QUEBEC MEN TALK VIGOROUSLY ON CONSCRIPTION

LIBERAL M. P. FOR MONTCALM USES RACIAL ARGUMENT

Claims His Race Discriminated Against, Charge Which Dr. Paquet of L'Islet Denies—Hon. Mr. Doherty Supports Conscription.

(Canadian Press).

Ottawa, July 5—Two members from the government side left their ranks and took seats behind Sir Wilfrid Laurier when the house resumed this afternoon. These were Messrs. Achim and Mondou, both of whom had previously announced their intention of joining the Liberal party as a protest against the military service bill.

They were received with Liberal cheers, which were renewed when Mr. Mondou rose, and spoke to a point of privilege with regard to the report of his speech which appeared in today's Gazette and also in the Ottawa Citizen. His objection was that in these reports at the conclusion of his speech wherein the translation of his eulogy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier he had also spoken of the work of the Liberal party, the latter had been omitted. To correct this he read the report and then the French Hansard report of his speech.

Mr. Lafortune.

Mr. Lafortune, Liberal, Montcalm, then resumed the debate on the military service bill and kept the French members of the house shaking with laughter at his sallies.

He declared that during this long debate he had received requests from every parish in his riding urging him to oppose the bill. He had also visited the county and met many of his constituents, finding them to a man opposed to the bill, while many of the leading citizens of neighboring counties had also met him and declared their opposition to conscription.

Mr. Lafortune referred to the French-Canadian representatives on the government side who had opposed the measure declaring they deserved the country's thanks, and humorously invited them to cross the floor one after the other as Mr. Mondou had done. "And," added he, "Mr. Achim has also joined us, that is not so bad for a matinee and I hope there will be more before I finish."

Montreal Happenings.

The Montcalm member then referred to recent events in Montreal, where he said the better thinking Irish-Canadians had joined with the French-Canadians to oppose conscription, as was shown at the recent meeting to nominate ex-Mayor Guerin to oppose the minister of justice. The nomination was made by the Protestants and Catholics alike of St. Annes, he said, "although I do not think the minister of justice is the father of that child."

Mr. Lafortune read a long list of cities and towns where meetings of protest against conscription had been held. He opposed the bill as illegal, unjust and oppressive, introduced without a mandate from the people. More than that, it had been introduced after positive pledges had been made that there would be no conscription.

Mentions Archbishop.

The letter of Archbishop Bruchesi assuring the people that the national service cards did not mean conscription had hardly been signed when the Prime Minister's announcement was made.

Mr. Lafortune considered that Canada had done her duty nobly. "We have given according to our power—more would be suicide," he said. There were some who would ruin Canada to save the Empire but for himself he would save his own wife and family before he would save his neighbor's family. "I like the English," he added, "but I like the French-Canadians better." I have worked all my life to have a little for a rainy day—am I going to give that to the Empire? I say give what you like, I'll give no more.

"Do you think Canada will get part of the indemnity," he asked at another stage. "No, England will get her part and Belgium and France and Russia will get theirs, but there will be none for Canada, absolutely none, nothing but taxes for a hundred years to come."

Says Food is Needed.

Mr. Lafortune used the argument that it was not men that were needed at the front but food and supplies. Mr. Lafortune proceeded to deal somewhat strongly with racial issues and declared that French-Canadians were being dismissed from munition factories to make room for English who were being brought over to replace them.

This was questioned by Dr. Paquet, Conservative l'Islet, but Mr. Lafortune vigorously declared that he knew cases in his own county and he graphically illustrated the French-Canadians being put out to make room for the English.

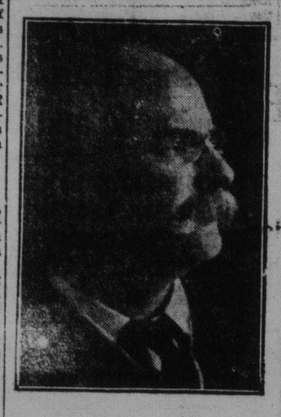
He concluded with a declaration that the French-Canadians would not accept this law, and as a final shot asked how it was that the people of Toronto and Ontario who would not give justice to the French-Canadians of Ontario wanted to force this law on them.

