

## THE CONSERVATIVE-NATIONALIST OR BORDEN-BOURASSA ALLIANCE

THE recent shuffle in the Quebec wing of the Borden Nationalist-Conservative government has aroused the sarcastic ire of Henri Bourassa. The founder and high priest of Nationalism and the active leader of the movement when it joined with the Borden Conservatives in 1910 and 1911 in the common cause of "anything to beat the Liberals" speaks with all the authority of his own personal knowledge in an article in his paper *Le Devoir*, October 13th, entitled "Is Borden Reverting to Nationalism?" Says Mr. Bourassa:

### Patenaude "More Rabid than Any of Us"

"There is nothing more amusing than the welcome extended to the new minister, Mr. Patenaude, by the ministerial and the jingo press . . . . What, however, is the most humorous is the friendliness exhibited to the new minister by those newspapers so particularly concerned with the safeguard of the Empire—the very one who constantly shout themselves hoarse denouncing the disloyalty of *Le Devoir* and the Nationalists.

"Yet not ten years ago—hardly five years ago—up to the time that the Conservative party attained power, Mr. Patenaude was a more rabid Nationalist than any one of us. He had been one of the most untiring and intelligent organizers of the campaign waged by Mr. Monk and *Le Devoir* in 1910 against the Laurier Naval Bill and 'the no less nefarious' policy of Mr. Borden."

After quoting at length from a speech of Mr. Patenaude at St. Remi on September 4th, 1910, at a Nationalist meeting, the quotations proving to the hilt the assertion that Mr. Patenaude was an active and avowed Nationalist, and after jibing at the Conservative press because in those days it did not denounce the dangerous language of the new minister because "It is true that the 'great voice of the people' and Mr. Patenaude's jabs were trained on a Liberal ministry—The end justifies the means," Mr. Bourassa proceeds:

"The same Mr. Patenaude very cleverly organized the election in Drummond-Arthabaska. While his present colleague, Mr. Blondin,—copying in that Sir Adolphe Chapleau—was 'shooting holes in the British flag,' the coming collector of war tax on tobacco, attended to the picking up of Nationalist votes as they jumped through these sacrilegious gaps. There is no doubt that both will join hands with a view to mending the 'glorious flag which protects our liberties'—those of the French Canadians of Ontario among others. The one will hold the needle, the other the twine, as it is very evident at this date that neither is likely to grasp the sword and put on the shoulder-strap, not even to save the Empire."

### Borden and the Nationalists.

Mr. Bourassa then devotes himself to Mr. Borden and his continued pandering to the Nationalists. He proceeds:

"There is however a still more striking lesson to be drawn from these successive recantations: It is the Prime Minister's persistency in choosing his colleagues from among the people who once were avowed Nationalists.

"Except Mr. Casgrain, all the French-Canadian ministers appointed by Mr. Borden were chosen among those who denounced the Naval Law—which by the way is still to be found in the statutes—and who condemned in the severest terms 'the no less nefarious policy' of the Conservative party, as represented by the proposal of a 35-million-dollar contribution to the Imperial Fleet.

"All of them, Messrs. Monk, Pelletier, Nantel, Coderre, Blondin and Patenaude broke away from either party, IN ORDER TO OPPOSE PARTICIPATION IN GREAT BRITAIN'S WARS, IN WHATEVER FORM. . . .

"Immediately after the election of 1911 this choice could easily have been understood: Mr. Borden then knew only too well that he owed his success to the agitation of the Nationalists led by Mr. Monk against the Naval Law. At that time he had made up his mind that the Naval Law must be abrogated.

"But what of today? Does Mr. Borden contemplate reverting to the policy? Does he rely on Mr. Blondin to further deface the British flag? Does he intend using Mr. Patenaude for elections after the style of Drummond-Arthabaska?

"If such be his intentions, why does he allow his screaming hounds to work themselves into trances over the alleged disloyalty of the Nationalists, as if representing a National opprobrium and Imperial scourge? In what particular is the

### BOURASSA AND LAVERGNE WERE OFFERED CABINET POSITIONS OR CASH REWARD.

"If I had wanted to be a Cabinet minister I could have been one four years before Blondin. The late Mr. Monk of Quebec head of the Borden government, offered Mr. Bourassa and myself portfolios. We refused, for we wanted to be free men. They wanted to know then in what way they could recompense me, whether with money or with a position, but I told them my reward was to have them keep their word of honor. They have not done so."—Armand Lavergne M.L.A., at St. Stanislaus, Que., Nov. 7th, 1915.