

represents here a race which was the pioneer race in this Dominion, a race which has shown a perfect understanding and appreciation of the principles of liberty upon which this Empire is based. My hon. friend's presence here to-day and the eloquent speech from him to which we have listened are in a like manner a tribute to the appreciation by that race in Canada of the liberties which all the citizens of Canada enjoy regardless of creed or of race.

My hon. friends have spoken, and so has my right hon. friend the leader of the Opposition, of the loss which the members of this House have sustained in the death of those who have passed away. The late Mr. Emmerson had a long career in public life and took a very prominent part in the debates of this House, where his industry and his earnestness in all that he undertook were very notable. I join with my hon. friends in extending to the relatives whom he has left behind the sympathy of all the members of this House which I am sure is freely extended. My good friends, George Clare and Major Thomas Beattie, have also passed away since we last met. They did not take an active or prominent part in the debates of this House, but they were men who had a long experience in public affairs. I have already expressed appreciation of my association with them in public life and of the fine qualities which they made manifest as members of this assembly. They did not often speak, but when they did address the House it was with a knowledge and an earnestness which commended all that they had to say to the consideration of every member.

I have not one word to say in criticism of the observations which my right hon. friend has made to this House with regard to certain matters upon which he felt it desirable to make comments. So far as my own observations during the recess are concerned, I did not discuss the subject to which he has called attention otherwise than by alluding to the probable influence which the events of the past six months may bring to bear upon that question when it does come to be considered. I am very much of the same opinion as my right hon. friend in a good deal of what he has said to-day in that respect. I for one am the last man in this House who would be disposed to favour or to advocate any system which would deprive the self-governing dominions of the Empire of the rights and liberties which they possess in

respect of the control of their own affairs. As to what I have said in the past in that respect, I do not think that I ever went beyond what my right hon. friend himself said some eighteen years ago, when, on the other side of the ocean, he declared to those who held the reins of power in the United Kingdom: If you desire our aid, call us to your councils. That very shortly expressed an idea in his own mind at that time—and, I daresay, still in his own mind—and beyond that I do not think I have ever gone in any of my utterances regarding this question.

My right hon. friend has also spoken of the expenditure by the Government of the sum of money voted for war purposes. I agree at once that it is the undoubted right of this House to have the fullest information as to that expenditure, and, if any mistakes or errors in judgment have occurred, to learn of them in order that they shall not be repeated in the future. My right hon. friend has spoken of rumors in the press with regard to the boots which were furnished to the first Canadian contingent, and, I dare say, to those who have been enlisted for service beyond the seas required. So far as I am aware, those boots were ordered in the very early stages of the war upon specifications which were prepared in the Department of Militia many years ago and which have been the authorized specifications of that Department ever since. It may be that if time had permitted it would have been desirable to adopt a stouter type of boot, but I should like to tell my right hon. friend that I have it upon the authority of a man who should know whereof he speaks that in the South African campaign the type of boot used in the British army which has been so highly commended to my right hon. friend, was not found specially suitable for the Canadian forces engaged in that war. I have taken a keen interest in this question of boots and have discussed the matter with a great many persons who were supposed to know what was the best type of boot for such a purpose. I found that there was a great difference of opinion as to what was the best type of boot. Many different specifications have been presented to us and many different types have been considered. The French and British types of boots were placed before me, and I had it pointed out to me in a very forcible way—and in a way that commended itself very much to my