Hon. Mr. Doherty.

Hon. Mr. Doherty then followed, with a grave and measured rebuke to Mr. Lafortune for his racial appeals. Hon. Mr. Doherty said he did not propose to take up seriatim the matters dealt with in Mr. Lafortune's lengthy speech. Many members had complained that the idea of compulsion was repugnant to them. But, said Hon. Mr. Doherty, to not one of them was it more repugnant in itself than to him.

"It is repugnant to me in the abstract," he proceeded, "to find it my duty to be amongst those who say that now it is necessary that compulsion in the manner provided in this bill should be exercised in order that Canada might do her full duty, and do it in such a manner as to make the performance of that duty interfere the least possible degree with the performance of her other duties and her home interests."

Hon. Mr. Doherty said he had followed the whole debate very closely, and now duty was the subject of his thoughts. He had waited until this late moment to see whether amongst all the able men who have taken part in this debate, and particularly those who have spoken in opposition to this



HON. C. J. DOHERTY.

bill anyone would advance a satisfactory reason that would justify me in saying it was not my duty to support this measure.

Supports Bill.

"If after all the intellectual power these gentlemen possessed, after all the research and zeal that inspired them to find that sufficient reason they had found one sufficient reason I would have welcomed it. But I have listened and read, and I have not heard that reason yet. It seems to me as clear today as when I consented that this measure should be proposed that it was the duty of the government to propose it, and that it is still the duty of the government to support it, and of this house to support it.

"If I intervene in the debate at this late date it is because I would fain emphasize as far as possible the duty, the obligation, that lies upon each man to concentrate his mind in dealing with this question on his duty to Canada, and to put aside some other matters.

"It has been a matter of sincere regret to me that I have not been able always to approve of some things members have said. The introduction of inter-provincial and inter-racial recrimination—I don't want to use a harsher word, although that word perhaps is not strong enough—there should never have been any reference whatsoever to race or religion or any province in this debate."

Mr. Lafortune had found fault with members that they had not said things in support of Quebec. Hon. Mr. Doherty warmly expressed his pride in the province of his birth, which had her place in this confederation, and it was well for confederation that she did. "We live in that province," he said, "men of different races and creeds. May I suggest that we be left to ourselves to deal with the faults and the virtues of our province?"

"Things have been said from one point of view and the other that frankly I do not think it could have been pleasant for a Canadian to hear, and it seems to me unfortunate that in the discussion of a question whose decision is of such vast importance and with regard to which it is of such primary importance that whatever that decision may be, it may when it is once reached be presented or accepted to a united people."

All Canadians.

Proceeding Hon. Mr. Doherty said that while he insisted that we should all be Canadians he did not wish anyone to forget the land of his ancestry or the history of his progenitors, since he believed that there was no stronger or better influence over men than their race feeling, and no stronger influence than pride of blood.

But there was a time and place for invoking such memories. "And here, where we are dealing with a question whose right or wrong will carry with it consequences none of us can foresee, consequences that will have to be borne not by ourselves alone but by our children and children's children for coming generations—am I not right in saying it is for all men to concentrate their minds on the one fact that we are all Canadians and that this is a question of what is the duty of Canadians today?"

Mr. Lafortune had taken upon himself to inform the house not what Hon. Mr. Doherty's constituency of St. Annes thought about this question, but he had undertaken to express the settled conviction of every Canadian of Irish descent within this country and that they were all convinced the same way.

Irish Speak For Themselves.

"Perhaps," said Hon. Mr. Doherty, "he will allow me to tell him that he has not quite the right to do that. Men of my blood speak for themselves. And men of my blood who have the glorious privilege of being also Canadians are as thorough Canadians as live within the territory of this country. They do not need the direction of my very high and esteemed friend about this subject, nor has he the mandate to do so. He was eloquent about his lack of mandate to do other things and I wondered whence came his mandate to speak for all Canadians of the Irish race. And then he bewailed my sad fate that I was standing alone. I thank him, for his sympathy, but do not feel the need of it.

