

members of the cabinet—the tangible evidences of the “**Unholy Alliance**” of 1911—it is clear that a coalition government could not hope to retain these opponents of Empire connection and Empire aid. Yet Sir Robert could not safely have given these gentlemen their conge. To them and their supporters in Quebec, the present administration owes its existence and its safety as a government. Sir Wilfrid, however, must have been reminded of the possible consequences of the political action of Quebec in the event of the Nationalists being retained in the new government. Such a step would have meant throwing Quebec into the arms of Bourassa and his disciples, the former and present friends of the more fortunate, or better rewarded, representatives of the Nationalist party now sitting about the council table with Sir Robert Borden discussing problems of Empire aid and defence. Here, then was another potent and potential cause of disagreement. Sir Robert must have stood by his Nationalist allies; Sir Wilfrid must have demanded their dismissal as consistent with the object of the coalition.

The Railway Situation.

Finally, there are unpleasant rumors of the interference of certain interests in the suggestion of a coalition cabinet. It is said that conscription was neither the sole nor even the main object of a blending

of the two parties at this time. Be that as it may, and there is much being said both for and against the authenticity of such a rumor, the fact remains that Sir Wilfrid would have been justified in demanding some definite announcement of policy on the present railway situation in the Dominion before agreeing to endorse a coalition administration.

The undoubted strong and growing opposition to conscription without a reference to the people, has already had its effect on the action of the premier. But Sir Robert is in a quandary. He realizes that he must put through his measure to save his face, but enforcing it is an altogether different proposition. The probable course of the premier will be the introduction and passing of the conscription measure, and its prompt shelving until a more propitious time for its utilization for party purposes. Just what will happen nobody knows. Sir Robert has suggested a general election as a means of settling the whole question. His evident desire to “wave the flag” would almost lead us to believe that an election is pending.

The bill extending the life of the present parliament may also be pressed and passed by the government. It then might be endorsed by the British parliament over the heads of the people of this country and the Borden administration continued in office. At best, is the prospect pleasing to the people of the Dominion?

QUEBEC AND RECRUITING.

We reproduce herewith an extract from a memorandum which has been received from a gentleman who recently visited England, but who is at present in Canada. This memorandum contains some most startling facts in regard to the British born and, incidentally, recruiting in Quebec.

We have taken the trouble to verify these figures and can state without fear of contradiction that they are correct in every particular and can be so proven by referring to the Census Volumes of 1911. The extract from the memorandum is as follows:

“I was given in London, by a General, high in position in the British forces, filling an important post in the War Office, a bit of information that caused me furiously to think. He said that the enlistment of British born in the Canadian Forces amounted to 252%. That sounds like a ridiculous anomaly, or an almost incredible exaggeration. The way he explained it was that the total number of British born in the ranks of our Army, is two and one half times the number of British born recruits who were before enlistment resident in Canada, the surprising surplus being made up of thousands of Britons who flocked into this country from the U. S., and many more, who, attracted by a higher rate of pay hurried back here from England to enlist in the Colonial force.”

“It appears to be contrary to the policy of the Government to give out any definite figures, and that policy may be wise; but for

my part I am strongly of the opinion that a definite statement of the actual number of British born in our forces would firmly establish the fact that the Province of Quebec has in the matter of enlistment, done her duty as fully, as eagerly and as loyally as any Province in the Dominion.”

“Every man of Canadian birth must admit that the British-born have rallied to the colours in astonishing numbers, and the only reason—I must emphasize this—absolutely the only reason the other Provinces have out-distanced us in recruiting is because they have an enormously greater proportion of British-born citizens. Consider for a moment these figures:”

	British Born (born in British Islands.	Percentage to Native Born.
Quebec.....	68,000	3.7
Ontario.....	349,000	17.
Manitoba.....	91,000	34.
Saskatchewan.....	77,000	30.
Alberta.....	66,000	40.
British Columbia.....	107,000	63.

“As every one knows the North-West is a country of young men—an even greater proportion of the British-born belong to that class—and I may add, what may perhaps be news to many, that Ontario is much better off in