

rounding Country—and you cannot hold these without you have the protectorate over the entire Colony and possess the loyalty and devotion of the people. [Hear, hear.] We may also fairly ask our fellow subjects in England to reflect, that war to us is a very different thing from what it is to them. An addition to their taxation and some derangement to their trade are what it would be to them. To us, it means the destruction of every interest—the entire annihilation of all industry—the positive ruin of every individual in the Colony—the actual presence of a powerful and hated foe—perhaps mercenaries drawn from Europe,—desolate homes, youth and age both in the trenches and in the field—the extremities of the country exposed to rapine and plunder—and the thought of something worse than death itself present to the imagination of our wives and children, if not a real horror! Whoever has seen Virginia or Kentucky, or Tennessee or those Countries which are the actual theatre of war, can form but a faint notion of what the actual presence of war involves. I would ask our fellow subjects in England, to consider what the presence of an overwhelming force in Surrey—or Hampshire or Lancashire would be,—and to make their case ours. [Hear, hear.] What would *they*—what would *we* be willing to pay in the way of money, if we could prevent war being on our soil, if we could avoid the presence of hordes of a lawless soldiery? Why, there is not a man among us who would not be willing to purchase it at the price of his entire substance. [Hear, hear.] But Sir, I repeat that we have no right to ask the people of England to consider these things unless we, at the same time, give the assurance—that if England will but stand by us, we are prepared to make any sacrifice, in men or money—that in fact the present generation here is ready to forego to a great extent the pursuit of material advancement—to make the defence of the Country their first object, and money making and prosperity in other ways subordinate to the sterner work of military life. [Hear, hear.] We must do that. The time for professions is gone by;—we must realise to ourselves the necessity of making sacrifices and immediate and last-

ing ones too. [Hear, hear.] But it may be asked what is practically to be done? I answer this. Let the two Governments first settle what is *necessary* to be done—let them next weigh in a spirit of fairness all the considerations which specially affect Canada, and those which concern the Empire, and come to an understanding what proportion of the expense we are to contribute! Don't let us be too grudging or exacting about this, whether it is to be a third, a half or two thirds. It is far more important that the people of England should feel we are cordial and liberal, earnest and ready,—than that we are close and bargaining in a matter on which depend the preservation of our national blessings. [Cheers.] That point being arrived at, let there be no delay, but let cordial co-operation take the place of what has hitherto been mistrust. But how it is asked? Is the money to be raised? Canada is already largely in debt and heavily taxed. The English manufacturers, and the English press complain of our duties on imports, declare that the colonies are only to be regarded in the light of customers, and that we are useless in that relation because we tax their productions. In this again, I repeat, we are misunderstood; and our delegates should take pains to place our exceptional position before the minds of the English people. We are largely in debt it is true, and it has nearly all been incurred since the union twenty-five years ago—the beginning, I may say, of our history. But what has it been incurred for? We found a country which, of all countries in the world, required that its natural capabilities should be developed. We had two courses open to us: one, to sit down quietly;—till the soil and fish the seas, disregard progress, and be a mere agricultural and fishing population, neither increasing in number, nor wealth, nor power. The other course was to set to work to construct canals and railways, open up roads, build light-houses and harbours, subsidise steamships, construct slides to get the products of the forest to market, get rid of the seigniorial tenure, establish municipal institutions; and in short by entering on a determined and bold policy, to anticipate by a century at least, the resources and the natural development of the country. (Hear, hear.)

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