

THE BORDEN GOVERNMENT DESTROYED RECRUITING.

Special Privilege fattened and batted well in the years following 1911. In the early days of 1914, Liberals were preparing for an election with sanguine hopes of complete success, and the friends of Special Privilege were faced with disaster at the polls. Then the War came. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, leader of the Opposition, cancelled his meetings and political engagements, declared a truce to politics, and promised his hearty co-operation to the Government in the carrying on of Canada's part in the war. At an emergency session fifty million dollars were voted for war purposes, and there was not a single note of dissension on either side. Then Sir Wilfrid went to Montreal to deliver a recruiting speech.

In his absence what happened? Preparations were made for the springing of a War Time election on the country. Pamphlets were got ready, and sent to various points of the Dominion for future distribution. These pamphlets represented Sir Robert Borden as "backing Britain" and Sir Wilfrid Laurier as "lacking loyalty." In other words it was intended that the minds of the people, already diverted by the war, should be further diverted from the past sins of the Government by again raising the loyalty and the race and creed cry. The instigators of the scheme were, however, shamed out of their project by public opinion.

However, the cry of disloyalty against Quebec never ceased. Failure in recruiting, due largely to the crass stupidity and deliberate bungling of the Borden Government, was blamed upon the people of Quebec. No man will deny that the 22nd French-Canadian Regiment was the equal in heroism, and resource to any regiment which ever went to the front. Quebec was not lacking in courage and the responsibility for its recruiting must be placed over the door of the Borden Government. And, judging by past events, it may be no exaggeration to say that the friends of Special Privilege did not want Quebec to recruit at all. As an instance of the recruiting methods pursued by the Borden Government in Quebec it is only necessary to state that a Methodist minister was made the chief recruiting officer for Montreal.

In 1916 the Government, despite maladministration in connection with the war, and despite the existence of graft in the matter of war