

hon. gentleman was misinterpreted he has endeavoured to correct the misinterpretation to-day.

I should like to quote a few other leaders that Canada has had, both Liberal and Conservative, with respect to Canada's position in the empire. Before and since 1910 different leaders have taken different views on various occasions and I will review some of them. Please do not think I am going to cover the whole field. I will mention the grand old Conservative leader, Sir John A. Macdonald, in regard to the Soudan war in 1885. Writing at that time to Sir Charles Tupper, on March 12, 1885, Sir John Macdonald stated his views with regard to the sending of troops to the Soudan. He expressed opposition to sending Canadian troops there. I quote:

... we think the time has not arrived, nor the occasion, for our volunteering military aid to the mother country.

We do not stand at all in the same position as Australasia. The Suez canal is nothing to us and we do not ask England to quarrel with France or Germany for our sakes . . . Why should we waste money and men in this wretched business?

A little lower down in the same letter he states:

Again, the reciprocal aid to be given by the colonies and England should be a matter of treaty, deliberately entered into and settled on a permanent basis. The spasmodic offers of our militia colonels, anxious for excitement or notoriety, have aroused unreasonable expectations in England, and are so far unfortunate.

It might be argued, of course, that this was an unimportant affair; yet principles are principles, whether expressed in grave or small matters. Sir John A. Macdonald was a great Canadian, and it was he who said:

A British subject I was born, a British subject I will die.

I quote that for the sake of the record. And now I move on fifteen years to the time of Sir Charles Tupper, another Conservative leader. I was not able to lay my hand on his exact statement but while he was present in the House of Commons in 1900, as leader of the opposition, he was quoted by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in *Hansard* of that day, column 64, volume 1. With reference to Sir Charles Tupper, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said on that occasion:

He repeated this afternoon the words I spoke in England two years ago, when I said that Canada was a nation perfectly independent, that the lien of the empire over us did not weigh the weight of one feather, but that we were just as independent to-day, under the suzerainty of England, as we could be if absolutely independent. And I said likewise that if England at any time were engaged in struggle for life and death, the moment the bugle was

[Mr. Manion.]

sounded or the fire was lit on the hills, the colonies would rush to the aid of the mother country. When I said this, I did not speak only my own mind or the mind of my hon. friend, but the mind of every Canadian. There are no two opinions on that point. But while every Canadian admits that he would be ready to contribute our treasure and our blood, and the resources of Canada at the disposal of this country for the rescue of England, were she engaged in a life and death struggle, there are many Canadians who are not ready to take part in the secondary wars of England or to contribute to the defence of the empire in any part of it. Amongst the men who have taken that view, amongst those who have stated, time and time again, that it would not be fit for Canada to take part in the secondary wars of England or to contribute to the defence of the empire at large, one of the most, if not the most eminent is my hon. friend who leads the opposition.

That is, Sir Charles Tupper.

My hon. friend has spoken more than once upon this subject. He has written upon this subject. He has not been content to wait to discuss this question until it arose, but went to the trouble of writing to the press and the higher magazines in order to educate public opinion and to show what should be the true position of Canada in this respect.

Now I pass over fourteen years to 1914, to the great war and Canada's attitude at the outbreak of that war.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Was this said in the debate on the South African war?

Mr. MANION: I am sorry I have not that information at the moment—the South African war began in 1899, did it not? And this was in 1900, so it would be.

Now in regard to Canada's attitude when the great war first became imminent. On August 1, 1914, three days before war was declared by Britain, the acting governor general sent the following message to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. He was speaking of course for the then Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, so this is really Sir Robert Borden's opinion. The acting governor general said:

My advisers, while expressing their most earnest hope that a peaceful solution of existing international difficulties may be achieved and their strong desire to cooperate in every possible way for that purpose, wish me to convey to his majesty's government the firm assurance that if, unhappily, war should ensue the Canadian people will be united in a common resolve to put forth every effort and to make every sacrifice necessary to insure the integrity and maintain the honour of our empire.

Three days later, on August 4, just before war was declared, Sir Wilfrid Laurier made a statement. Prior to that, so far as I know, he had made no statement. He then said:

We all hope and pray that the efforts of Sir Edward Grey may yet be successful in persuading the nations of the continent to the