

"The aloofness of French-Canadians from enlistment was due to the fact that they took their ideas from their political leaders. It was due to the new 'unholy alliance,' Bourassa, Laurier, Lavergne, Lemieux and Company" (a).

He was very nearly right, but he slipped a little on the word "new". For, by using it, he admits (what is often denied) that there was an "unholy alliance" in 1910-11, which (may I remind Mr. Ballantyne) Mr. Lemieux opposed to the best of his ability.

PRESENT REPUDIATION.—The validity of Sir Robert's contention that he was under no obligation to repudiate the association of his party with the Nationalists in 1910-11, depends entirely upon whether duty to party ought to precede duty to country. When some very ill-informed person, last August, alleged the existence of connection between Conservatives and Nationalists for the purposes of the present campaign, Sir Robert instantly sprang to his feet in the House and said (August 16):

"There is not, and never will be, any connection or collusion between my friends and supporters and those of the Nationalist party of Quebec." (b)

When the Nationalists are working against Sir Robert, as they now are, he indignantly, although very unnecessarily, repudiates them. When they were working with his party, but (as he thought) against his country, he allowed Sir George Foster, Mr. Barker, and others to encourage them, while he remained silent. And observe that Sir Robert confines the repudiation which he now makes to the present and to the future. Being of a truthful disposition, he could not apply it to the past. That has gone into irrevocable history, and the association of Sir Robert's party with the Nationalists in 1910-11 is indelibly recorded there.

MORE TROOPS OR MORE FOOD.

FOOD WANTED.—Before attempting an examination of the real reason for the introduction of conscription in Canada, we must carefully consider what Canada ought to have done in order that she might contribute in the most effective way towards "winning the war." If the necessity for maintaining, in undiminished numbers, the troops which Canada has sent to the front be admitted, then

(a) *The Citizen (Ottawa)*, 23rd November, 1917.

(b) *Hans.* p. 4744.