

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I have not that. I have the Imperial return here.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Hon. gentlemen know right well that the expenditure for military, as for other purposes, is under the control of parliament, not under the control of the administration. There were two things that presented themselves to the minds of the administration at the time. One was to call parliament together and obtain its sanction for a proposition to send troops to South Africa. The other was to await such a development of public opinion as would justify them in undertaking to send the contingent, and to send a second contingent, which we did as soon as public opinion was sufficiently expressed. I say we required one or the other as our justification—either the approval of parliament or the general sanction of the political sovereignty of this country from which parliament derives its existence. Now, there was such an expression of opinion in this country as to justify the government in the course which they took. We knew well that the government had no legal authority to propose to send a contingent or propose meeting the expenses of the contingent otherwise than it felt sure that by a bill of indemnity parliament would hold it harmless from all expenditure which might be so incurred, and so we adopted a rule, which had been adopted in emergencies in England, and that is the constitutional rule of seeking the support of public opinion in anticipation of the approval which will be subsequently given by parliament. Now, the hon. gentleman complained that the government of Canada was the eleventh colonial government to agree to send a contingent to South Africa. Look at the facts. In every one of the Australian Colonies, as I remember, the legislature was in session at the time. Their governments had no difficulty. They obtained the sanction of the legislatures, although in one case, I forget at this moment which colony it was, there was a majority of only one in the legislature in favour of sending a contingent at all. The hon. gentleman speaks on this matter as though we had been guilty of something little less than treason because we did not act sooner than public opinion showed that it was ready to sustain us in what we were desirous of doing. Now, let me call the attention of the House to

Hon. Mr. MILLS.

another case—because this is not the first opportunity on which the people and the parliament of Canada have had a chance of going to the assistance of the empire—let me call the attention of the House to what transpired in 1884-5. There were colonies then in Australia offering contingents to the support of the mother country. There were men in Canada, notably General Laurie and Colonel Williams, since deceased, that were ready to undertake to raise regiments for the purpose of giving support to the mother country. What was the position of the prime minister on that occasion? The hon. gentleman has quoted the opinion of Sir John Macdonald as spoken academically—spoken some years earlier than the period to which I refer. But here was an opportunity to do something of a practical nature. The British government required assistance. They had the active opposition of France in the valley of the Nile. They had the opposition of Russia on the border, in Abyssinia. Some Australian colonies did what they have done now—sent a contingent and the contingent was accepted. What did the hon. gentleman's leader do on that occasion? Sir John Macdonald held to the doctrines that Canada's legislative power extended only to her borders, to the extent of a marine league from the shore—that she had no legal authority to send a soldier out of the country—that that was an Imperial act over which Canada had no jurisdiction, and that while the government were ready to permit the Imperial government to enlist in Canada if it saw proper to do so, the government of Canada were not prepared to expend a dollar on the enterprise. Let me read here a few of the telegrams that passed on that occasion and they will show that the patriotism of the hon. gentleman at that time, when he was in power, and when he had an opportunity of acting was a different type of patriotism from that with which he glows on the present occasion. Let me read a few of these. Lord Derby was the Colonial Secretary at the time, and he says in a communication to Lord Lansdowne:

Downing Street, January 1, 1885.

My Lord,—I communicated to the Secretary of State for War a copy of your despatch of the 25th of November last, with the letter which accompanied it from Major-General Laurie addressed to your Lordship, expressing his desire for military employment in connection with any Canadian force which might be organized for