

FC 358

U5

F54

1918

C.2

NATIONAL LIBRARY
CANADA
BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE

Scotia as to the attitude of the rank and file of our party toward yourself, Honorable A. K. Maclean and other leaders who in the last Dominion election saw fit to cut loose from party to form an administration of leaders selected from both the old parties.

You know the political situation in this Province is unsettled. In my judgment the criticism directed against Liberals who took new ground as a war measure, actuated only by patriotism as they affirmed, has lost much of its acrimony during the last few months.

In the hope of assisting to remove discord I venture to request that you furnish the Liberals with a fresh statement as regards the convictions that induced you to withdraw your support in the last election from Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who for so long a period has been the idol of the Liberal party.

If the old straw is rethreshed in the cool light of experience of the last eight months of the war, food may be found attractive enough to bring the opposing elements together again. Let me here interject that I was no last hour convert to conscription. The war was scarcely one year old when the inequalities of sacrifice round about me in Cape Breton became so conspicuous, I could not restrain my conviction that well regulated conscription was the only fair means to secure the necessary power in men and munitions—the burdens to be distributed where they could best be carried. My convictions, strong as they were, in regard to conscription, would not, however, drive me to vote against the candidates of my own political faith, who were pledged to equal support of war measures and were supported by thousands whose loyal devotion was unquestionable.

(2)

NATIONAL LIBRARY
CANADA
BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE