

cause I had not offered any opposition to the hon. member for Labelle. The hon. member for Labelle and I agree upon many questions; we differ upon this one question, but my hon. friend, the hon. leader of the Opposition, differs with the hon. member for Labelle on every question, this one included. If it was criminal, if it was impolitic—I do not know how to qualify it—but if it was criminal on my part not to offer any opposition to the hon. member for Labelle, what language shall I find strong enough to qualify the action of the hon. leader of the opposition. I need not come to the rescue of the hon. member for Labelle; he is quite able to take care of himself even against so formidable an opponent as the hon. leader of the opposition.

The main point of my hon. friend's attack upon us is that we have not done enough, that in this matter, in his opinion, we have been remiss in our duty because we should have provided for the whole payment of our volunteers whilst they are in Africa and not allow the British government to pay one single cent. I must say that I have been surprised at the mildness of the criticism of my hon. friend upon this subject. I had expected an amendment upon this question. I have read the speeches of my hon. friend—I cannot say that I have read every one of the fifty-six speeches that he delivered when he was in the West, but I have read a good many of them.

An hon. MEMBER. They are all alike.

The PRIME MINISTER. Well, then, I read them all, in that respect. But, I know that there was the same tone to every one of them, and that the pledge was given to the people that if, at the opening of the session the government did not provide for the payment of the volunteers while in South Africa, the hon. gentleman would bring down a resolution condemning the government and stating the opinion of himself and his friends that parliament should provide for the payment of the troops while they are in Africa. My hon. friend has not been up to his word in this matter; he has not carried out his pledge. He is a man of broken pledges, not a government of broken pledges, but a man of broken pledges in this matter. Whatever may be his motive I do not know. Yes, I know; the position he has taken is absolutely untenable and I will give to my hon. friend the reason why we do not propose to ask parliament, as we will not ask parliament, to pay the volunteers while they are in Africa. It is not a question of money; having taken the position which ye have taken, having decided to come, if I may say so, to the rescue of England, having decided to do our best to help England fight her battles, a few dollars more or less, would not count.

The reason why we have not provided and do not ask parliament to provide for

the payment of the troops is, that the question has to be approached from a higher than a purely Canadian ground. The reason why we took this course, I can tell my hon. friend, is because of this very Imperial ground of which he talks so much but of which he apparently understands so little. The following are the colonies which have tendered their services to Great Britain: Queensland, Victoria, The Malay States, Lagos, New South Wales, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Western Australia, Tasmania, South Australia and Canada. All these offers have not been accepted. The offer of Lagos has not been accepted and the offer of the Malay States has not been accepted; in fact the offers of the Crown colonies have not been accepted and the only offers accepted are those of the self-governing colonies. It is notorious that all these colonies do not occupy the same financial position, the financial position of some being stronger than others, and the British government probably took that into consideration. At all events the British government laid down a rule which would apply equally to all British colonies whether their financial position was strong or whether it was weak. They laid down the rule that no one colony should have more glory than another, that all should be upon an equal footing, and in the despatch which came to us and which was issued to all the colonies, they determined that the colonies should be allowed to provide for the pay and equipment of the troops up to the time they landed in Africa; but that from that day they would become incorporated with the British Army and be paid by the Imperial authorities. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) knows very well that this is the rule laid down by the Imperial authorities after due consideration. New Zealand passed a resolution on the 28th of September which is summarized in the Blue Book which has been brought down as follows:—

Resolution passed by a large majority of House of Representatives with great enthusiasm, that offer to Imperial government for service in Transvaal contingent Mounted Rifles; that in the event of offer being accepted, my government is empowered, after selection by commander forces, to provide, equip, despatch forces. Two full companies mounted, fully equipped, delivered direct wherever desired at short notice. Transport and pay defrayed by New Zealand, Imperial government to provide supplies on arrival.

Remark the words "transport and pay defrayed by New Zealand." On the 3rd October the following despatch was sent from the Colonial Office:—

(Telegram.)

Referring to your telegram 22nd September, Secretary of State for War and Commander-in-Chief highly appreciate signal exhibition of patriotic spirit of people of Queensland, desire that mounted infantry offered by colony be organized