

mentioned between Sir Robert Borden and myself, or so far as I know between Sir Robert and any of my colleagues, during the negotiations for Union Government. It was mentioned by Sir Robert himself a short time after Union Government was formed, when he submitted to us the memorial requesting Dominion Prohibition presented to him in the summer of 1917 by the Dominion Prohibition Association, and which he then promised would be considered after a Union Government was formed. I frankly recognize that from the date the Liberal Party in Ontario adopted the policy of the abolition of the bar, the liquor interests and the politicians in the Liberal Party who sympathized with them, or wanted their votes, were opposed to me; and these same politicians were opposed and are opposed to Union Government.

The last of these stories to which I shall refer is that the Liberals who entered Union Government were guilty of treason to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and that I entered Union Government because I was disappointed that I could not take the place of Sir Wilfrid as Leader of the Liberal Party in the Dominion. If it be possible, this is even more absurd and untrue than the other stories, as a reference to Sir Wilfrid himself would show. No one knows better than Sir Wilfrid how untrue such a statement is. As however, the question has not only been raised, but opponents are persistent in circulating the story with a view of alienating support from the Government, I shall briefly review the facts so far as I am concerned.

On more than one occasion while I was Leader of the Provincial Liberal Party I found myself unable to agree with Sir Wilfrid on grave matters of public policy. But I have always gone to him first, presented my views, my reasons for them; and when we could not agree we agreed to disagree. The two questions of paramount importance upon which we were unable to agree were Bilingual Schools and Canada's war policy.

The Bilingual Question.

THE Bilingual question related to schools in the Province of Ontario, and was within the sole jurisdiction of the Legislature of the Province. The Dominion could not over-ride or modify the action of the Province, and interference by the Dominion could only accentuate religious and racial feeling in the Province and revive the grave conditions which Confederation was formed to avoid. When, therefore, it came to my knowledge in the early part of the year 1916 that Sir Wilfrid was dissatisfied with the attitude of the Provincial Liberal Party on this question, and that he contemplated introducing a resolution into the Federal Parliament dealing with Bilingual Schools in Ontario, I felt it my duty to represent to him that this was a matter for the people of Ontario and the people of Ontario alone to settle; that for the Federal Parliament to attempt to interfere would be a violation of the traditional Liberal policy of respect for Provincial rights upon which Sir Oliver Mowat had stood during the whole period of his Premiership; and that it would tend to emphasize racial and religious differences within the Province and was therefore prejudicial to the national interests; that if such a course were pursued, undoubtedly it would prejudice the position of the Provincial Liberal Party, and would