

On February 3rd, Mr. Borden moved an amendment embodying these suggestions which he put in the following words.

"That no permanent policy should be entered upon involving large future expenditures of this character until it has been submitted to the people and has received their approval.

"That in the meantime, the immediate duty of Canada and the impending necessities of the Empire can best be discharged and met by placing without delay at the disposal of the imperial authorities as a free and loyal contribution from the people of Canada, such an amount as may be sufficient to purchase or construct two battleships or armoured cruisers of the latest Dreadnought type, giving to the Admiralty full discretion to expend the said sum at such time and for such purposes of Naval defence as in their judgment, may best serve to increase the united strength of the Empire and thus assure its peace and security."

Mr. Borden concluded at 6 o'clock. When the House re-assembled Mr. Monk rose and performed his part, by moving as an amendment to Mr. Borden's amendment that the Bill ought "to be submitted to the Canadian people in order to obtain at once the nation's opinion by means of a plebiscite."

Mr. Borden voted for Mr. Monk's amendment, but Mr. Monk voted against Mr. Borden's. Mr. Borden was keeping an eye to all of Canada, Mr. Monk to Quebec alone. Both voted against the Naval Service Bill, which, notwithstanding, passed the House of Commons, and on March 4th, received the royal assent and became law. The Laurier Government then began to give effect to its provisions. This was the signal for taking up actively throughout the country the line of campaign commenced in Parliament. The first opportunity of testing popular opinion came with the by-election in Drummond-Arthabaska which took place in November 1910.

### **The Beginning of the Nationalist-Conservative Alliance.**

What occurred in connection with the Drummond-Arthabaska election will not soon be forgotten. It was important in more ways than one. The Government candidate was defeated and the means taken to bring about this defeat mark the beginning in the constituencies of the alliance secretly formed at the outset, but later openly proclaimed, between the Nationalist party of the Province of Quebec with its anti-British sentiments and propaganda, and the Conservative party of Canada with its profuse protestations of loyalty to the Empire and the flag, and which in the Province of Quebec, became the outstanding feature in the general elections of September 1911.

The Nationalist party as is generally known came into being in the Province of Quebec under the leadership of Mr. Henri Bourassa and Mr. Armand Lavergne, ostensibly for the purpose of championing the rights of the French-Catholics in the Dominion. There being little in the way of encroachment on the liberties of any class of citizens in Canada, this party might have failed of notice in Canadian politics, had it not been for the alliance with it for political purposes of the Conservative party. The alliance was effected, as has been indicated, to bring about the defeat if