

Transvaal the Dutch government has refused to give to the English population those same rights and privileges which are willingly extended by Great Britain to the Dutch population in her own colonies. The government of the Transvaal has done this with the full and open assent of the Dutch population there and in the Orange Free State. Indeed, rather than give to the English population those equal rights which England gives to the Dutch population where she has the domination, the government of the Transvaal has declared war; and rather than give up those rights and privileges of which she has been the champion all over the world, England has accepted war. Now, the issues are in the hands of that supreme power which builds up and destroys empires and nations, whose ways are inscrutable, whose judgments are ever righteous even though they bring disappointment and bitterness. Fondly do we hope and fervently do we pray that this mighty scourge of war may soon pass away; that it may end in a victory which, when achieved, shall take away from the Dutch population none of the rights which they have to-day, but which will compel them to give to others the same treatment upon which they have always insisted for themselves; which, when achieved, will probably bring about a grand confederation of those warring states, in which the rights, the privileges, the sentiments, the traditions, nay, the prejudices, of all sections of the population will be respected, in which there will be justice and freedom for all, and absolute equality before the law. With these grand ideals, these aspirations, these purposes before them, the colonies of Great Britain to-day stand behind her—not to give her any assistance—she does not need that—but to affirm to the world that the unity of the British Empire is a real and living fact; to affirm to the world that the unity of the British Empire is based upon and derives its strength from the most ample local autonomy and the most unbounded respect for the rights and privileges of all its subjects. It is this which has inspired our policy, and that policy we submit with confidence for the approval of parliament.

**Mr. FOSTER.** Although, Mr. Speaker, not altogether in a complaining mood, I think I have the right to call your attention and the attention of this House to the most unbusinesslike position in which we are placed in the discussion of this answer to the address. The right hon. gentleman, who leads this government and this House, has had access from the first to all papers in the negotiations which have gone on and which have culminated in the action which is being traversed to-night in this discussion. The right hon. gentleman knew very well that this would be the main topic of discussion upon the answer to the address. He knew that he took his opponents and the members

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

of this House at a complete disadvantage, when, having access to all that information himself, he steadily kept it from every member of this House, as well on his own side as on this. And when, on Friday last, the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) arose— If we cannot, Mr. Speaker, have order, I will move the adjournment of the House until hon. members opposite are in a mood to listen. I do not care to speak while gentlemen on the other side are continually getting up and down, and I think it would be better for me to move the adjournment of the debate.

The PRIME MINISTER. I have no objection.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

#### MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY— COLONIAL CONTINGENTS.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) presented a Message from His Excellency the Governor General.

Mr. SPEAKER read the Message as follows:—

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons a copy of an approved Minute of Council appointing the Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright, G.C.M.G., Minister of Trade and Commerce; the Hon. Sir Louis Henry Davies, K.C.M.G., Minister of Marine and Fisheries; the Hon. William Stevens Fielding, Minister of Finance, and the Hon. Joseph Israel Tarte, Minister of Public Works, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons, as commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of the 13th chapter of the Revised Statutes of Canada, intitled: "An Act respecting the House of Commons.

#### COLONIAL CONTINGENTS.

The PRIME MINISTER presented the following Message from His Excellency the Governor General.

Mr. SPEAKER read the message as follows:

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons the correspondence relating to the despatch of the colonial military contingents to South Africa.

MINTO.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

#### ADJOURNMENT—THE CLAYTON-BULWER TREATY.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am advised that a London despatch just arrived says that before the Imperial government consented to the abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, the proposal was submitted to the Dominion government, and the latter consented to giving the United States con-