

upon Sir Robert for associating himself with a Nationalist in the person of Mr. Monk, Mr. Fripp probably expressed the feeling of the Conservative party when he said:

"Well, I venture to think that the people of this country from the Atlantic to the Pacific do not care one iota whether the Minister of Public Works is a Nationalist or whether he is not" (a).

Upon what terms did those three Nationalists enter the Borden government? Possibly we ought charitably to assume that recantation of their extravagantly anti-British principles was required of them. But Mr. Pelletier's account of the transaction—undenied, as far as I know—is as follows:

"I was invited to enter the Cabinet and was not asked to abandon a single article of my programme" (b).

SIR ROBERT'S RESPONSIBILITY.—In view of the foregoing facts it is perfectly useless for Sir Robert to deny association with the Nationalists or responsibility for the present attitude of Quebec towards conscription. All that Sir Wilfrid had proposed was the construction of a Canadian navy, with Canadian control of it in time of war. To that the Nationalists objected on the ground that it **might** mean that their men would be sent to fight. Sir Robert's party joined with the Nationalists in their endeavor to "beat Laurier." They divided the constituencies between them. They invited Mr. Bourassa to speak for them in Ontario. They paid for the distribution of *Le Devoir* to "thousands and thousands of electors." Sir Robert gave to leading Nationalists places in his government. And if Quebec electors are now opposed to much more drastic legislation—**to their actually being sent to fight**—may I not remind Sir Robert of one of the sentences in his speech of June 11 last—

"It is easy to sow the wind of clamour against the imposition of equal duty and obligation upon all Canadians for the preservation of their country; but those who make that sowing may reap such a whirlwind as they do not dream of to-day" (c),

—or rather, as **they are experiencing to-day**. Mr. Ballantyne, a few days ago, said

(a) *Hansard*, 23 Nov., 1911.

(b) *Speech at banquet at Quebec, 9 Dec., 1911: Canadian Annual Review, 1911, p. 300.*

(c) *Hansard*, pp. 2289.