

No one blames Sir Wilfrid personally for such a condition of affairs, or sets him up as the inciting or contributory cause, but I say again, the facts discredit the claims made for him. Sir Wilfrid talked fairly and well in Ontario and other provinces about the brotherhood of races in Canada, but he did not go to Quebec and tell the people there, what is the truth, that the English-speaking people of Canada have no animosity to the French-Canadians and that they wish them only well. It is true that Sir Wilfrid blames the Nationalists for the present situation, and it is also true that political exigencies rewarded rather than penalized the Nationalists for their propaganda, but the Nationalists were a product of an educational programme of years and not the creators of the situation or of the sentiment at the root of it. The man to whom the province naturally and rightly looked as leader and counsellor did not use his efforts to point out and emphasize the evil of the course being pursued and if he did not share the extreme views and favor the unlawful acts of the thousands who shouted for him, he should have at least disavowed them on the spot. Opposition to conscription is not a crime. Many good people all over Canada, as well as in Quebec, honestly opposed it, but the ballot, not violence or seditious talk, is the constitutional form of protest. Conscription was adopted as a matter of urgency, but the defeat of the government fairly on that issue, would have meant the defeat of conscription, lamentable though we think the consequences might have been. It is even now the duty of Sir Wilfrid, believing as he does in our participation in the war, and in the continuation of a Confederation, of which he was for years the brilliant head and foremost figure—united in sentiment as in form—to begin the campaign of education so urgently required in his native province. His example would be followed by leaders in all the other provinces in which there are many hotheads as well as in Quebec.

In an introduction to a pamphlet on political conditions in Canada as they affected Imperial unity, written in 1911,