"The Irish people are capable of judging this question for themselves and will judge it as Canadians doing their duty. No doubt there will be differences of opinion, but they will not mass themselves together as Mr. Lafortune has intimated, they have to pronounce themselves absolutely on one side of this question."

Lafortune Entirely Wrong.

Mr. Lafortune, said Hon. Mr. Doherty, was entirely wrong in assuming such a responsibility as he had, and was wrong in trying to speak for other gentlemen of the Liberal party in Montreal.

With quiet irony, the minister of justice said it was hardly modest, or even respectable for Mr. Lafortune to undertake such a responsibility, as it was always dangerous for a man of one race to undertake to instruct those of another.

"I would not have said what I have," remarked the minister of justice, "had it not been for the somewhat extraordinary remarks of my honorable friend from Montcalm.

When I go back to my constituents, I shall meet them, and meet them as Canadians, and make my justification to them. No doubt some of them will not agree with me, but I know they will give me credit for sincerity. I shall not allow my hon. friend to intervene between me and my constituents of whatever race they may be, and I shall go to them with a good conscience and they will meet me with good will, notwithstanding the judgment of the hon. member for Montcalm. We have our differences there, of course, but we always differ as good friends, and can maintain that condition of affairs without the kind attentions of Lafortune.

Racial Issue Mistake.

Hon. Mr. Doherty deprecated the tendency of members on either side to raise racial questions, and the attempts of some of the French-Canadian representatives to make it appear that the conscription was simply a cover for coercing the people of Quebec.

"I want to dissociate myself absolutely and to dissociate this government from any suggestion that there is anything in this measure directed against any one province, against any one race, and, particularly that it is directed against the French-Canadian race," he declared amid applause.

Mr. Doherty declared that the voluntary system gave to each individual the right to do as he thought best and that so long as that was so, he could not see the justice of condemning any man for exercising that right. It was time to get away from reproaches and to consider the real question before the house and before parliament.

Question of Withdrawal.

The question was whether Canada was to withdraw from the war or not. The present bill did not propose to increase Canada's forces at the front. It was introduced solely for the purpose of maintaining the forces that were already there. Canada had to do that or withdraw from the war and leave her battalions at the front to dwindle away.

The minister referred to the arguments of those who claimed that Canada had done enough, that she should let her battalions dwindle. Those men, he considered, were absolutely logical, btu the man who said that we ought to go on with this war but that we ought not to take the step that this measure proposed was absolutely illogical.

"I do not know, and I do not care who is at fault. I do not care what causes brought it about, but I do know that persistence in the voluntary system is not giving us the men as fast as they are needed," he said. That was one reason why he was prepared to stand by the bill.

Can Spare Men.

The minister then turned his attention to the argument that conscription should be opposed because Canada needed all her men at home. If the facts on which that argument was based were established then he questioned whether he could continue to support conscription. He was satisfied, however, that those facts could not be established. But the argument that Canada should keep her men for agriculture and other essential industries had in itself supplied a reason for selective conscription.

Proceeding Mr. Doherty declared that the members had evidence before their eyes every day that those who claimed Canada could not send another man were mistaken.

The minister insisted that even if the voluntary system was producing men as fast as in the old days the selective conscription bill would still be necessary. "Just to the extent to which we can spare men from Canada does it become imperatively necessary for us to see that when we send more men away we send those, and those only, who can be spared," he declared. "This is a measure to ascertain who can be spared, and yet these gentlemen who say so confidently that nobody can be spared, say 'stop right here, you must not ascertain that.' I do not agree that nobody can be spared. I am absolutely convinced that there are many we can spare for this great work, and I am willing to take the risk of the matter being carefully investigated as under this measure we propose it shall be, and I shall have to take the consequences of that investigation."

Rich and Poor Alike.

Mr. Doherty spoke of the many popular misconceptions regarding the bill and the unfair criticism that was adding to the uneasiness of the people who did not yet understand the necessity for the measure or its provisions. A sample of the "insinuations" used was the suggestion that the bill would conscript the poor man and exempt the wealthy.

