

up their abode therein was that, having assumed the duties of citizenship, they should likewise be given the rights of citizenship.

It must not be forgotten either, when we come to deal with this question, that Her Majesty is the suzerain of the Transvaal republic, and became so with the full consent of the people of the Transvaal. It must not be forgotten that, at a time when the Dutch population of the Transvaal was in dire distress, when they were threatened almost with annihilation by their neighbours, when they were threatened with something like civil war among themselves, they appealed for British interference and, after a series of events, which there is no use going into at this moment, a treaty of peace was concluded between the people of the Transvaal and Her Majesty, by which, on the one hand, while the independence of the Transvaal was recognized, on the other hand the suzerain power of Her Majesty was fully recognized and admitted. The least, then, that can be expected is that the subjects of the suzerain power should not only be not subjected to any kind of oppression, but be given also rights equal to those enjoyed by the citizens of the Transvaal republic.

I may be told, also, and it has been strongly urged, that the interests of the Empire require that, at this moment, the rights of the Uitlanders should be recognized in the republic. But I would not put the question upon any of the above grounds. Any of these grounds would appeal to British subjects and British subjects alone, but upon this question I think we can safely appeal to the conscience and judgment of mankind at large. We can appeal for protection to the Uitlanders in the Transvaal, not only upon the grounds of British citizenship and suzerainty, but upon rights which must appeal to the conscience of all men. If there is any country in the world it is this country of ours, Canada, where we can proclaim this principle, that wherever men of different races, but races of equal rank, are found to live together under the same government, the only policy which can give adequate justice to all, which can give satisfaction to all, which can insure harmony, is a policy of equal rights and equal justice, a policy which will give to every citizen, without any questions of birth or origin, the same rights, the same liberties, the same privileges, the same aspirations. This is the policy which we have adopted in this country, and I think we can fairly claim with some pride, that it has proved eminently successful. It is the policy which, at this moment, prevails in Cape Colony; it is on trial, but there, as here, it must prove, in the end, eminently successful. This is the policy which, I submit, ought to prevail in the Transvaal. Let the Dutch of the Transvaal Republic give to the English of that republic the same rights, the same privileges, the same liberties which the English of Cape Colony give to the Dutch of Cape Colony, and the problem will

be solved. The Uitlanders claim no more than that, the Imperial authorities claim for them no more than that; and it seems to me that it behooves the Canadian Parliament to bespeak its sympathy for such a noble, moral and just cause. If I be asked: What is the reason of this expression of sympathy, what object would it serve, what result would it effect, I simply answer: The object to be sought is that we should extend to our fellow-countrymen in South Africa the right hand of good fellowship, that we should assure them that our heart is with them, and that in our judgment they are in the right; the object would be to assure the Imperial authorities, who have taken in hand the cause of the Uitlanders, that on that question we are at one with them and that they are also in the right—and perhaps the effect might be also that this mark of sympathy, of universal sympathy, extending from continent to continent and encircling the globe might cause wiser and more humane councils to prevail in the Transvaal and possibly avert the awful arbitrament of war. Animated by these reasons, and speaking, I believe, the sentiments of all men in Canada, not only of one race but of all classes, not only of one race but of all races, I beg to move, seconded by Mr. Foster, the following resolution:—

1. Resolved, That this House has viewed with regret the complications which have arisen in the Transvaal Republic, of which Her Majesty is suzerain, from the refusal to accord to Her Majesty's subjects now settled in that region any adequate participation in its government;

2. Resolved, That this House has learned with still greater regret that the condition of things there existing has resulted in intolerable oppression, and has produced great and dangerous excitement among several classes of Her Majesty's subjects in her South African possessions;

3. Resolved, That this House, representing a people which has largely succeeded, by the adoption of the principle of conceding equal political rights to every portion of the population, in harmonizing estrangements and in producing general content with the existing system of government, desires to express its sympathy with the efforts of Her Majesty's Imperial authorities to obtain for the subjects of Her Majesty who have taken up their abode in the Transvaal such measure of justice and political recognition as may be found necessary to secure them in the full possession of equal rights and liberties.

I have to express not only my own regret, but I am sure, the regret of the House, that the leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) is not in his seat to-day. But, before his departure, I conferred with him on this subject and communicated to him the resolution I have just placed in your hand and I have received this letter, which it is not only a duty but a pleasure to place before the House.

Ottawa, July 29th, 1899.

Dear Sir Wilfrid Laurier,—I regret to say in reply to your note just received, that it will not be in my power to attend the House to-