

the statement read last night, that the Nationalist supporters of the Government were giving the assurance to their friends in Quebec that there was to be no speedy action under this Bill, and whether he finds it necessary to reassure his friends in British Columbia on that account?

Mr. STEVENS: There is no man in this House who knows better than my hon. friend the utter folly of any hon. member making himself responsible for statements made in newspapers from one end of the country to the other. So far as the statements to which he referred are concerned, I may say I never read them, being unable to read French, and I was not present when they were read or interpreted to the House, so that I am unable to say anything in regard to them. But I have every confidence that the action of the Government will be speedy.

Mr. CLARK (Red Deer): To elucidate a point which my hon. friend has elaborated to his own satisfaction apparently, so much so that he said that no one on this side could fail to agree with him, I would like to put a question. In my own lifetime the Old Country has had two pretty serious wars with Afghanistan on the northwest frontier of India. I presume he knows where that is. What does he say would be the duty of Canada in regard to a third Afghan war in my lifetime, if such should arise; would he send troops to take part in that war?

Mr. STEVENS: The effort of the hon. member for Red Deer is to draw a red herring across the trail.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. CLARK: I absolutely disavow that. I asked for information. I do not deal in red herrings.

Mr. STEVENS: My hon. friend is getting needlessly aroused and excited over this matter.

Mr. CLARK: What about the Afghan war?

Mr. STEVENS: I will answer this question with the words of the right hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Wilfrid Laurier).

Mr. CLARK: He cannot tell your views.

Mr. STEVENS: I know he cannot. As a matter of fact, the point I was making was the difference between the policies of the two parties. The leader of the Opposition stated clearly and in a practical way, when he was Prime Minister in 1899, that he would refuse to send troops to South Africa in the common defence of the Empire.

Mr. PARDEE: That is not so.

Mr. MACDONALD.

Mr. STEVENS: I can give the quotation.

Mr. PARDEE: Let us have it.

Mr. MACDONALD: Will my hon. friend give the quotation from the speech of the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue (Mr. Nantel) who said that no troops would have been sent to South Africa had Sir John Macdonald been alive.

Mr. STEVENS: I will give my hon. friends all they want. The right hon. leader of the Opposition in 1899, made a statement in an interview published in the Globe newspaper in response to the request from all parts of Canada, and especially from Sir Charles Tupper, then leader of the Opposition, that he should send troops to South Africa. In July, 1899, he gave the following as his reason for refusing to send troops:

Canadian troops are to be used to fight for Canadian defence only.

That was the attitude of the leader of the Opposition and that is his attitude to-day. I will go further. The hon. member for Red Deer says: Supposing there was another war in Afghanistan—

Mr. MACDONALD: I want to ask the hon. member a question.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. MACDONALD: Who did my hon. friend quote from?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. MACDONALD: My hon. friend has given the impression that he was quoting from the leader of the Opposition, when as a matter of fact he did not do so.

The CHAIRMAN: Order, the hon. member for Vancouver (Mr. Stevens) has the floor.

Mr. STEVENS: As soon as I can, I will answer the hon. gentleman (Mr. Macdonald). In connection with the possibility of another war in Afghanistan; in the first place, that was only an expedition and was not a war, but should there be any demand that troops should go to Afghanistan I should say that undoubtedly Canada should take part in any war that might occur there. I say further that I care not where the conflict might be, if Great Britain was at war with any country on the face of the earth and, if it were necessary for Canada to participate in it, undoubtedly she should do so. The hon. member for Pictou wanted to ask me a question.

Mr. CLARK (Red Deer): Just a moment. I want merely to know clearly where my hon. friend stands. In case it were neces-