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## THE NEW MINISTERS

CHANGES in the Dominion Cabinet, anticipated for several weeks, and which led to an unusual crop of rumors and predictions in Government circles and in the Government press, were finally made on October 20. Hon. L. P. Pelletier, Postmaster General, resigned and was replaced by Hon. T. Chase Casgrain of Montreal. Hon. W. B. Nantel, Minister of Inland Revenue, was appointed to the Board of Railway Commissioners of Canada in place of Hon. M. E. Bernier whose 10-year term of appointment had expired, and was replaced by Hon. P. E. Blondin of Champlain, deputy speaker of the House of Commons.

The appointment of Hon. Mr. Casgrain to the Cabinet had been anticipated for some time and occasioned but little comment. The selection of Hon. Mr. Blondin, however, was so entirely unexpected, even in circles closest to the Cabinet, that it created something in the nature of a sensation. In all the speculations of weeks as to the probable appointees, the name of Mr. Blondin had not so much as been mentioned and the announcement on October 20 that he had been sworn in as Minister of Inland Revenue came as a positive and not altogether pleasant surprise to the rank and file of the Conservative party.

In Liberal circles the appointment of Mr. Blondin aroused considerable comment and it was very soon apparent that were it not for conditions existing because of the war, his appointment as a Minister of the Crown would not only have been challenged but would have been fought at the polls. In strict observance of the "truce to party strife" declared at the outset of the war, this action was not taken, the Liberals of the two constituencies as well as the Liberal leaders called into conference shortly after the cabinet shuffle had been announced, agreeing unanimously that at this time of crisis and danger nothing should be done that might raise dissensions and divisions among the people of Canada. The feeling that the appointment of Hon. Mr. Blondin should be opposed applied almost equally to the appointment of Hon. Mr. Casgrain.

In pursuance of this policy, no opposition was offered to the return of the two new Ministers who were duly elected by acclamation on November 7.

The definite decision not to oppose the return of Hon. Blondin under existing circumstances was reached by the Liberal electors of the county of Champlain in open convention at St. Stanislas, on October 25, when after full discussion, a resolution was unanimously adopted which leaves no manner of doubt as to how the electors of his own constituency view some of his actions in the past and how they received the announcement that he had been chosen from among so many to take a place in the Ministry at one of the most critical periods in the history of the Empire. The resolution (translated) is appended;

Whereas the British Empire is now weathering a crisis which threatens her destinies and the destiny of Canada;

"And Whereas the distinguished Leader of the Liberal Party, Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, has proclaimed the necessity of uniting all minds and of shunning all questions likely to cause discussions during these days of grave danger;

"And Whereas the harshness and bitterness usually part of any electoral campaign would necessarily cause deplorable dissensions to arise;

"And Whereas we feel that Canadians will require to conserve all their energy and good-will to combat the adversities and relieve the distress assailing the allied countries;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that this Convention deeply regrets that the Government has seen fit to bring about changes in its Ministry at this time of national danger, and to take advantage of the political truce to open the County of Champlain;

"The Liberals of the County of Champlain desire to affirm that under any other circumstances they would have contested the election of Mr. Blondin, as they do not think him worthy of the confidence of the electors, for the following reasons;

1. Because during the campaign of 1911 he shamefully misled the electors by affirming and declaring that Canada is not bound to contribute and should not contribute to the defence of the Empire.

2. Because he has forfeited our confidence and has lowered his compatriots in the eyes of the country by his thoughtless and almost seditious utterances, as for instance: "We could not breathe the air of liberty under British domination except by shooting holes through the flag";

3. Because he has broken his word and repudiated his promises to the electorate at the last general election and has failed to keep his most solemn engagements;

"That the Liberals of this county, however, deeming it their duty to place country above party, are agreed not to contest this election under present circumstances, but do not thereby waive their right to discuss Mr. Blondin and his acts at the next election;

"That they affirm that this decision not to contest this election is not a ratification or endorsement of Mr. Blondin's appointment to the Cabinet, which appointment they entirely disapprove for the reasons given".