"I want to say," he said, "that this system has been prepared for the purpose of making discrimination on racial or political lines or discrimination between rich and poor as absolutely impossible as could be conceived by those who drafted the measure. And it has been said that suggestions will be welcomed. Let me say to those honorable gentlemen who claim that there will be discrimination between rich and poor and different classes in this country—let me say to them, come with your suggestions and they will be welcomed. There is no desire behind this bill other than the desire to find the most effective method of preventing discrimination of any kind and to see that the rich man's son goes to the same extent as the poor man's son, the man from one province to the same extent as the man from another province, the man of one race to the same extent as the man of another race."

Protests Emphatically.

"I desire to register my most emphatic protest against that sort of insinuation," he added, "the hon. gentlemen who are making it are simply adding to the already disturbed condition of public opinion in this country."

The minister did not overlook those who talk about conscription tearing husbands from their wives and children. The bill called for 100,000 men and before one married man was taken the supply of single men between 20 and 35 would have been exhausted.

"I am not going into figures here," he said, "but it would appear to be the case that married men will certainly not be called upon under this bill, and no matter what the future may have in store they will not be called upon until every man who is not married and is able to go has been called upon."

Left Their Families.

Mr. Doherty pointed out that the very grievances some members were declaiming about had resulted from the voluntary system which, under pressure of public opinion had taken patriotic men away from their families to suffer and die at the front while men with no dependents, men who were not giving any real service to their country at home were allowed to remain in ease and comfort.

Hon. Mr. Doherty said he had been accused of making misrepresentations and of lying to Archbishop Bruchesi of Montreal with regard to the national service cards.

"I did say what was true the day I said it, and is just as true today, that the national service cards had no connection with conscription. I said that. It was true then and it is true today."

But gentlemen had been going through the province of Quebec making affirmations with regard to this in which Hon. Mr. Doherty would not say they deliberately lied, but at least they said what they did not know. They said that the national service card was a step toward conscription, and Hon. Mr. Doherty said he had declared this to be untrue, and he again repeated that it was untrue. Now because he told that truth members come to parliament and talk about him having lied.

Changed Conditions.

He had said that he had not thought that conscription would come to Canada, but had not the slightest intention of making a promise to that effect. Further he could not have made such a promise nor could any other public man, since conditions might change in such manner as to make it imperative in the interests of this country that such promise should be broken. But Hon. Mr. Doherty repeated that he had never made any such promise, and if any one said he had he was under a misapprehension.

Referring then to Hon. Mr. Patenaude's letter of resignation he asked Mr. Lafortune if he persisted in saying he had read this letter. Mr. Lafortune nodded affirmation

"Then the hon. member knows the proper word to characterize that statement," declared Hon. Mr. Doherty.

Hon. Mr. Doherty declared that Hon. Mr. Patenaude had not resigned because of any dispute over broken pledges. He paid a warm tribute to Hon. Mr. Patenaude as a man whose services were a loss to the country and to the government. Hon. Mr. Patenaude knew, and his letter of resignation would show that he had not resigned over any question of breach of faith between himself and the speaker.

"Gentlemen who know what honor means should be more careful before impugning other gentlemen's personal honor," declared Hon. Mr. Doherty, and in this connection he referred to Mr. Charles Wilson, Liberal, Laval, who had not thought it beneath him to take advantage of a fair answer to fair question to make unfair use of private correspondence.

"Was it worth while," asked the minister, "to try to make an utterly contemptible use of a fair answer to a fair question in order to arrive at an unfair conclusion?"

Need For Conscription.

Hon. Mr. Doherty then proceeded to discuss the need for conscription quoting a letter from the front, which graphically depicted the exhausted state of France and the need for reinforcements, which had also led to Marshal Joffre's cry at Montreal: "Send us men, more men"—and he ironically enquired perhaps Mr. Lafortune understood the conditions better than Marshal Joffre.

As to the United States Hon. Mr. Doherty said it would be long before they could supply the great effort made by France but she could no longer keep up.

