

tion, or by way of adopting a permanent policy with regard to the navy. I have no fault to find with the right hon. gentleman for adhering to that position because, in going upon these platforms in the province of Quebec and in speaking in support of candidates who had taken these Nationalist pledges, he was acting strictly in accordance with the vote which he gave in this House for the amendment of the hon. member for Jacques Cartier in November, 1910. While this was going on in Quebec what was taking place in Ontario? In the province of Ontario, Conservative candidates who had Nationalist votes in their constituencies were signing pledges similar to those signed by the Nationalist or Conservative candidates in Quebec. In proof of that, Mr. Speaker, let me refer you to two pledges such as I have described that were published in *Le Devoir* newspaper on September 11, 1911. These pledges are signed by Mr. George Gordon, former member for the district of Nipissing and since appointed to the Senate, and by the then Conservative candidate in the constituency of East Algoma, now the hon. gentleman (Mr. Smyth) who represents that riding in this House. The first of these pledges, as published in *Le Devoir* on September 11, 1911, is in the following words:

Mattawa, Ontario, September 8, 1911.

Charles McCrea, Sudbury,

Dear Sir:—I certainly am opposed to reciprocity pact and the naval policy of the Government, and will support a request for repeal of naval policy and a referendum to the people, no matter who is premier.

(Sgd.) Geo. Gordon.

The second pledge was in these words:

Providence Bay, Ontario,
September 8, 1911.

Charles McCrea, Sudbury,

Dear Sir:—I am opposed to reciprocity pact. I am opposed to naval policy of the Liberal Government. I will support request for repeal of same and referendum to the people on naval question, no matter who is premier.

(Sgd.) W. R. Smyth.

Now, Mr. Speaker, before proceeding further, it is important to note that these two pledges, although dated from places more than two hundred miles apart, bear the same date and they are addressed to the same person, Mr. Charles McCrea, of Sudbury. It was publicly stated, and not successfully denied, that both of these pledges were inspired by Mr. Henri Bourassa, leader of the Nationalist party. Moreover, the House should bear in mind that the gentleman to whom, strangely enough, they are both addressed is a leading Sudbury Conservative; in fact, he was at the time, if I am correctly informed, secretary of the Conservative association in the district of Nipissing. He was also the chairman of the Board of Provincial License

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Commissioners, a very intimate friend of the hon. the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Cochrane), who now represents that district in this House, and, in addition, was the provincial Conservative candidate and was afterwards elected to the legislature of Ontario.

In printing these pledges *Le Devoir* used this significant language:

We submit to-day to the readers of *Le Devoir* and to the public of the province of Quebec two documents which should serve to open the eyes of a certain number of good men duped by the speakers and journals of the ministry. How many times have they not declared that it would be impossible to obtain the repeal of the naval law, because the English provinces would oppose repeal en bloc. Very well. Here are two Ontario English-speaking candidates following the like course of Mr. Davidson and Pickel in our province, who pronounce against the naval law and for an appeal to the people, no matter who may be Prime Minister.

Significant as were these pledges, there was another event, which happened about the same time, of greater significance still. At Sudbury, on September 18, 1911, a large public meeting was held at which Mr. Bourassa, editor of *Le Devoir*, was the principal speaker. Not to burden the House with too many extracts, I will just read a few sentences from the report of that meeting published in the *Toronto Globe* of September 19, 1911. They are as follows:

(Special Despatch to the Globe.)

Sudbury, September 18.—The Conservative party has crossed the Rubicon. The alliance of Borden and Bourassa has developed from that of common interest into that of proclaimed contract. No bones were made about it. From the moment of the arrival of the Nationalist leader this morning, when President R. R. McKessock, K.C., of the Sudbury Conservative Association, called for 'three cheers for Bourassa and Borden,' placing the potent partner in the premier position, to the final acclaim for our two leaders, with which the call for cheers for Sir Wilfrid Laurier was countered at the close of the great meeting, the definite character of the union was emphasized.

The Nationalist leader was accorded an elaborate welcome. He was accompanied by Messrs. Henri Morel, Conservative, M.P.P. for East Nipissing, and A. A. Aubin, Conservative M.P.P. for West Nipissing. He was met at the depot by the federal candidate, Mr. Gordon, and by President McKessock and the executive association, and escorted to the home of Mr. W. J. Bell, a friend and supporter of Hon. Frank Cochrane, for luncheon.

Mr. Irwin Hilliard, K.C., of Morrisburg, opened the meeting by claiming to represent Sir James Whitney, in declaring that 'the English-speaking Tories of Ontario are going to resent at the polls the *Globe's* slander of Mr. Bourassa.'

Mr. George Gordon, the Conservative candidate, told the people: 'I welcome Mr. Bourassa from the bottom of my heart. He