

Nationalism has reached its full fruition, and the leadership, not of the clans of Scotland, or of the States of the Heptarchy, or of the Italian cities, or even of the rival parts of the Roman Empire, but leadership of the whole world is now the prize to which all alike aspire. Almost incalculable amounts of money are annually expended in preparation for the gigantic conflicts which may at any moment commence, and men of all languages are being diligently fitted for fighting. Even the United States, with its Monroe seclusive and exclusive principles, has been caught in the swell of the flood, and, under the usual pretext of the necessity for defence, has already carried her conquests beyond her border and laid the foundations of Empire.

So far Canada has remained unmoved; and, save for some little participation in the Boer war, has acted purely upon lines of self-defence. What is to be her policy for the future? Without participation in Imperial Councils, without effective voice in the policy which may lead to war, is she to be always ready, not merely to guard herself, but to send her sons anywhere, to fight anybody, and for any reason? Is she in sympathy with the form of Imperialism which induced the Chinese war, the Zulu war, the Afghanistan wars, the Boer war, the Tibet war, and so on? Without consultation she now finds herself bound up in a war-treaty with Japan, aimed principally at Germany and France. Is it certain that Canada would have agreed to engage in war on behalf of Japan and against France? Would any statesman in Canada approve of such an arrangement? Would anyone suggest that Canada's resources in men and money should be devoted to any such purpose?

If not, then, as we separated ourselves commercially from the United Kingdom, are we also to think and act for ourselves in matters pertaining to war? What is to be thought of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's pronouncement in the House of Commons on the 15th of April, 1902, just before leaving for England to attend the Imperial Conference:

"We are invited to discuss the commercial situation, the political situation and the military situation.