

DEBATE:

On the Sending of the Canadian Contingent to South Africa

After a lengthy speech, in which he opposed the sending of the Canadian Contingent to South Africa, because it was a departure from the letter of the Canadian Constitution, Mr. Bourassa moved the following resolution :

"That this House insists on the principle of the Sovereignty and the Independence of Parliament as the basis of British Institutions, and the safeguard of the civil and political liberties of British citizens, and refuses, consequently, to consider the action of the Government in relation to the South African war as a precedent which should commit this country to any action in the future. That this House further declares that it opposes any change in the political and military relations which exist at present between Canada and Great Britain, unless such change is initiated by the sovereign will of Parliament and sanctioned by the people of Canada."

SIR WILFRID LAURIER :

"Mr. Speaker, I have listened to every word uttered by my hon. friend (Mr. Bourassa) with very deep and close attention, an attention all the closer after having known my hon. friend for many years, almost since his infancy. Being an admirer of his brilliant talents, entertaining for him warm personal friendship, I feel all the more deeply the regret of having to differ from him. My hon. friend is young and enthusiastic; he is at that age, that happy age, where the pride of cherished theories far outweighs and, indeed, usually makes light of considerations of practical reality. But I may be permitted to observe to my hon. friend at once, that