

power of taxation. And at the close of that Conference in discussing the question of the approval of the proposed rules of warfare between Great Britain and any of the other great powers Sir Wilfrid took the unequivocal attitude that Canada did not wish to be consulted in such diplomatic negotiations of the British Government as being consulted implied giving advice and giving advice implied the responsibility of going to war to give effect to any advice so given. The Dominion, the Canadian Premier emphasized, must always reserve to itself the fullest liberty of action. On each and every occasion, in fact, Sir Wilfrid Laurier has stood for the maintenance of Canadian ideals and the safeguarding of the Dominion's autonomy. His policy in short is a policy of Canadianism as opposed to ultra-Imperialism and he has put the seal to that policy by his recent notable declaration — "CANADA FIRST, CANADA LAST AND CANADA ALL THE TIME."

You are, of course, all aware of the views upheld by Mr. Henri Bourassa and by Mr. F. D. Monk, whose contention in brief was that the Dominion was under no obligation whatever to bear any part of the military or naval burden for the defence of the whole empire, its sole obligation in their view being the defence of Canadian territory. Mr. Bourassa, as you know, strongly opposed the sending of Canadian troops to South Africa even under the "no precedent" proviso, maintaining that the very sending of the troops would be construed by the Imperialists as a precedent. "The precedent," said Mr. Bourassa, "is the *fait accompli* — the accomplished fact." And upon that question he took issue with the Liberal leader and their paths, as you know, thenceforth diverged. Mr. Monk who had considerable standing as a constitutional authority maintained that as a result of the work of the Imperialists Canada was being gradually reduced to the status of a dependency and that it was only a question of time when its very autonomy would be endangered. What the Imperialists were aiming at, he contended, was to have Canada and the other overseas dominions assume all these respon-