

Mr. Chamberlain wrote to the Governor General, the Earl of Minto, and it was sent at 5.15 p.m., October 3, 1899, this telegram—bear in mind—bears date October 3, and also bear in mind, when I am reading it, the reference that I made to the interview with the *Globe* which was on October 4, the day after the telegram was despatched from England to Lord Minto. The Colonial Secretary telegraphs as follows:

Secretary of State for War and Commander-in-Chief desire to express high appreciation of signal exhibition of patriotic spirit of people of Canada shown by offers to serve in South Africa, and to furnish following information to assist organization of force offered into units suitable for military requirements. Firstly, units should consist of about 125 men; secondly, may be infantry, mounted infantry, or cavalry; in view of numbers already available infantry most, cavalry least serviceable; thirdly, all should be armed with 303 rifles or carbines, which can be supplied by Imperial government if necessary; fourthly, all must provide own equipment, and mounted troops own horses; fifthly, not more than one captain and three subalterns each unit. Whole force may be commanded by officer not higher than major. In considering numbers which can be employed, Secretary of State for War guided by nature of offers, by desire that each colony should be fairly represented, and limits necessary if force is to be fully utilized by available staff as integral portion of Imperial forces; would gladly accept four units. Conditions as follows:—Troops to be disembarked at port of landing, South Africa, fully equipped at cost of Colonial government or volunteers. From date of embarkation Imperial government will provide pay at Imperial rates, supplies, and ammunition, and will defray expenses of transport back to Canada, and pay wound pensions and compassionate allowances at Imperial rates. Troops to embark not later than 31st October, proceeding direct to Cape Town for orders. Inform accordingly all who have offered to raise volunteers.

Now, that despatch shows this, in as clear language as it is possible to be, that the government of Canada never made any offer to the Imperial authorities to assist them in the present war, because the Colonial Secretary asks the Governor General to express high appreciation of the signal exhibition of patriotic spirit of the people of Canada shown by offers to serve in South Africa, and to furnish the following information to assist the organization of the forces offered into units suitable for military requirements. Now, that was sent on October 3. The Premier gave expression to his own view that there was no law, or authority to enable the government to do it, on the 4th of the same month; but after the indignation which had been exhibited from one end of the Dominion to the

other at the inaction of the government of the day in not following the example set them by the different colonies all over the empire, they attempted to act, and, as Sir Wilfrid Laurier said in his speech at Sherbrooke the other day—I am not using the exact words—the feeling of the country was such that they yielded to it, and they permitted the enrolling and organization of 1,000 men to assist in the defence of their own country, because Canada is an integral part of the British empire and a blow struck at the Crown or institutions of England is a blow at Canada just as much as it is at England, Ireland or Scotland. I was delighted to hear the expressions of opinion from the hon. gentleman who moved this address, showing that he holds the same view that I express on this question, and that he could speak for his own people, those with whom he is best acquainted, that they hold similar views. I believe the sentiments expressed by Mr. Préfontaine, the mayor of Montreal, is the view of his countrymen of all classes, that they enjoy in Canada to-day greater liberties in religion and institutions than they would if they had remained under the French crown. That is the spirit which I hope to see prevail in this country. It has been in the past a common thing to say that Canada has no history. But the history of the empire is the history of Canada, and the man who is born in the motherland, whether in England, Ireland or Scotland, coming to this country, is only moving from one part of that great empire to another. He does not surrender one iota of the rights and privileges he enjoyed at home. I am English-born. My father brought me to this country, but he never surrendered one title of the rights he enjoyed in England, when he came to this country, and my son, although born of a Canadian mother, and born in Canada, has all the rights and privileges of a British subject that I have, though I happened to be born in England, and that is the spirit, I hold, which should actuate every Canadian, whether of French, English, or any other extraction. I regretted to see the expression made use of by the Premier of this country, in one of his speeches, that he could not expect the French Canadians to hold the same sentimental ideas that Eng-