

minister outrivals his rival, Mr. Cannon, in his zeal to denounce conscription.

I read on column 3, page 4:

Mr. Sévigny stated that it was easy to find out who was responsible for the scandals unearthed by the Liberals. They are great in making charges, but they can prove nothing. As far as conscription was concerned, he stated he was as much opposed to that measure as Mr. Cannon and he added that the latter had consequently no right to raise any political agitation against him on that ground.

Mr. Sévigny was loudly acclaimed; as for Mr. Cannon, plaudits were rather weak in his favour and he was interrupted several times.

Again, at another meeting, at St. Odilon, the hon. minister protests against the very thought of such an iniquitous thing as conscription.

I will read once more from column 3, page 4—all about charges made—and you might find many more ad libitum:

As to the charges made by Mr. Cannon about broken pledges, Mr. Sévigny told Mr. Cannon he should be the last man to utter such reproaches. The man who would be entitled to do this, said Mr. Sévigny, is Mr. Ernest Roy, whom I defeated in 1911. As for you, you were not in the county of Dorchester, but you were busy fighting, in Charlevoix, Sir Rodolphe Forget, who crushed you. I do not mean by this that I deny my statements of 1911, for I do frankly admit that I did then make a mistake, but I deny you the right to come here and claim anything on behalf of a man who has not yet seen fit to fight by you. Mr. Sévigny then repeated his statements about the National Service, asserting that we would not have conscription and that this measure does not in any way imply conscription.

Now again, the *Événement* of January 29—page 6, column 3—publishes another statement:

At the meeting held in the afternoon, at Sainte Aurélie, Hon. Mr. Sévigny did again reiterate his statement to the effect that there would be no conscription in the country. In most eloquent terms, the Minister of Inland Revenue pointed out the hateful results of a German victory. He made a generous appeal to all to unite in the struggle now kept on by the Allies for the triumph of right and justice.

But the climax of that campaign, Mr. Speaker, I find it in the *Événement* of January 26, 1917, on the very eve of polling day. The paper speaks in the hon. minister's own name. It expresses itself as one that knows. It declares that the conscriptionist party is the Liberal party. That editorial is entitled:

A Bird in Hand is Worth Two in the Bush.

The voters of Dorchester are now perfectly informed: they know that they never shall have conscription under a Conservative Government; they do not know what they might have under a Liberal government.

[Mr. DeLisle.]

The Conscription Party.

Lucien Cannon asks the electors of Dorchester to vote in his favour as against the new French Canadian Minister of Inland Revenue. And the arguments of Lucien Cannon, stripped of all the personal abuse which ornament his speeches worthy of a shameless politician, may be thus summarized:

Hon. Mr. Sévigny has changed his mind since 1911. He was then against the Laurier navy; he was even against any participation in the war; and he is now in favour of the National Service which, according to Lucien Cannon, must bring conscription with it. And Lucien Cannon states that he has the support of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to come and ask the electors of Dorchester to vote for him, as against the minister of a Government which is imposing too much upon the country and especially upon the French Canadians. On the other hand, Mr. Sévigny admits he has changed his mind since 1911 and of having followed the course of events which have also changed since that date. In 1911 it was the country's good interest to be pacifist; since 1914, it would be criminal to remain pacifist. Anyone who has heard that a horrible war has been declared in Europe must conscientiously realize that it would be criminal to remain a pacifist nowadays. Every great statesman, in France, in England, and everywhere else, has been forced, by the turn of events, to change policy since the outbreak of the war. The Hon. Mr. Sévigny represents the Borden Government's policy. This policy, that Government has drafted it and has even applied it. The whole country, Dorchester county, as well as the rest, is perfectly familiar with the Borden Government's policy, since the whole country has seen it applied for more than two years. If the Borden Government had meant conscription, it would already have been imposed. But they have declared they did not want it, that there is no use for it, and that they can sufficiently take a hand in the national defence without resorting to conscription.

Is Dorchester county just as sure of what would be the Liberal party's policy? Would it feel safer if the Liberal party were returned into power?

Lucien Cannon himself states in Ontario papers that he is in favour of our participation in the war. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's best lieutenants, as the Hon. Frank Oliver did state in the House of Commons, assert that the Borden Government has not done enough towards the war, that the Borden Government should impose conscription. All the Liberal newspapers cry for conscription; they promise to all the provinces of Canada that, should the Liberal party be returned to power, it would mean conscription. And Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the leader of the Liberal party, gives no denial to his lieutenants or to his organs who preach conscription—because Sir Wilfrid perfectly knows that his papers express the opinion of the majority of the Liberal party, and that is only with that conscription cry that the Liberal party has any chance of returning to power and to overthrow the Borden Government who have not done enough for England. Should the electors of Dorchester elect a Liberal representative and conscription come later on, they would have had grace to complain that they have not been duly notified. They know what they have from the Conservative Government, they do not know what they could expect from a Liberal government. "A