

SPEECH

DELIVERED BY

SIR WILLIAM MULOCK,

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Laurier Club, at Toronto

ON

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ONWARD, CANADA.

I am asked to speak to the toast of "Canada and the Empire," a
interesting subject, and one which may be regarded from many differ-
points of view. For example, there is a jingo school that, losing sight
of the teachings of history, and believing that the cultivation of the military
spirit should be the chief aim of society, would convert the British Empire
into a military camp. Such a school, with its pupils in Great Britain as
well as in Canada, would urge us to establish our country practically upon
a war footing, and to cultivate a war spirit that would make Canada a
participant in the military struggles that from time to time result from
European and other international complications.

One cannot travel in Europe, witnessing there the burdens now borne
by the people as a consequence of militarism, past and present, without
realizing the terrible mistake of nations whose policy stimulates not indus-
trial but military energy. (Hear, hear.) It is one thing for a people to
cultivate a sturdy, manly spirit against foreign aggression; another, that
spirit which spoils for a fight. There is little danger, I think, of Canada,
with the experience afforded by history, selecting the wrong path. (Hear,
hear.) Still, there are some of our people who, possessing confused ideas
as to our duties towards the empire, honestly believe that Canada should
establish a standing military force or send a substantial annual cash con-
tribution to Great Britain for the maintenance of the army. We cannot be
indifferent to the protection extended to Canada at all times by the military
arm of the mother country, but there are, I think, cogent reasons against
the proposition that Canadian resources should as a matter of course be
diverted from Canada for such a purpose.