

national life, both consecrated to the attainment of a lofty and a sacred purpose. As we pass by that monument should we not, particularly in these days of our country's stress and trial, take vision and inspiration from the history of the two great Canadians whom it commemorates? And what more inspiring chapter of that history can we recall for the benefit of our fellow citizens and to point their way to present duty than that which tells us that when Baldwin was defeated in the province of Ontario he was promptly elected for the county of Rimouski in the province of Quebec, and that, when later on, Lafontaine met defeat in his native province, he was just as promptly elected for one of the divisions of the county of York, in the province of Ontario? That is the spirit that we should strive to have prevail in every province in this Dominion. That is the example we should follow, and we will follow it only if our minds be illumined by the constitutional light that guided the steps of Baldwin and Lafontaine, only if our hearts be attuned as theirs were, to constant forbearance and mutual good will. What was possible in Canada three-quarters of a century ago should be possible to-day. Nay, more; what was possible in Canada three-quarters of a century ago should much more easily be possible to-day. Believing that, I urge the Government to withdraw this Bill or to suspend its consideration until the people shall have been consulted. If neither of these courses be adopted, it is my conviction that the best service that can be rendered in behalf of national unity is to vote against this Bill, and if the Government persists in its announced intention of forcing a division upon the amendment placed in your hands by the right hon. leader of the Opposition, I will vote for that amendment as an earnest of my desire to promote peace and unity at home and content and effectiveness among our soldiers overseas.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

After Recess.

The House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. J. A. M. ARMSTRONG (North York): Mr. Speaker, in rising to make a few observations on the Bill now before the House, I am prompted, not by any desire to impede in any way the progress of the Bill, but by a desire to exercise my prerogative in order to place myself on record with regard to the principle of compulsory ser-

[Mr. Murphy.]

vice, because many months ago, before conscription became a live issue around the corridors of this House, I advocated it publicly in the riding that I have the honour to represent. Those who know the political history of the part of the province from which I come, know that the riding of North York has long claimed to be the birthplace and cradle of reform; that it has given to the public life of Canada men like George Brown, William Lyon Mackenzie, Sir William Mulock, and Sir Allen Aylesworth, names that are closely interwoven with the history and principle of old-time Liberalism. The hon. member for Russell (Mr. Murphy) mentioned, during the course of his remarks this afternoon the names of Lount and Matthews as two martyrs to the cause of liberty. I would like to supplement his remarks by informing the House that the chief lieutenants of William Lyon Mackenzie lived practically all their lives in the vicinity where I live to-day, and where my father and grandfather lived before me, and that there are living there to-day the descendants of those lieutenants of Mackenzie, the descendants of the men who, according to the hon. member for Russell, fought for liberty in the days gone by. I stand in this House, to a certain extent at least, by virtue of the support of those men. I am proud to say that those families are to-day well represented on the fields of France, and I think, therefore, I can claim, as much as any man in this House, to represent the two great political lines of thought in Ontario.

I stated a moment ago that I advocated conscription a year ago. I did so for these reasons: I knew that the people I represent were British to the core; I knew that, under the voluntary system that was then in force, we could not hope to secure the men that were required; I knew that we dare not longer turn a deaf ear to the cry from our brothers overseas. I, therefore advocated conscription, based upon a plan that would take every available fit man in his proper turn, having regard to industrial conditions and the need at home. For the same reasons, I stand ready to support the Military Service Bill now before the House. Subsequent events have tended only to strengthen my conviction that the course which the Government purpose taking under this Bill is the only course possible if Canada is to maintain her proper part in this great world-struggle. When the great republic to the south of us became involved in this war, notwithstanding the fact that she had not previously been