

when he said that all that is desired is that the British people in the Transvaal should enjoy the same rights and privileges that the Dutch settlers in British South Africa enjoy. That is all that the Imperial Government desires. It seems to me that this resolution comes with special significance and force, when moved by the right hon. gentleman who, in the position he occupies, is an embodiment, if I may so describe it, of the freedom, and liberality, and breadth of British institutions. When we ask that the same rights and privileges should be given to our friends in the Transvaal that the Dutch have in British South Africa, we realize that the same liberal institutions are extended to the Dutch there that are extended to our French Canadian fellow-citizens here. At this very moment, as my right hon. friend occupies the position of Premier of Canada, so does a member of the Dutch race to-day occupy the position of Premier of the old British colony of the Cape. So it seems almost incredible when we come to understand what is the position of our suffering fellow-subjects in the Transvaal really is. Now, I should like to be allowed, with the permission of the House, to read a word or two from an article written by a gentleman who is specially well able to speak on this subject. He is a gentleman who occupied many positions of trust in South Africa. I will just give, in his own words, the position of trust he occupied there, so that the House may see how thoroughly competent he is to express his views on this subject. He was connected by ties of the closest intimacy with the Dutch very early in life. He was Attorney General of Griqualand, he was one of the judges of the Supreme Court of the Cape of Good Hope, he was British Commissioner on the Anglo-German Commission, he was administrator of British Bechuanaland, with supreme judicial as well as executive powers; he was resident Commissioner for Bechuanaland Protectorate and the Kalahari, with jurisdiction up to the Zambesi. He says he was always on the best terms with the Boers, that he had many conferences with them, that the most friendly feeling existing between him and them, that he entertains a sincere admiration for their many sterling qualities.

**Mr. WALLACE.** Who is this gentleman?

**Mr. McNEILL.** This gentleman is Sir Sidney Shippard, who was, as I have said, our commissioner in Bechuanaland. He was asked by the editor of the Nineteenth Century to write an article on this subject. He said he had carefully avoided giving expression to his views, but, under the circumstances, he thought it right to accept the invitation which was extended to him, and this is the picture that he traces of the condition of our fellow-subjects in the Transvaal:

British subjects in the Transvaal are denied all rights of citizenship, they are insulted, plun-

dered, even murdered by their oppressors; the courts of justice have been deprived of independence, so that neither safety nor redress can be had for our British fellow-subjects there. Their humble petitions have been openly flouted, although they were signed by 33,000 law-abiding petitioners in 1894.

This, you will observe, was before the raid.

They were treated as rebels merely because they petitioned. In the Transvaal Britons are slaves, and may be robbed, beaten, imprisoned and murdered. Their women are grossly insulted, their houses are broken into at any hour of the day or night by ruffianly police, who are a terror to the peaceable, and worse than useless against criminals. When an unfortunate British householder remonstrates, he may be shot dead in his own room.

What did take place, we all know. A short time ago, a Mr. Edgar was actually shot dead in his own house without one word being said to him. He was insulted in the street, and took refuge in his own house, and a policeman burst in the door. When he and his wife went to the door to see who it was, the policeman shot him down without one word being said. This case was taken before one of the judges in the Transvaal, and the redress the poor woman had was the statement by the judge that he was glad to find that the police were able to maintain law and order in the country. Sir Sidney Shippard goes on to say:

The wretched Englishman in the Transvaal has no civil rights, no protection from the law courts; in his case the verdict of a Boer jury is a mere farce. He is unarmed and helpless, an object of derision to his enemies. The money wrung from him has been expended mainly in fortresses, artillery, arms, ammunition and mercenaries to overawe him and keep him permanently in subjection. Lastly, in his despair, he has appealed to his Queen.

I thought it was only right to read these statements, because they are statements made by a gentleman who is an impartial witness. This is the picture that he draws of the condition of our friends in the Transvaal. I have only to say that I am exceedingly glad that this resolution is introduced. I observe there is no offer of material assistance. I take it that we all understand very well why there is no offer of material assistance. It is because everybody knows that material assistance is here, in Canada, at any moment, if it be required. When a great military empire, in 1896, ventured to interfere in this very question, this House, by acclamation, stated its willingness to render material assistance, and if there is not material assistance offered to-day we know that it is because it is felt that it is unnecessary to render assistance to a one-hundred ton hammer to crack a hazel nut.

**Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE** (West York). Mr. Speaker, before the resolution, which is meeting with such hearty and unanimous approval in this House, is adopted, I desire