

feigns surprise at discovering these sentiments afterwards.

After that election no one could have thought that 5,000 French Canadians could ever be found in the province of Quebec to enlist for a war in Europe. Let me say that, in spite of that campaign, which was carried on with a vigour and an acerbity of which honourable gentlemen from other provinces have no idea—in spite of that campaign, Quebec would have done better if conditions in 1914 had been otherwise with the Government of this country. I have stated that this campaign was carried on with considerable violence and acerbity; yet honourable gentlemen from afar perhaps could not have known what was going on that every Nationalist candidate who was running in opposition to Sir Wilfrid Laurier was carrying on his campaign plentifully supplied with Conservative money. Of course, on the day after the election the trick had been done, and the coalition Government was formed. I have stated that Quebec would have done better in sending men to the front if properly represented and properly appealed to.

Honourable gentlemen, what took place in France, Great Britain, and Belgium, when war was declared? The men at the helm, the men in office, felt that a sacred union should be formed, and the whole strength of the country gathered together and represented by the Government. In France we saw for the first time since 1871 a Government containing the most advanced socialist. Jules Guesde, one of the most advanced socialists in France, sat in that council beside Denis Cochin, the representative of monarchical France. In England, Mr. Asquith gathered into his fold men of all classes and parties, the Conservative leaders and Laborites—and even Sir Edward Carson. In Belgium, the Catholic Government, which was holding power against the Liberals and Socialists, immediately called in Mr. Huysmans, the Liberal, and Mr. Vandervelde, the Socialist leader.

If it was important in those countries, honourable gentlemen, thus to gather together the representatives of all shades of opinion, how much more important was it to do so in Canada. It was evident—perhaps not to honourable gentlemen from the other provinces, but it was evident to us in the province of Quebec—that the Government was in a false position with its Nationalist wing, which had been elected on the cry of “no contribution to Imperial wars outside of Canada.” It was in a false

position because that Nationalist wing was ashamed to show itself or its representatives in the Cabinet, and when it did show itself it was hounded down. Apparently the Government did not feel the necessity for union—why? It carried on its civil and its military administration through its own party channels. Did the Government feel that we were not at war in the same degree as France and England? Did they feel that our obligations were not quite like those of France and England? Would the statement made by the president of the council, the Hon. Mr. Rowell, last session, explain the difference between the action of Canada and that of France and Great Britain? He expressed the view, which cannot be gainsaid, that if Canada had been an independent nation in August, 1914, it would not have declared war upon Germany; that we went into the war as a part of the British Empire, but that we would doubtless have been drawn into it later on, like the United States, for a cause of our own—at about the same time, he adds, as the United States, or perhaps a little before. There is one thing certain: the Government did not set out to draw into its councils all the forces of the country.

I may remark that even as between France and England there was a marked difference of attitude. It took some time to awaken Englishmen to the fact that this was their war. The enemy were not so near to London as they were to Paris.

In this country what was the situation which prevailed from month to month? Here, during the first twelve or eighteen months there was no very urgent call made for general enlistment. Sir Sam Hughes often stated that he had all the recruits he needed, and the Minister of Agriculture kept on campaigning for increased production. There was this difference in Quebec and throughout the country between the French Canadian group and the Anglo-Canadian, that the Anglo-Canadian had very many militia regiments, splendidly organized and upon which the Government could draw for officers, while the French Canadians had hardly any. After the 22nd French Canadian battalion was organized, I myself came to Ottawa to see the minister and asked that we be allowed to raise another battalion on the spot because more than 4,000 men had offered for the 22nd. What was the answer I received? “The difficulty is, the French Canadians have no officers.” As I have said, that was not the situation amongst Anglo-Canadians. The officers commanding who were selected, in