

thought she was bound to display. On the contrary, she has trusted them, and the only way you can secure the allegiance and confidence and loyalty of a people is by that mode which Great Britain adopted in the case of the Boers. And to-day, as the result of that generous treatment, you will find among those men in South Africa, who only a little while ago were fighting British troops and our own sons among those troops, as loyal and devoted sons of the British empire as can be found in any portion of the empire.

The most serious objection which my hon. friend the leader of the opposition has offered to the policy of the government is to that clause which leaves to the determination of the Governor in Council when the naval forces of Canada shall take part in any war of Great Britain. One would imagine that it was an unheard-of thing for Great Britain to be engaged in a war without Canadians being in danger of having their houses burned about their heads by the enemies of Great Britain. Why, if I am not mistaken, Great Britain is at war at the present time, yet most of us know nothing about it except as we gather a few stray facts from some obscure paragraph in the newspapers. Great Britain has been engaged in scores of wars in which Canadians took no part and no interest. And, in future, Britain may be engaged in similar wars. But, of one thing we may be sure, and that is that when war becomes a serious strain upon Great Britain, a danger to the empire, there will be no lack of the loyalty which will lead to the declaration that the military and naval forces of Canada shall take part in that war. It seems to me that the suggestion that there may ever be any difficulty about that matter is a reflection upon the loyalty of Canada. My hon. friend (Mr. R. L. Borden) seems to doubt himself, his party and perhaps the rest of us. He seems to think that we should bind ourselves now for fear that our loyalty may not be sufficient to cause us to do our duty later. But when a war breaks out he can trust Canadians, for I believe the people of Canada are so loyal that no government would desire or dare to withhold the forces of Canada from the assistance of the mother country when that assistance was required. That is all that is necessary.

Some hon. members of this House seem to entertain the idea that it is a sort of treason for us to question any utterance of the British admiralty. But in England they do not so regard the matter. I notice that my Lord Charles Beresford, who thought it necessary to get into parliament in some way or other, does not reserve himself in his criticisms of the admiralty. He says that the whole thing is guided by espionage, favouritism and other disgusting things.

Mr. CONGDON.

But, according to some hon. members, we in this country should be so loyal that we cannot be allowed to question any decision of the admiralty, but, when it has told us what it wants we must yield without a word. For my part, I would sooner be guided by the declarations of the leader of this government in anything regarding the relation of Great Britain and her overseas dominions than I would be by the Lords of the Admiralty, or even by the Prime Minister of Great Britain. We have in this country trained statesmen equal to any imperial statesmen of the time. The necessities of our situation, the fact that we have two races in this country, have made it a necessity that our leader should have a power, a diplomacy, a courage equal to those of any statesman. It is much easier to manage Englishmen and Scotchmen together than it is to manage Englishmen and Frenchmen together; and the fact that we have raised up statesmen who have governed the country agreeably to the wishes of their French Canadian constituents as well as to their British constituents, shows that we have developed a statesmanship in that regard which is unsurpassed in the history of the world. The checks and limitations which the leader of the government has placed upon the military forces of Canada, exactly similar to those which have been placed upon the military forces of this country are required by the whole situation not only of Canada but by the British empire. My hon. friend would carry his argument a little further, and, because we have to-day one of the greatest and best kings ever known in the history of the world, would think it insulting to continue in his case the limitations imposed by constitutional monarchy. But I do not think much support will be given to that idea. It is true that we have a great king, a king whom we can trust, in admiration and support of whom we would go to any length. But we think it a wiser principle to confine the operation of every branch of our government to its legitimate sphere and not to allow it to transgress its due limitations. And, notwithstanding our loyalty to our sovereign, notwithstanding the great love in which we have held that sovereign, no one would think of removing one of the limitations upon his absolute monarchy. And the same with regard to the imperial parliament. It is true, we have confidence in imperial management, but we have so much confidence in their management that we prefer to leave it to its own proper sphere and to retain for ourselves control of that sphere which properly belongs to us. It is absurd, in my humble judgment, to ask our people to adopt a policy which will take from the responsible governors of this country the control of any large por-