

(Hon. Mr. Dandurand) to which I should like to refer. He said that no French Canadian worthy of the name would serve under Sir Robert Borden. I regard that statement, honourable gentlemen, as almost the climax of political partisanship; I also regard it as very personal and very offensive. I do not know whether my honourable friend would draw a distinction between the mentality, morality or principles of the English-speaking people of this country, and those of the French-speaking people of this country. I think that honourable gentlemen on this side of the House who come from the English-speaking provinces are willing to concede all the respect and honour to which the French Canadian people are entitled. We believe that they are an honourable people, and I think we have the right to expect that they will regard the English-speaking people in the same way. When we find that many men of good character and good standing in the business and social life of the community have been, and are, willing to associate themselves with Sir Robert Borden and serve under him, I want to say that my honourable friend goes a long way when he intimates that no French Canadian worthy of the name would associate himself with Sir Robert or serve under him. The other day my honourable friend paid great respect to our newly-introduced member from Granville (Hon. Mr. Chapais). He spoke of him as a man of very high character and very high standing in the community. The honourable member for Granville is very happy, as I understand it, to come into the House as a supporter of Sir Robert Borden. Would my honourable friend from De Lorimier (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) suggest that by so doing the honourable member for Granville is in any way no longer worthy to be regarded as a French Canadian? Would he rule him out of the French Canadian fraternity? The honourable gentleman forgets that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was willing to come into Union Government, and to serve with Sir Robert Borden. I shall prove that by reading a paragraph from a letter which Sir Wilfrid wrote to the Premier on June 6, 1917. This letter, I say, proves conclusively that if the question of conscription had not been involved, Sir Wilfrid Laurier would have been willing to join forces with Sir Robert Borden in forming a Union Government—in other words, in the mind of the honourable gentleman, he would have become unworthy of the name

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of a French Canadian. This is what Sir Wilfrid Laurier wrote:

On Wednesday, the 6th of June, the final conference took place, at which I announced that I had not seen my way clear to join the Government on the terms proposed. I asked you at the same time if conscription was the only basis, to which you replied in the affirmative.

That is to be found in the House of Commons Hansard of 1917, at page 2691, and, to my mind, clearly indicates that Sir Wilfrid Laurier would have been willing to demean himself by going in with Sir Robert Borden if conscription had not been the basis of the Union.

Now, I want to read what a very important man in public life to-day says about Sir Robert Borden. The other day Mr. T. A. Crerar, who was once associated with the Government, but who is now the leader of the great agrarian party in this country, made these remarks—

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: I do not want to interrupt my honourable friend unnecessarily, but I would call attention to the fact that he is going to read from the Hansard of the House of Commons.

Hon. Mr. TANNER: Yes, I am. I would not have attempted it if it had not been done by many honourable members on the other side of the House.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: The honourable gentleman is an old parliamentarian, and I am sure knows better.

Hon. Mr. TANNER: The honourable gentleman will take notice that I do not read the remarks. I may tell him that I will look to it that no friend of his, on the other side of the House, does so in the future. I have frequently observed that it has been done, and have abstained from taking objection; but now that my honourable friend has so cleverly raised this objection, perhaps I may be allowed to read something that Mr. Crerar said in another place. It is as follows:

I wish here and now simply to bear testimony to this fact that the Prime Minister of this country carried a burden which very few citizens of Canada appreciated, and discharged the most onerous tasks with a conscientiousness and sense of duty that certainly challenged the respect of those who were intimately associated with him.

That shows the relation that existed between Sir Robert Borden and every Liberal who was associated with him in the Union Government. They may not have trusted him before they joined him; but