

imity of the foreign press, have entirely overlooked the reservation made by the government in their order in council. Either approving or condemning, they have given to the government's action, the same interpretation as that which I gave myself, and that is: The accomplished fact makes the precedent. But what is still graver and gives far more strength to my contention, is that the British government, through the official medium of the Colonial Secretary, at whose request we acted, has given to that action the same significance. He has accepted the sending of our troops as a proof of our willingness to do it again, and he has ignored entirely the reservation made by the Canadian government and finally the same interpretation seems to have been given by the head of our executive committee, by the representative of the Crown in Canada. So that to-day, not only is the doubt of which *La Patrie* spoke is still existing in the public mind, but the overwhelming conviction that a precedent has been created.

In presence of such facts, should this House refuse to sanction the reservation made by the government in their Order in Council and refuse to adopt my motion, it would mean that we reject that reservation and accept the general and official interpretation put upon the ministerial action. Such a course, on the part of the government, would constitute the loudest stultification of themselves. On our part, it would be the most emphatic and humiliating admission of subservency that a free representative body could give. It would bring us back to the time of the Long Parliament.

I freely confess that should my motion be adopted, it would greatly minimize the best of my argument, which is that the accomplished fact constitutes a precedent, notwithstanding all the reservations that could be made.

But this I do not mind. I have not taken my course to gain notoriety or popularity. My only aim is to get an assertion by this House of the soundest and oldest principles of representative government. I simply ask that this House shall affirm that Canada is a free

country, that Canada is a country ready to meet Great Britain on a fair proposition, if Great Britain tells us that she requires our help. Then, if new propositions have to be laid down touching the policy that is going to govern this country, neither the Colonial Secretary, nor any member of a British government, nor any representative of the Imperial government in this country has the right to say what shall be the course of a free people. It is our duty, as a free parliament, representing the free opinion of the people, to say what is to be the policy of the people. I am not going to pass judgment on the action of the government; I have not voted against their resolution, at the expense of what was called my logic. I have been accused of coming back to the fold and of accepting again the yoke of the government. I do not mind that, because I wanted to give to the government a proof of my good faith. I do not mind the money that is asked, but I ask you to repeat here what was declared in the order in council, and to tell the British government that this is a free parliament elected by the free opinion of the people. Therefore, I think my position is a right one, and should it be accepted by this House at the expense of the views I have already given, at the expense of the stand I have taken in my country, I do not mind. I feel that I will be amply rewarded if I secure a declaration that there is still in existence the true British spirit of self-government and liberty, and therefore, I move: That all the words after that be struck out and that the following be inserted:

That this House insists on the principle of the sovereignty and the independence of parliament as the basis of British institutions and the safeguard of the civil and political liberties of British citizens, and refuses consequently to consider the action of the government in relation to the South African war as a precedent which should commit this country to any action in the future.

That this House further declares that it opposes any change in the political and military relations which exist at present between Canada and Great Britain unless such change is initiated by the sovereign will of parliament and sanctioned by the people of Canada.