

FRENCH-CANADIAN ENLISTMENT AND HOW IT WAS AFFECTED BY THE BORDEN-BOURASSA ALLIANCE.

We Reproduce Herewith Extracts from a Speech Delivered in the Senate by the Honourable Raoul Dandurand on Tuesday, July 31st, 1917.

Honourable gentlemen, as it is quite evident that the campaign which is being prepared in ministerial quarters will be mostly directed against the province of Quebec, I intend to preface the remarks which I desire to make with a short history of the people of my province, whose ideas and opinions I intend to champion in this Chamber.

No Politics Since War Started.

I may state that since the 4th of August, 1914, I have not uttered one word that could be considered a partisan word. Since the 4th of August, 1914, all my energies have been devoted to helping in this great cause. I have done my bit in attempting to recruit. I have sat with some members of this honourable House on recruiting committees and other committees which have helped in furthering the cause. It may be said when I am through that some of my remarks will recall the old days, the ante-war days. They will, perhaps, but only incidentally. I am still in the fight to the finish, and there is no conscriptionist who is more desirous than I am to win this war, although I am against conscription.

Very few English-speaking Canadians know anything of their French Canadian compatriots. To know them well one needs to live among them and to speak their language. Even then, if my English friend is not a psychologist or an observer, he will probably never have the occasion of knowing the feelings or sentiments of his neighbour on certain questions.

First Contingent.

There was a call to arms in August, 1914, 33,000 men offered their services and were enlisted. When they had reached Valcartier the rumour began to circulate that there were very few French Canadians among them, and I met in many places Anglo-Canadians who were scandalized at such a poor showing on the part of my compatriots. I was told that the judgment of some of them was expressed in harsh, very harsh terms; but the resentment thus felt and expressed gradually vanished when it was learned that out of the 33,000 men in camp 28,000 were British-born, 4,000 British-Canadian-born, and about 1,000 French-Canadian born.

British-born Enlistments.

The last figures given recently by the Department of Militia of enlisted men show 155,000 British-born and 125,000 British Canadian-born. If the latter had proportionately done as well as the British-born, he should have enlisted to the extent of 333,000 instead of 125,000. Why is there such a difference between those two groups, which claim the same ancestry, which are of the same blood? When you have found a satisfactory answer you will be in a frame of mind to understand the situation of the French Canadian. My contention is that all have enlisted in inverse ratio to the number of years which they have been in this country. The British-born has been here an average of ten years, the British Canadian-born about 60 to 70 years, the French Canadian over 250 years.

French Canadians, last 100 Years.

Have you stopped to ask yourselves, honourable gentlemen, what had become of the French Canadian soul during that one hundred years which they passed under a foreign flag? They already were Canadians, mark you, in 1760. Their mother country, France, had dropped them here in the grip of a mother-in-law, and they struggled and fought for one hundred years to free themselves from European or Downing Street control and misrule. Do you think that you will find them less Canadian and more European after that experience? They have, during that long period, laboured incessantly

for liberty at home. All that they possess is here. No sentimental tie binds them to Europe. The link is solely political, and so insignificant in the eyes of many of the most important men of the colony in 1849 that they sign, both English and French, the famous annexation manifesto.

The Nationalists' Monument in Canada.

Our South African contribution in men and money brought home to the Canadians the responsibilities which they would have to assume in the larger associations suggested, and the Nationalist movement was the result of our first participation in foreign Imperial wars. The young men who joined that movement adopted a platform the first article of which reads as follows: "NO PARTICIPATION BY CANADA IN IMPERIAL WARS OUTSIDE HER TERRITORY."

The Conservative-Nationalist Alliance.

It was realized that the sentiment in that province (Quebec) was Canadian and not Imperial, and the Opposition (Conservative), by agreement with the leader of the Nationalist party, Mr. Bourassa, gave the Nationalists a free hand in the French counties in the election of 1911. The campaign which followed had the effect of transforming into a concrete principle what had heretofore been but a latent sentiment. It is not my object to charge the Conservative party with the creation of an exclusively Canadian sentiment in my province in financing that campaign throughout; it is simply responsible for intensifying it and crystallizing the sentiment into a doctrine. The Nationalists had no money individually, and no party fund other than the moneys furnished to all of them by the Conservative party, and their needs were liberally provided for. Under the agreement entered into the Conservative party took charge of the English-speaking counties and the partly English and partly French counties—some eighteen in all—which remained under the immediate supervision of the Conservative organization represented by Sir Herbert Ames. The campaign in all of those counties was carried on along the same lines: the French were urged to overthrow the Laurier Government because of its naval and anti-Canadian policy, while the English-speaking electors were asked to vote against reciprocity because of its anti-British tendency.

Tory money paid for circulating Mr. Bourassa's paper.

Sir Herbert Ames took from the electoral lists of those bilingual counties all the names and addresses of the French-speaking electors, and brought those lists to Mr. Bourassa's paper, *Le Devoir*, and paid for the service of that newspaper to those electors for the whole period of the elections. During six weeks all the counties of the province were thus appealed to.

Twenty-seven seats were carried in Quebec for the Conservative-Nationalist coalition with the cry: "NO PARTICIPATION IN IMPERIAL WARS! NO LAURIER NAVY NOR BORDEN CONTRIBUTION TO THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY!" Yes, Borden's policy was denounced vigorously by the men who on the morrow of the victory accepted portfolios from him without asking any explanation as to what was to be the naval policy of the coming Government. The Liberals carried 38 seats while proclaiming that the Canadian navy was but the development of the Canadian defence under the voluntary system of enlistment.

Borden and Bourassa join.

I recite these facts so that you may understand the mentality of the French Canadian. The Conservative