

quired for the defence of this Province. We find this nobler so pathetic before when danger now really threatens, the first to hold the English Government to a strict and solemn account for the defence of Canada. I believe it will ever be thus in England with the majority of her statesmen and people. I do not deny that there are very grave difficulties to be considered at this juncture but that is the greater reason why the hands of the Government should be strengthened so that they may be able to speak plainly and firmly and with the united voice of the whole people, when they go to England to confer respecting our defence. As I understand this vote it is taken for this purpose—as an earnest of what the people of Canada are prepared to do in behalf of themselves—that in reference to any fair scheme that may be discussed, and respecting any fair conclusion which may be come to by this country and England, Canada is prepared to bear her full weight of responsibility. I do not understand this vote as meaning that we are to expend one million of dollars merely as a contribution towards any particular defensive works; but this, that the Government, on going home, can say—the people of Canada are serious in this matter, and as an earnest of what they are prepared to do for defence, they have armed us with authority at once to spend money for this object, on condition that a correct understanding be come to with reference to the future entire system of defence, and that all those anterior misunderstandings which have existed between the two countries should be brought to an end. While on this point I trust I shall be pardoned if I refer for one moment to a little work just published from the pen of one of the most popular and graphic writers of the day: and one who has always taken a fair, just, and practical view of the colonial relation and who understands well the real feelings of the English people, I mean Mr. Russell. He says:—"In the face of very frigid warnings from the press, and very lukewarm enunciations of policy from her best friends, Canada had some reason to fear that there is a secret desire to let her "slide," and that nothing would please England so much as a happy chance which placed the Province beyond our

care without humiliation or war. The duty of Canadians to their own country is very plain indeed, if the people of England refuse to give them distinct guarantees that, under certain conditions, they will give them the whole aid of money, men and ships that is required. But those are implied in the very fact of suzerainty of the Crown. It must, however, be made known—if it be not plain to every Englishman, that the abandonment of Canada implies a surrender of British Columbia, of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward, Newfoundland, if not also the West India Islands. Many bitter words, written and spoken here, rankle in the breasts of Canadians, and I have quoted the words in which a Canadian statesman has placed before Englishmen the terrible consequences which Canada may suffer from war, because she is a part of the British Empire, engaged in a quarrel, on Imperial grounds, with the Government of the United States. We do undoubtedly owe something to Canada, from the bare fact that for many years she resisted temptation and remained under the flag, unmoved by the blandishments and threats of the United States. In my poor judgment, the abandonment of Canada would be the most signal triumph of the principle of democracy, and the most pregnant sign of the decadence of the British Empire, which could be desired by our enemies. No matter by what sophistry, or by what expediency justified, the truth would creep out through the fact itself that we were retiring, as the Romans did, from Britain, Gaul and Dacia, but that the retreat would be made in the face of united and civilized enemies, and that the sound of our recall would animate every nation in the world to come forth and despoil us. As yet there is no reason for such a pusillanimous policy." (Hear, hear.)

I have said, Sir, that I am not insensible to the difficulty of getting the home Government at the present juncture, on the eve of a General Election—and naturally anxious to conciliate a certain class—to deal with this question as promptly and liberally as the real emergency demands. But it is all the more the duty of our representatives to place before them the real facts, respectfully but candidly and

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