

ber for North Toronto would be guilty of absolute misrepresentation. The offence might be pardoned in a man who sat on the back benches and did not know the amenities which should characterize those who sit on the front benches. But would you believe, Sir, that the member for North Toronto suppressed language of the Prime Minister used in the same connection and in the same speech as it is reported in Hansard for that year, which went to show really what the Prime Minister meant? Sir Wilfrid Laurier, speaking in parliament in 1888 used this language:

If you on the other side pretend that our colonial relation curtails and limits our possibilities, that England would allow us to reach a certain altitude and go no higher, I say you slander England, and if any man were to use at the other side and tell us that England would be jealous at whatever we could do to improve our condition, I say that man does not know England, he mistakes the England of to-day for the England of 100 years ago—But what we ask, Sir, is not political independence. We want to keep the flag of England over our heads, but we affirm that we are economically independent as we are legislatively independent.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, and the hon. member for North Toronto suppressed language of the Prime Minister which was necessary to a proper understanding of his meaning. Then, he repeated the old story that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was opposed to the contingents going to South Africa. This is the same old game they played in 1900. You will remember that in the elections of 1900 the Conservatives claimed in the English provinces, that the Prime Minister would not move one step in the direction of helping England in the time of trial, until he was compelled to by the Conservative party, and my hon. friend from Carleton (Mr. Carvell) tells me he was defeated on that cry, and I have no doubt of it. But, in the province of Quebec the Conservatives told an entirely different story. They said that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was 'Too English' for them and I have in my hand a pamphlet sent out by the Conservative party in Quebec in 1900 and franked from this House of Commons by Conservative members, some of whom are here yet, and this is the kind of story they told in the province of Quebec regarding the right hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier:

The first utterances of imperialism were made in London, by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Then it was that he put the Canadian soldiers at the service of the English.

Canada to do honour to the Prime Minister had sent to England the very cream of the troops to act as a body-guard. A splendid detachment of mounted police, a battalion composed of the elite of our militia, were sent to London and aroused the enthusiasm of the old metropolis. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, dazzled by the applause of which he was the

object, then committed the fatal mistake to give vent to words which were binding us to war destinies of Great Britain.

Then and there was sealed the pact now stained with Canadian blood which flowed at Paardeberg, Belmont, Mafeking, Faber Farm, and in many other encounters.

On the 18th of June, 1897, at a banquet held at the imperial institute, after a military review before Lord Lansdowne, Secretary of War, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in a moment of enthusiasm, put all the Canadian troops at the disposal of the empire. As a worthy descendant of French blood, he choose the anniversary of Waterloo to make the offer.

I hope my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier will not indulge in any talk of that kind now:—

According to a cablegram, dated London, June 18, 1897, to the 'Globe,' on Lord Lansdowne, asking if, in a case of just conflicts, the colonies would be willing to help England, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier is said to have replied as follows:—

Lord Lansdowne has mentioned that a day may come when the empire might be threatened. This date, anniversary of the battle of Waterloo, reminds us that at all times England has proved itself able to win its own wars, but should a day come when it should be in danger, then let the bugle blow and rallying fires be lighted on the hills and in the colonies, and though we may not be able to do very much we shall give all the help within our means.

This was a solemn promise and it was kept.

And, Sir, I commend to this parliament that splendid deliverance of our Prime Minister in 1897 uttered in England, which shows his true position and his devotion to British connection. These are the words of the man who, according to the member for North Toronto, stands for independence, the man who, according to the same authority, is not true to Britain; this is the language which the Conservative party scattered broadcast through the province of Quebec in 1900 in order to set race against race and to influence the people against the Liberal party and against its great leader.

Now, while the hon. member from North Toronto has been charging the Prime Minister with moving towards political independence, with antagonism to everything that is British, and with disloyalty, the hon. member from Jacques Cartier is singing an entirely different song. Every word of his utterance on last Thursday night was an arraignment of the government, because he said they were committing Canada to be tied hand and foot, they were casting her in every possible way on the mercies of Downing street, abandoning all principles of responsible government, and depriving us of a free voice in our own affairs. Now, if the hon. gentleman from Jacques Cartier really believes the views he gave utterance to then, he is in an unfortunate position when he sits behind the gentleman who