

purposes had been so completely demonstrated in this by-election, Liberal defeat had been so pleasing, the taste of victory so alluring, that what had been entered upon light-heartedly enough and mainly as a test, in this one particular instance, became irresistible as a temptation, when the prospect of a general election loomed in sight. What for a single occasion had been a secret understanding, became all along the line, a binding compact for the sake of gaining office. "Anything to win" became the watch-word, and the method of the Conservative party. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's effort, to do his part as a citizen of the Dominion, and a British subject in meeting Canada's obligation respecting naval defence, were forged into a weapon to be used against him in a different fashion in the several Provinces.

The Nationalist-Conservative Alliance An All Important Factor In The Elections of 1911.

In Quebec the "loyal" Conservative party left it to Mr. Bourassa, Mr. Lavergne and Mr. Monk to stir up and play upon the fears and prejudices of their French-Canadian fellow-citizens, telling them that because of his efforts to consistently carry out the naval resolution of Parliament, Sir Wilfrid Laurier was too British, his policy too imperial, and that he was doing too much for England. Whilst in Ontario, and in other parts of the Dominion, Mr. Borden and his colleagues denounced Sir Wilfrid as anti-British, or not British enough, sought to discountenance the efforts he was making by referring to the proposed naval service as a "tin pot" navy, and alleged that his Government's policy on the trade question was one of annexation with the United States.

This appeal to passion and prejudice, unpatriotic as it was, had its results. In the Province of Quebec, the Nationalists came out of the struggle with 20 seats 4 of which had previously been held by Conservatives, but 16 of which represented gains over the Liberals. It is generally conceded these 16 seats were won by the Nationalists, partly because of the adherence of the Liberal party to a policy which recognized Canada's obligation in the matter of naval defence, and partly because of pledges given in the name and upon the alleged authority of Mr. Borden that if returned to power he would repeal the Naval Service Act and would adopt no policy as respects naval service without first submitting it to the people for approval. The latter undertaking, in the absence of any reference by Mr. Borden to the need for an emergency contribution, was taken to mean before anything at all would be done.

The Lengths to Which the Conservatives Went in Helping The Nationalists.

But the Nationalist Conservative alliance was carried further than this in the general elections of 1911. By mutual agreement, the constituencies were divided between them so that where Nationalist candidates were most likely to carry, no Conservative candidate was put up, but Conservative support was given to the Nationalist, and where it was thought a straight Conservative was