

Those propositions have never been disallowed or modified by the British authorities. They stand by themselves, against any *obligation* on the part of Canada to contribute to Imperial wars outside her own territory.

Besides, Canada is still in the inferior situation of having no word to say in the Councils of the Empire, which decide whether the Empire is in peace or at war, and control the whole naval and military forces of the Empire. That position has been rightly described by Sir Robert Borden as intolerable. (*) True, much has been said about the admittance of a Canadian representative to the Committee of Imperial Defence. But although one member of the Canadian Government, Mr. Perley, was present in London when the Imperial authorities discussed the issues which brought us into this war, we have it from Sir Robert Borden himself that the Canadian Government was not consulted by the British ministers. (**)

The example of South Africa

Therefore, had the Canadian government conformed themselves to the sole obligations resulting from our colonial status and to the strict exigencies of Imperial defence, they would have merely followed the example of the Union of

(*) "If Canada and the other Dominions of the Empire are to take their part as nations of this Empire in the defence of the Empire as a whole, shall it be that we, contributing to that defence of the whole Empire, shall have absolutely, as citizens of this country, no voice whatever in the Councils of the Empire touching the issues of peace or war throughout the Empire? I do not think that such would be a tolerable condition. I do not believe the people of Canada would for one moment submit to such a condition". ('Debates', House of Commons, November 24th, 1910—col. 227).

(**)"Having regard to the fact that there was not an opportunity for the Government of the United Kingdom to consult with the governments of the overseas dominions, as they would have done had time permitted..."—('Debates', House of Commons, (unrevised), August 19th, 1914.—col. 3 and 4).

During the ten days which preceded the declaration of war, Sir Edward Grey was in constant communication, not only with his colleagues, but also with all the representatives of the Foreign Powers. How is it that he had no 'time' or 'opportunity' to consult with the representative of Canada in London, who happened to be a member of the Canadian government? Sir Robert Borden should have explained.

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