

with armies or navies for the defence of the empire.

In connection with this Bill, it might be well for us to consider for a moment what is the condition of the dominions beyond the seas. The First Minister has said that Canada is going to become independent as fruit falls from the tree, and he told us in his Toronto speech that Canada is a suzerainty—in other words that the King is a feudal lord instead of our sovereign lord. We are told, not only by the Prime Minister, but by his followers, that we must maintain our autonomy. I wonder how many of them could define the meaning of the word 'autonomy' which is constantly in their mouths. We are told also that we are 'sister nations,' with an emphasis on the word 'nations,' and the other day the right hon. the Prime Minister described us as a 'daughter nation.' Then hon. gentlemen on this side are charged with attacking the principles of responsible government and imperilling the liberty of the subject, and our friends opposite praise rebellion and use up as much nickel and silver as would furnish a mine in Cobalt or Gowganda in polishing off their expressions which, to my mind, are merely the forerunners of a movement for the independence of Canada. But what means allegiance? What is our duty to the empire? To what do we owe allegiance? In days gone by I had the privilege of running foul of a very distinguished English officer in this country, General Hutton.

Mr. LEMIEUX. That was rebellion.

Mr. HUGHES. There are just and unjust rebellions. The rebellion of the American colonies was justifiable. The Quebec Act of 1774 drove that people into rebellion by taking from them what are today the states of Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan, and in 1785 the Americans rebelled. Had I been living at that time, holding my present views, I would have been among them.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Tell that to the United Loyalists.

Mr. HUGHES. I would tell it to any man. There are mitigating circumstances of course.

Mr. LEMIEUX. There are rebels and rebels.

Mr. HUGHES. Certainly, and my desire to uphold the majesty of the British empire is not actuated by any wish to rub elbows with any red tape authority across the water.

Mr. LEMIEUX. What about discipline?

Mr. HUGHES. Does my hon. friend know the meaning of the word? Dis-

Mr. HUGHES.

cipline means polish, education, culture and upbuilding but not repression or tyranny.

Mr. LEMIEUX. The composing room.

Mr. HUGHES. My hon. friend knows more about that than any one on this side. In my regard for the upholding of the empire, I am not actuated by any red tape proclivities, but by what is required to accomplish the object I have in view. On this occasion I had taken the liberty of offering to the imperial authorities the services of a Canadian regiment and I had 23,000 men ready to enlist under me for the South African war. I did observe the proper military or disciplinary course, I did send an application to the general officer commanding, but I also took the course of offering my services to the Minister of Militia. From the latter gentleman I received a courteous answer, but from General Hutton I received a reprimand. Having my doubts as to whether my application through the military channel would go forward—I knew that to General Hutton would not be forwarded—I exercised the right, which I consider belongs to every British citizen in any part of the empire and communicated direct with the home government. I was reprimanded for this direct application. In reply to General Hutton, I used the following language:

That application to the right honourable the Secretary of State was made in order that should the plan be favourably considered in Great Britain steps might be taken by the home authorities—of course with the consent and approval, but outside of the Canadian government—to enroll such a corps here. In the event of failure of action in Canada, through the failure of the general officer commanding to bring the official military application before the Minister of Militia, or through the Canadian government not deeming it advisable to act in the premises, the imperial authorities would be aware that whether or not the general officer commanding or the Canadian government had faith in such plans, yet the imperial authorities would be made aware of the fact that there are tens of thousands of Canadians ready to assist in the up-building of the empire by enrolling for active service abroad.

While a Canadian, I am also a British subject, and should Canada try to cut adrift from Britain, I, as either soldier or citizen—

This was written away back in 1899.

—would not be disloyal in recognizing the home authority rather than the general officer commanding in Canada, or the Minister of Militia—

Although I would almost do anything for the Minister of Militia when he is right.

—or the Secretary of State for Canada. Any citizen of Canada, civilian or militiaman, can