

can not compass it by the policy of this bill. Not South will this hungry people go to buy land or to compete with the negro. You are going to send them north to build up a new empire under an alien flag.

Mr. President, to the Senate, to the country, to the continent and its people there is presented the most momentous question of the day. Compared with it, your talk about parties and prosperity and power, or wealth or taxation or welfare, is idle and relatively unimportant. It is the great question of peace or of war. We have had it before. This is not the first time this people have had that issue presented to them; and when they were confronted with it they gave no uncertain answer or sound.

No one recognizes more than I do the inexorable influence that drove the South into rebellion. But, Mr. President, if the South did not fight to preserve slavery, the North did not fight to destroy it. If the South fought for the right of secession, the North was nerved to the expenditure of its last dollar and the last drop of its blood because it intended that there never should be on this continent, if it could help it, two governments.

We should not adopt a policy that would create on the North the same conflict that we had made upon the South, and I said it in terms without any reflection whatever upon the causes that led to the late civil war.

Now, Mr. President, because of the 5,000,000 people on the North we have the least possible concern. It is not a power that threatens us in the least. Coupled with the military and naval power of Great Britain, it becomes a matter of much more concern, and yet we take it easily. But it will be a matter of vital difference when Canada contains a population of 20,000,000 or of 50,000,000. Then, Mr. President, we shall again have the question presented of peace or war. As I have already pointed out, the existing foreign military establishment of forts and naval armament is a threat and menace upon our coasts. When that comes, whatever the time or period may be, there will be a trial of strength.

Mr. President, the matter would be very different if Canada were independent of Great Britain, but as a dependency of Great Britain she becomes a part of the European system, a system the character of which is best designated by the term used as "the balance of power." She is subject to all the vicissitudes of war and peace to which Great Britain herself is subject, growing out of European and Asiatic complications. We have no cause of war that is not distinctively American, but Canada is involved in all causes of war which are European or Asiatic.

The difference between Russia and England in India may create war for Canada. The differences between France and England in Africa may create war for Canada. She is liable to become involved at any time, and whenever she does the interests of nations determine their course and their policy, just as in the war of 1812 or in the Napoleonic wars we were finally involved in conflict with Canada. So in the future we are likely to be. To-day, growing out of Asiatic and European complications, England is the silent partner of the Triple Alliance or the Dreibund made up of Germany, Austria, and Italy. Against them stands the tacit alliance of Russia and France.

I can conceive that in the event of the conflagration of war