

That is because the South African Republic has no navy. It will puzzle, I think, some of us to understand this reasoning and this kind of logic. He proceeds :

There is no menace to Canada, and although we may be willing to contribute troops, I do not see how we can do so. Then, again, how could we do so, without parliament granting us the money. We simply could not do anything. In other words, we should have to summon parliament. The government of Canada is restricted in its power. It is responsible to parliament, and it can do very little without the permission of parliament. There is no doubt as to the attitude of the government on all questions that mean menace to British interests, but in this present case, our limitations are very clearly defined, and so it is that we have not offered a Canadian contingent to the home authorities. The Militia Department duly transmitted individual offers to the Imperial government and the reply from the war office, as published in Saturday's 'Globe,' shows their attitude on the question. As to Canada furnishing a contingent the Government has not discussed the question.

Hon. gentlemen will remember precisely what I said, that this interview was after the receipt of that despatch from the Colonial Office.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—By His Excellency. As I understand that interview which my hon. friend had, professed to be on the 4th. The despatch was at five o'clock on the 3rd.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Precisely what I said.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—My hon. friend goes further and says what he does not know, that the despatch was in the hands of the Prime Minister.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I do not say that, as I do not know whether it was or not.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I understood the hon. gentleman to say so.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I said his interview was on the 4th and the despatch was sent on the 3rd, and I say further without any reflection upon the Governor General, that when I was in the government, an important despatch of that kind being received by the Governor General would have been immediately sent to the Prime Minister of the country, and I cannot conceive it possible that any head of the government of this country would withhold from the Prime Minister a despatch of that importance, and I draw the

inference from that, that the Premier must have known the contents of that despatch, because he says it was published, and therefore he must have known it. He says distinctly 'As conveyed in the despatch which has been published;' which is clear evidence that he knew what he was talking about. I will not say that it is a quibble on the part of my hon. friend, because I do not think it would be courteous to say so; but I say it is an endeavour to evade the real point at issue, and which I do not think at all necessary under the circumstances. He says further :

As to Canada furnishing a contingent, the government has not discussed the question for the reasons I have stated, reasons which I think must be easily understood by every one who understands the constitution and laws on the question. The statement of the 'Military Gazette' published this morning—

What statement was that, I should like to know other than that to which I have referred, the official telegram which I have read, which was sent to Lord Minto.

Far from possessing any foundation in fact, it is wholly original.

Then we find the hon. gentleman after making that positive declaration as to the constitutional practice and the powers which he possessed in this report to the council on October 14, stating that it is a case in which the government might encroach on the constitutional practice and usage. With that I am fully in accord. It is very often the case that under constitutional government these things must occur, and they would be justified, because he was told by the leader of the opposition in the House of Commons that he would receive no condemnation, but on the contrary would receive the support of every one who was following him in any course that he might pursue in reason. Then the next statement is pertinent to the point I am now discussing. He says :

A Bill will be submitted for your approval, making provision for the cost of equipping and paying the Canadian contingent.

What does that mean? Does it mean the transport to South Africa alone, or does it mean that the government are prepared to introduce a Bill to pay the whole expenditure of that contingent? Let me express the hope that the latter interpretation is the one which should be given to it.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—Hear, hear.