

think has discredited, and will for ever discredit, the Minister of Public Works. The hon. member for Maisonneuve said :

Very serious events have happened since I left Canada last Friday. These events have a great bearing in the British Empire. I am not one of those who would dictate the government's policy. I am a full private in the Liberal army. I remember that at the last session the Canadian parliament pledged itself to help the British Empire; and now I think the time has come when this pledge should be redeemed. I say so as a French Canadian and a member of the Liberal party.

Contrast this candid, outspoken declaration, which will commend itself to the dispassionate judgment of every hon. gentleman with that of the Minister of Public Works. Instead of there being any violation of the constitution, as the hon. Minister of Public Works was evidently able to convince the right hon. First Minister there would be if anything was done, the hon. member for Maisonneuve tells the people of this country—and he spoke with the authority of a gentleman well versed in public affairs, not only in this House but out of it—that he regarded the resolution which had been passed unanimously by both branches of the parliament of Canada as a perfect and complete justification for giving that aid and assistance to the empire; and I am quite certain that the sentiment of the members of this House, however their inclinations may be in one direction or another, will say that the position of the hon. member for Maisonneuve on this question was correct and sound. *La Patrie* continued day after day to attack the government and to threaten everything that was possible to prevent them giving any aid or assistance. On October 14 it published the following :—

The most sacred prerogative of a British subject is not to pay taxes either in money or in blood without having the right of representation. Canada has no voice in Imperial affairs. We are not represented in the parliament of Great Britain.

Therefore an utterly false and delusive principle was propounded that will not bear investigation for a single moment, because it had no relation to the question under consideration. But what occurred? The hon. gentleman was not satisfied with threatening his colleagues through *Le Patrie*, and with blocking and shutting them off when they wished to make a move in the right direction, but he brought to his aid another organ of the party which he subordinated to his views. I refer to *Le Temps* of Ottawa. *Le Temps* thus expressed its views :

We already know that it is Mr. Tarte who opposes the ridiculous idea of taking our money to carry on Imperial wars. The Minister of Public Works considers the question of the Transvaal from the Canadian point of view. What should we go to Africa for? To help

England to conquer an undisciplined army of 50,000 farmers? The empire can do without us in this easy affair. Besides she does not ask us to come, and did she do so, such an audacious and unusual proceeding would be a new reason for distrust of her.

Is it not plain that Great Britain, seeing the storm about to burst over her head, seeks to engage us in a conflict created or provoked by her, the responsibility for which in no wise can be shared by Canada, and that in order to establish a dangerous precedent which would permit her in future to call on our country for money and for men whenever she might need them. Truly we should be great fools to sacrifice our present security, as well as that of the future, and our painfully-acquired autonomy, for the doubtful advantage of sharing the fortunes of England.

Can the hon. gentleman who leads the government, now tell this House, in the face of the declarations of these French organs supporting his government, but evidently under the malign influence of the Minister of Public Works, that there is entire accord in Canada to-day in regard to this great question. Why, the right hon. gentleman knows that everything that has been done, has been accomplished by applying the point of the bayonet to the Minister of Public Works. Every one knows that it was only when that hon. Minister had to choose between going out or abandoning his opinions and showing how little they were worth, that he decided to yield and remain. Fortunately for Canada, the overwhelming public sentiment of this country, excited on this as it never has been before in our history upon any question, soon taught my right hon. friend that he would have to choose between abandoning his contention that nothing could be done, because to do anything would be a violation of the constitution, and that either he would have to violate the constitution or somebody else would be in charge of it at a very early day. Under the circumstances, he consented to do that which he declared he never would do because he could not do it without violating the constitution of the country. After he had placed himself, as I have shown, at the mercy of the Minister of Public Works and other gentlemen in this House, he was obliged to yield to the overwhelming pressure of public opinion, and do that which he declared could not be done because it was impossible.

The right hon. gentleman, when he does do anything, however, does it well. When I read his speech at the embarkation of the volunteers, and when I remembered the circumstances under which the sending the volunteers had been brought about, I could not but admire the marvellous eloquence of my right hon. friend. It would be impossible, I do not hesitate to say, for any one to have placed the question in a better and stronger light than he did by his eloquent speech on that occasion. But what then