliance with Bourassa.

"Our Conservative friends to-day have started upon a new tack. You hear it in The Citizen; you hear it in the Journal-Press; you hear it in The Globe, and you hear it on the platform! 'Laurier has formed an alliance with Bourassa.' How proud and happy these men would be if they could show I was unpatriotic; if they could show I was in alliance with Bourassa. I read a speech delivered in Ontario, 'Laurier is dominated by Bourassa.' THE SPEAKER KNOWS OR HE OUGHT TO KNOW THAT THE MAN DOES NOT LIVE WHO DOMINATES LAURIER. I think I can say that without any undue boasting. MY RECORD IS THERE BEHIND ME."

"I stood by my convictions," continued Sir Wilfrid. "Whatever my convictions were and whatever the consequences might be and whatever influences might try to drive me from my convictions.

"There is only one master which I recognize and that is the people. To them I am responsible, and to no one else.

### Bourassa's Part.

"Mr. Bourassa is an able man. No one knows it better than I do. I know of the harm he has done me. I know what he has done for the government of the day. It might be said that they were dominated by Bourassa. It can never be said that Laurier was dominated by Bourassa. Mr. Bourassa is opposed to enlistment of any kind. Mr. Bourassa does not believe that Canada should be in this war. That is different from me. I want to win this war. But I do not want to win it by the methods proposed by this government.

### The High Cost of Food.

"But there is another question which is most serious. No one knows it better than the housewives. They have seen prices go soaring up. They have been anxious that some power should come forward to curb the profiteers. They know that so far their prayers have been in vain. The government have dabbled with that question. They have appointed a food controller. (Laughter.)

"Mr. Hanna is an able man but he has to depend upon his masters. He is not a government. He has only the powers which have been given him. He can give advice and what advice he has given is good advice. 'Eat less! I belong to a church which has 'meatless days.' Now we have more of them.

"Sir Robert Borden says it is true there have been large profits in some lines of goods, but it is very difficult to deal with these matters in an exporting country. The United States is an exporting country. Why cannot our government do what the Wilson government has been able to do?

"There is no reason why Canada cannot do that. Well, there is one, perhaps, and that is that there is a very close alliance between the government and the profiteers. In every country and in every war men there are who are ready to grow rich on the sufferings of the poor. In England, in France, in the United States, they have been taken hold of and made to disgorge their profits. There is only one country where this has not been done, and that is in Canada."