

that any Dominion ministers resident here would, at all times, have free and full access to the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and the Colonial Secretary for information on all questions of Imperial policy. In a public speech which I made a short time ago I used the following words:—

There is, on the part of Canadian ministers and people, a natural and laudable desire for a greater measure of consultation and co-operation with us in the future than they have had in the past. This is not intended, and it need not, to open up those difficult problems of Imperial federation which, seeming to entail questions of taxation and representation, have made that policy for many years a dead issue. But, speaking for myself, I see no obstacle, and certainly no objection, to the governments of all the dominions being given at once a larger share in the executive direction in matters of defence and in personal consultation and co-operation with individual British ministers whose duty it is to frame policy here. I should welcome a more continuous representation of dominion ministers, if they wish it, upon the Committee of Imperial Defence; we should all be glad if a member or members of those cabinets could be annually in London. The door of fellowship is always open to them and we require no formalities of an Imperial conference for the continuity of Imperial confidence.

The foregoing accurately represents the views and intentions of His Majesty's Government.

From Mr. Borden's public speech, in introducing the Canadian Naval Bill, it appears that he accepts the proposals which we have made. The same offer is of course open to all the other self-governing dominions, if and when they wish to adopt it, but the proposal is not one of necessary or strict uniformity and can be varied in the case of each or any dominion to suit their case. I should be glad to know, at their convenience, whether your ministers desire to adopt some such method of more continuous connection in naval and military affairs with the Committee of Imperial Defence in the United Kingdom.

I have, &c.

(Sgd.) L. HARCOURT.

The Officer Administering
The Government of ———

That document peremptorily establishes three things:

In the first place it shows that during their famous trip of last summer, our Canadian ministers did not secure any privilege, any right, any franchise which had not already been granted at the Imperial conference of 1911, at which Sir Wilfrid Laurier was the leading figure.

That the right of representation in the Imperial defence committee was then offered to the various self-governing colonies, and it is exactly the same proposal which has been made to the present Prime Minister during his 1912 trip.

That document shows in the second place that this Imperial defence committee is only a commission of experts, an advisory board, having absolutely nothing to do,

not a word to say, concerning foreign politics and the international relations of the Empire.

The British Government states in the third place that this Imperial federation plan is a problem that cannot be solved, which goes to show that this contribution of \$35,000,000 should be considered as an actual tribute, in direct opposition to the principle: 'No taxation without representation.'

I suggest that the hon. Postmaster General should send a copy of that correspondence to the one hundred faithful Conservatives of St. Sauveur, who went to applaud him at his memorable meeting. They will satisfy themselves possibly that if the hon. minister is getting ready to ascend the steps leading to the temple, it is not for the purpose of discussing issues, but only to make delivery of the \$35,000,000 contributed by the Canadian people, a mission which, besides, must be extremely obnoxious to him.

I say moreover that these funds which might be put to such good use in this country, towards improving our transportation facilities, developing our industries, expanding our trade and improving conditions in agricultural districts, will be of no assistance to the Mother Country. She does not need it. Our debt per head, including that of the provinces, amounts to \$81, while the total debt of the British Isles represent only \$72.25 per head of their population. In the course of the seven last years, Great Britain diminished her debt by \$370,000,000. Last year she had a surplus of \$30,000,000.

Far from sinking under the burden of the expenditure by the increased armaments, Great Britain is richer to-day than she was ten years ago, and her financial status, owing to a progressive policy, is improving from year to year.

But we are told that this Bill will have a great moral effect. I wonder, Sir, what that effect will be, especially when the Government's nefarious policy forces us to give to the citizens of the British Empire and to those who may turn out to be its foes, the spectacle of parties at variance and of a public opinion irretrievably divided.

As for me, I cannot give my consent to the sending of an amount of \$35,000,000 to Great Britain, who has no need for it and does not ask for it.

Mr. SEVIGNY: (Translation.) Will my hon. friend permit me now to ask him a question?

Mr. LAPOINTE: (Translation.) This time I shall not refuse.

Mr. SEVIGNY: (Translation.) My hon. friend is very kind. Is he aware that in the amendment which was introduced by the right hon. leader of the Opposition, it is stated that the policy of the Liberal party