Mr. Doherty reminded the house that no matter what the United States did or what Brittain did the Canadian troops in France would continue to look to Canada for reinforcements

"When these reinforcements are lacking, do you realize that you are putting double and treble stress upon the men there now?" he asked, turning directly to the anti-conscriptionists, "do you realize that you are exposing that man to double and treble danger, that you are sending him again and again into the trenches to meet death, and all that when he has already done double or treble duty and had but one half or one third the rest he needs?" "Are we going to stand back and let the Americans relieve them, let the Englishmen do that, or the French, in the exhausted condition France is in now? Are we going to say now, that we have no interest in our boys any more than other soldiers fighting there?"

The Referendum Idea.

Mr. Doherty then turned to the referendum and the argument that passing conscription without a mandate was an invasion of the people's rights.

"There is to me but one thing more sacred than the people's rights," he said, "and that is the people's future. A man's duty ought to be more sacred than his rights. A public man ought to be more anxious about whether he is doing his duty as to whether he is doing absolutely what he has a right to do. I am anxious that the people's rights should be respected but I am anxious also for the honor of my country that the people's duty should be done.

It is all very well to talk about the voice of the people but there comes a time when it is the duty of the people's representatives who have had entrusted to them the government of the people to see to it that the people do their duty. And that is the position that confronts this parliament tonight."

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SHAMROCKS WON LAST NIGHT.

With Elliott and McIntyre handling the signals the Shamrocks defeated the Maples in a local game of ball last night on St. Peter's grounds. The score at the end of the seventh stood 7-4. For the Maples Lobb and Doherty were the big noise.

GOVERNMENT CAUSES SURPRISE IN LONDON

Raises Fixed Rate for Treasury Bills to 4 3-4 per cent.—Russian Bonds Recovering.

London, July 5—The government's decision to raise the fixed rate for the treasury bills to 4¾ of per cent. was a complete surprise.

The need for this form of accommodation is growing owing to large blocks of bills sold by tender in the spring that are now maturing. It is evident that the government intends to continue financing itself on short term security while endeavouring to stimulate sales of exchequer bonds.

Hence it is clear that no early new long term issue is contemplated.

The interest granted by the Bank of England on the special deposits of other banks remains at 4 per cent. Financial sentiment is strong but business is quiet.

Russian bonds are recovering somewhat and rouble exchange is somewhat better at 2 13.5 for £10.

Money was in increased supply and easier today, and the banks have reduced their charges for loans.

Discounts rates were quiet.

The present paucity in business on the stock exchange is attributed to investors in industrial centres dealing on provincial exchanges were increased activity is reported.

The tone was good here today on war news. Gilt edged securities, home rails and rubber stocks received the most support and Russian and Mexican issues had a good tone.

The feature in the Miscellaneous section was Cuban Ports. Argentine rails were weak and American securities idle. Consols for money 55⅛.

WELCOME REV. MR. BARRACLOUGH

Moncton, July 5.—Rev. W. H. Barraclough, the new pastor of the Central Methodist church, and Mrs. Barraclough were given a warm welcome upon their arrival here this afternoon from St. John. Delegates representing the official boards of the church met the new pastor and wife upon the arrival of the train and escorted them to the parsonage where a committee of ladies welcomed them.

Beaconsfield School.

The annual meeting of the Beaconsfield School District No. 1, will be held on Monday night, July 9th, at 7.30. Election of school trustees will take place at this time and other business transacted.

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CASUALTIES

Ottawa, July 5.—Casualties:

Infantry.

Wounded—A. Watlin, Chatham, N.B.

Presumed to have died—E. J. Prince, Hampton, N. B. Lieut. W. C. Sullivan, Charlottetown, P.E.I. J. Myers, New Glasgow, N. S.

Wounded—F. H. Porter, Wolfville, N. S.

Ill—A. J. Munroe, Bridgewater, N.S. W. Duguay, Caraquet, N. B.

Balmy Air and Good Music.

The fine weather of last night invited a large number out of doors and the streets were crowded in the early evening with those who desired to make the most of the opportunity. The Temple Band provided a choice programme of music on King Square and thousands of citizens, both young and old, enjoyed both the balmy air and the good music.

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America, Here's My Boy—Medley One-Step	Victor Military Band	

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