

*"I am ready any day, whether I am charged with annexation or not, to take a Yankee dollar in preference to an English shilling. . . . I HAVE AGAIN AND AGAIN REPEATED THAT THE GOAL OF MY ASPIRATION IS THE INDEPENDENCE OF CANADA, TO SEE CANADA AN INDEPENDENT NATION IN DUE COURSE OF TIME."*

His excuse now is that he was then in his green and salad days, but it is not so long ago, and the words uttered then were little worse in the letter and no worse in the spirit than words uttered by him self and his friends day by day and week by week in the fight against the Naval Aid Bill only eighteen months ago.

Heading a government in 1896, and clothed with the responsibilities of office, he became a little less outspoken, but never less determined.

### The South African War

The outbreak of war in South Africa placed Laurier in a dilemma. The Mother Country was engaged in a difficult task. Public feeling was running high in Canada. The demand for the raising of a Canadian contingent for service in South Africa was growing. Laurier held back. He could not see how Canada could come to the aid of Great Britain; he could not see the necessity for it, and one of his leading supporters came out with the declaration, "Not a man, not a gun."

Laurier blocked the movement so long as he dared. He said:—

*"There is no menace to Canada, and although we may be willing to contribute troops, I DO NOT SEE HOW WE CAN DO SO."*

His hand was forced. All that is comparatively recent history. The Government was compelled, by pressure of an angry public opinion, to raise and equip Canadian contingents. **The real enemies of the Empire at that time are the open enemies of the Empire today.** It is an open secret that the South African republics were egged on and encouraged to make war on Great Britain by the German Emperor. **It has been an open secret for years that the German Empire aimed at the destruction of the British Empire and was preparing for war.** The strong shield of the Empire is the British fleet. Germany strained every nerve to create a fleet which would be strong enough to engage the British fleet and destroy it. The people of Great Britain were making heavy sacrifices toward the up-