

One interesting phase of this discussion, which has an indirect bearing on the present situation, is that Sir Robert Borden endeavoured to form a coalition government for the purpose of putting through the Conscription Act.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier declined because of the terms on which the offer was made. That is, the policy had already been decided upon, and he was asked, as he said, to rubber-stamp the decision.

It was argued vigorously by supporters of the Act that it could only be successful if it was administered by a strong National Government.

A Union Government was formed, but the opposition remained, and the purpose of uniting the nation behind conscription completely failed.