

facilities. Canada has now obtained a strong foothold in the markets of Great Britain, and it behooves the government and all exporters to see that they strengthen their hold on that market. It must be a source of pride to all Canadians to know that Canadian butter, bacon and cheese take such a high place in the estimation of the British consumer. The export of these products in Canada is largely increasing, so that we may well expect to maintain our hold on the British market. Permit me for a moment to give a few figures as to the volume of our trade in these articles. In 1896 we shipped to Great Britain nearly 5,000,000 pounds of butter; in 1899 we shipped to Great Britain 19,000,000 pounds of butter. In 1896 we shipped to Great Britain 164,000,000 pounds of cheese; in 1899 we shipped to Great Britain 189,000,000 pounds of cheese. Our exports of bacon to the old land have increased enormously. In 1896 we exported 47,000,000 pounds of bacon; in 1899 we exported 111,000,000 pounds of bacon. I am pleased also to notice that the government contemplate a more efficient system of inspection in reference to our food products which are shipped to Great Britain. If we are to maintain the position we now hold in the British market it is of the very greatest importance that we not only send over commodities of the best quality, but that we shall also only send these commodities in the best possible condition. A proper system of inspection will tend towards that end, and the British consumer in buying a Canadian product will realize that he is buying of the very best.

I now propose, Mr. Speaker, to refer for a moment to a matter that is at present occupying the minds, not only of Canadians, but of the people of all the civilized world. I allude to the war in South Africa, and I specially wish to speak of the part that our Canadian volunteers are taking in it. The British Empire is now undergoing a severe strain. The events of the last few weeks are such as to try all our souls. However, Sir, disaster has not daunted the courage of the British people; it has only stimulated them to greater efforts. Reverses to our arms have served only to make the nation stronger, strong in the sense of the justice of her cause, strong in the belief that right will ultimately prevail. Although judging from present appearances, it may be long before the end of the war is reached, yet there can be but one ending, and that end is the ultimate triumph of the British arms; the establishment of law and order, of liberty and good government, with equal justice and equal rights to all in South Africa under the British flag. Sir, we all regret this war; we regret the causes which brought it about. We regret exceedingly the loss of life which it has entailed, but there is another side to the shield. The war has welded the empire to-

gether. It has given to the world the spectacle of the colonies standing behind the mother country to support her. It has presented the firm and united front of the British Empire to the enemy, and when the war is over, the world will behold a united South Africa and a united British Empire.

The part Canada has taken in this war is, I submit, to their infinite credit. When hostilities commenced, our government found themselves confronted with a very grave and serious question and one entirely new in our constitutional history. The question arose: Whether or not the people of Canada should take a part in the wars of Great Britain. Reference has been made to the action of the government sending these contingents without first having called parliament together. Sir, the principle that parliament should control the expenditures of all public moneys is a sound one, and one which the Liberal party has always adhered to. It is a principle which is the very corner stone of responsible government. But there are times in the history of countries, as there are times in the lives of individuals, when it becomes necessary to move quickly; times when the letter of the law may be violated yet the spirit of it be maintained. I believe the government did right in taking the course they did, and I am confident that their action will be sustained by the country.

Great praise is due to the government, and especially to the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden, King's, N.S.) for the efficiency and despatch shown in fitting out and transporting our brave volunteers. The contingents that have been sent to the front are a credit to Canada, and it is with pride we all observe that they have already distinguished themselves by bravery in action. That they will continue to render a good account of themselves, I have not the slightest doubt. Canada's action has been gratefully welcomed by the Imperial government. The daughter has stood up nobly for the mother and proved her loyalty, by more than the word of mouth. Some persons appear to be alarmed lest Canada should not pay enough of the expenses of this movement, but I have no doubt that when all the facts of the case become known the public will be satisfied—as the Imperial government are satisfied—that Canada is acting very liberally in the matter. What is it that Canada is doing? The government have undertaken to raise, arm, equip and provision these contingents and supply them with transportation, paying all expenses of every character until the landing of the troops in South Africa. Up to this point the troops will also receive their pay from the Canadian treasury at established Canadian rates. During the period of actual service in Africa the troops will be paid by the British government at the Imperial rate. This is the desire of the British government and the adoption of any different policy, as