

No, there is but one explanation possible. In the technical details of that memorandum, in its recommendations as to the purchase of cannons, guns, ammunition and war material, as to the training of troops and the organisation of war services, could have been found, in a large measure, the justification of the policy adopted by the Conservative government, before 1896,—the famous Tupper-Desjardins' purchase of guns;—and consequently the condemnation of the violent charges made by Mr. Laurier and most of his Quebec candidates—Mr. Brodeur notably—against their opponents, guilty of the criminal purpose “of arming the Canadians and sending them to die for England in Africa!” No danger that so clear a justification should be offered to defeated opponents!

Then came the South African war, the Imperialist propaganda, the reaction, and the awakening of Nationalism: all good reasons not to let public opinion, and the various factions endeavouring to catch its favour, become acquainted with a document in which so many weapons could be found and used against the Cabinet.

Lastly, came the “German scare”, Mr. Foster's motion, the Laurier-Borden embrace, the rupture, Drummond-Arthabaska. It was less opportune than ever to let the Canadian people know, by the most crushing evidence, that British authorities, responsible for the organisation of Colonial defence, stood in full condemnation of all the plans of our drawing-room warriors, of Mr. Borden's dreadnoughts and Sir Wilfrid Laurier's *Niobes* as well.

To justify the Conservatives, in 1897 would have been humiliating: to give reason to the Nationalists, in 1910, was infinitely more dangerous.

Thus it is that party spirit and the lust of power bring statesmen to the point of violating their most essential duties, of imperilling national safety, to save their self pride or their portfolios!

Let no one think, however, that such processes are monopolised by Liberals. Many a good Conservative would be terribly angry at his leaders, should they fail to do likewise, if the occasion demanded it “for the sake of the PARTY!” O holy Party, what amount of nastiness is committed in thy name!