

Then, there were lunches and dinners at Toronto, to which decent Liberals were sometimes invited, and at which the plot would be more or less openly referred to in proportion as it was deemed safe by the plotters to show their hostility to Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Following one of these Imperial gatherings a demand was made that Sir Wilfrid Laurier be asked to name Mr. Rowell as his successor in the leadership of the Liberal party, but the gentlemen who were thus approached laughed the silly proposal to scorn. At another stage of the conspiracy, it was planned to bring about a change in the directorship of the Toronto Globe, so as to hurry on the replacing of Sir Wilfrid by Mr. Rowell at Ottawa and the installation of Mr. Atkinson as Mr. Rowell's successor at Toronto. But that too miscarried, and for several days afterwards the telephone line leading from Mr. Mackay's office to Mr. Atkinson's office sagged heavy with moist regrets. But when conscription appeared on the scene and Union Government loomed up—ah, there was the chance so long denied. And, having failed to dislodge Sir Wilfrid, the hon. member for Durham (Mr. Rowell) and his entourage of pork packers, trust magnates, brokers and disappointed journalists transferred their attentions to Sir Robert Borden and Union Government, both of whom they are following closely and unselfishly as numerous appointments to influential commissions, fat advertising contracts and handsome brokerage on Victory war loans all amply demonstrate.

In view of these doings, Sir, you are not surprised that I should stamp as false and hypocritical the pretense of the hon. gentleman at North Bay that he had been a follower of Sir Wilfrid Laurier until conscription became an issue. The very reverse was the fact, and the proofs were known to hundreds of people throughout the Dominion.

Another characteristic distortion of the truth on the part of the hon. gentleman was his statement at North Bay regarding the alliance between the Nationalists and the Conservatives in 1911. Here are his exact words as reported in the Toronto Globe of December 7, 1917:

As Liberals we have claimed that the surrender in the year 1911, of the Conservative party in the province of Quebec to the Nationalist-clerical influence was a grave national blunder, from which we have suffered through the whole period of the war.

You will observe, Sir, that the hon. gentleman would have his audience and the public believe that the alliance with the

Nationalists was made only by the Quebec wing of the Conservative party. The hon. gentleman, when he made that speech, was speaking in the district of Nipissing, and how his audience must have smiled as they listened to him and recalled the reception extended by his cabinet colleague, Hon. Frank Cochrane, by Senator Gordon and other Ontario conservatives, to Mr. Henri Bourassa, the Nationalist leader, when that gentleman, on Mr. Cochrane's invitation, went to Nipissing to assist the Conservatives in 1911, and when, to use Senator Gordon's own words, they "presented him with the keys of Northern Ontario."

But this Ontario-Conservative alliance with the Nationalists was not the only embarrassing thing that the hon. gentleman's statement was intended to conceal. It was primarily intended to conceal the fact that Sir Robert Borden, the gentleman, whom the hon. member for Durham now acknowledges as his leader, was in active personal alliance with the Nationalists in 1911. The hon. gentleman must know, if he knows anything about our recent political history, that in the campaign of 1911, his present leader went to the province of Quebec and in the counties of Shefford and Missisquoi appealed for support for candidates who were pledged to the Nationalist programme, a surrender, according to the hon. gentleman "from which we have suffered through the whole period of the war." Why then is he not honest, and why does he not place responsibility upon his present leader and not upon the Conservative party of Quebec? The reason is quite obvious; to be honest and place responsibility where it belongs would mean the destruction of the reasons the hon. gentleman has given for entering the Union Government, and that it goes without saying, he cannot afford to do. He, however, is on record at another time and place in such condemnation of his present leader and some of his Union Cabinet associates with reference to this very Nationalist alliance that I propose to place that record on Hansard.

Upon reference to the published proceedings of the annual meeting of the Ontario Reform Association held at Toronto on November 24, 1916, I find that the hon. member for Durham was present and that he spoke at that meeting. My information also is that he revised, if he did not actually draft, a resolution condemnatory of the alliance of his present leader with the Nationalists, and that resolution was unanimously adopted in these terms:

Whereas, the Conservative party under Sir Robert Borden deliberately allied itself with