

possible of the Laurier administration upon the naval policy unanimously agreed to in March 1909.

How the Conservatives Aided the Nationalists in Their First Anti-British Appeal.

The constituency of Drummond-Arthabaska had long been looked upon as a Liberal stronghold. The by-election which took place November 3, 1910, was occasioned by a vacancy which occurred upon the elevation of the sitting member from the House of Commons to the Senate. When the Liberal party placed its candidate in the field, he was immediately attacked by the Nationalists because of his being the supporter of an administration which was working out a measure of naval defence along lines approved by the British Admiralty, and which was seeking to create a Canadian Naval Service which in time of stress might co-operate with the other forces of the British navy in the maintenance of British supremacy upon the high seas. The Nationalists then placed a candidate of their own in the field to oppose him and the granting of assistance to Britain, by the establishment of a Canadian Naval Service was made the ground of attack.

Under circumstances such as these, one would have supposed that the Conservative party, so fond of boasting of its loyalty, would have seen well to enter the field with a candidate of its own, in support of Mr. Borden's idea of an "emergency contribution," or failing this, would have given its support to the candidate, who stood for at least some assistance being given Britain. Instead the Conservative party not only refrained from placing a candidate in the field, but secretly did all in its power to aid the candidate of the Nationalists. As a result the Nationalist-Conservative alliance carried the day. The forces opposed to any assistance being given to Britain triumphed. The Liberal candidate was defeated and Mr. Arthur Gilbert, the nominee of the Nationalists, was returned to Parliament as their first elected representative.

The Nationalist-Conservative Alliance Secret at First.

On the occasion of Mr. Gilbert's entry in the House of Commons, he was presented to the Speaker in the customary formal manner, the introduction being made by Mr. Monk, but in painful contrast to the rousing reception usually given a member who has carried a riding in a by-election, Mr. Gilbert was compelled to take his seat in absolute silence, not a member of the Conservative party dared to openly avow the new alliance which had been formed, or to extend a welcome to their newly elected fellow member.

When the Drummond-Arthabaska election took place, it was not anticipated that there would be a general election for two or three years at the earliest. The question of reciprocity, which became the main issue later, had not come up at that time. When, in 1911 it became apparent that a general election on this question would be held, what had been achieved through the alliance of Nationalists and Conservatives at the Drummond-Arthabaska election was naturally recalled. The effectiveness of this alliance for political