

South Africa: they would have organised the defence of the territory of Canada and rendered to the British Crown, within that territory, all services possible. That duty would have been accomplished, I trust, without borrowing \$35,000,000 from the Imperial Treasury, as was done by the Botha government.

It may be objected that the Union of South Africa is exposed to internal troubles, and also to attacks from the scant German troops quartered in the German colonies of South Africa. But in other circumstances, the danger and burden of Canada would be infinitely greater. Suppose a war arose to-morrow between Great Britain and the United States: Canada would then bear the brunt of the fight. It would be our duty to resist the attack, even if that war was the result of British policy, as in 1774 and 1812. That work would be greatly facilitated if all Canadians, instead of discussing so much their so-called *Imperial* obligations, united to perform their *national* duty by fortifying the harbours and shores of Canada and making of their militia a true body of national defence instead of a recruiting ground for Imperial troops.

Conclusion

But in the present conflict, Canada had to consider a broader duty than her 'Imperial' obligations. She had to think of her relations with the world at large.

The government and parliament having taken the full responsibility of their action, every one ought, for the time being, to consider only the immediate object of our intervention: the free and voluntary help given by Canada to Great Britain, France and Belgium. Even if it is thought that the form of that help is not the most proper to reach the object in view, the time has not come to pass judgment or condemnation.

But to suggest and promote all measures tending to render more effective the action of Canada, and above all to help the country in sustaining the effort, is not only legitimate: it is an imperative duty. This I have endeavoured to do: I do not repent.

HENRI BOURASSA