

Afrikaner homestead burned by order of British commanders, one hundred brands of hatred have been lighted up; they may be covered for some time with the ashes of defeat and repression. But let a blast come from the Orient or the Occident, from the north or from the south—a rebellion in India, a conflict in China, a war in Europe; and, the occasion may not be far away, if jingo rule is to be left a free hand for some time yet in England—and the blaze will again be lighted; and once more shall the decimated compatriots of William the Silent astound the world. Do you want to extinguish that fire for ever, go to those stern, ignorant, fanatical Boers—give them the epithets you like—but make them understand that Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Rhodes, that Lord Kitchener and Sir Alfred Milner are not the British people; that behind and above the unscrupulous politicians, the money-grabbers, the brutal soldiers, the bureaucratic martinets with whom they have come in contact for the last ten years, there is a broad, generous nation, upon which they can rely for the safeguarding of their national and individual existence.

'Oh, but Mr. Chamberlain is in power, the empire is safe,' cry out the jingoes; 'let us teach those brigands a lesson they shall never forget.' Take care only that they do not remember it too long; you may pay later on with your own blood the cost of that bloody education.

Yes, Mr. Chamberlain is in power, and the war is not stopped—but Queen Victoria is dead; and the public rumour, and the public conscience, and the public sentiment tell us that her days have been shortened by that disheartening and unglorious war. Up to the day of her death, two thoughts had always kept me lighthearted in the midst of insults and slanders. I knew that I was actuated solely by the pure love of Canada; I felt also that I was in no way responsible for the bloodshed on the veldts of Africa nor for the tears shed in so many Canadian homes. Now a new thought fills my heart with happiness; I am not an accomplice of murderers of the Queen.

I sincerely believe that in urging the House to support this proposition, I am

simply asking the parliament of Canada to respond to one of the last and most heartfelt desires of her late Majesty. I move it as a tribute of homage, of admiration, of love to her memory. It is modest, compared with the magnificent and pompous necrologies that have fallen from the lips of kings and statesmen. But, it is free and sincere; it has not been paid and does not expect to be rewarded by any prize or honour; it is pure of all speculation upon the name of that noble and venerable woman. It is simply the wish of a true Canadian and a true British subject, and in that spirit I move, seconded by Mr. Angers:

That, whilst strictly adhering to the fundamental principle of Canadian autonomy, and refusing to admit that the intervention of Canada in South Africa has committed this country to any future participation in the wars and policy of Great Britain.

This House thinks that the contribution of Canada in the South African war, both in armed help and public expenditure entitles the Canadian people to express an opinion on the matter.

This House, therefore, humbly reminds His Majesty, King Edward VII., that the glorious reign of his august mother, Queen Victoria, whose memory shall ever be cherished by Canadians of all origins and creeds, was inaugurated in bloodshed and rebellion in this part of her dominions; that peace and prosperity were subsequently restored for ever when Her Majesty's advisers understood, as Lord Grey told in his instructions to Lord Elgin, Governor of Canada, that it was 'neither possible nor desirable to carry on the government of any of the British provinces in North America in opposition to the opinions of its inhabitants'; that since that time, Her Majesty has found in no portion of her empire a more faithful, devoted and contented people than her French Canadian subjects.

This House, therefore, expresses the hope and desire that His Majesty's government will endeavour to conclude in South Africa an honourable peace founded upon the law of nations which guarantees independence to all civilized peoples and upon the true British traditions of respect to all national and religious convictions and to the spirit of colonial autonomy.

This House further declares that there is no necessity for sending any more Canadian troops to South Africa, and that the enlistment of recruits for the South African constabulary should not be allowed to take place in Canada.