

them. It was therefore expurgated of all such details as were of no use to the public at large, within the Empire, but could have given to foreign powers some information the divulgence of which might have endangered the safety of the Empire. This, however, does not apply to the two paragraphs already alluded to.

As can easily be seen at once, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues had no reason whatever to hide that document, or to refuse to bring it down at the request of any member of Parliament. On the contrary, their duty would have been to make it public the moment it was received in August 1897.

WHY THE MEMORANDUM WAS CONCEALED

Why were the ministers remiss in their duty? Why did they refuse to accede to Mr. Monk's request, or what is graver still, to obey an order of the House adopted on the 7th December 1910, on Mr. Monk's motion, and to bring down that document before the close of last session and the general elections?

To hold the Minister of Militia solely responsible for that inexcusable inaction, as has been attempted, is an explanation which cannot be maintained. First, in 1897 and long after, Sir Frederick Borden, in spite of his other failings, was decidedly anti-Imperialist. On no occasion did he fail to resist the interference of imperial authorities in the military policy and administration of Canada. He would have felt no reluctance in making known a document in the conclusions of which the principle of Colonial autonomy was strongly upheld and justified.

Moreover, that paper, of a high importance, had been sent to the Governor General, Lord Minto. In order to keep it concealed from the Prime Minister and his colleagues, there must have been collusion between the Governor and the Minister of Militia. Now, it is no secret to anyone that Lord Minto and his gallant war minister were not a pair of friends: they were not even on speaking terms.

Besides, had collusion ever existed, it would have become impossible the day that Mr. Monk moved in the House for the production of the papers, to the full knowledge of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the whole Government.