

of Parliament in Canadian development may be given.

(a) Going back to the summer of 1899, there arose the problem of the war in South Africa. Some suggestions were made that Canada should offer troops to the Transvaal. Both the public and Parliament were slow in reaching a decision. (Although the British Government, with Joseph Chamberlain as Colonial Secretary, angled for promises of aid, Lord Minto, the Governor General of Canada, was himself opposed). Laurier was reluctant to take any action. On July 31 he introduced a resolution in the House of Commons expressing sympathy with the British Government in its attempt to secure equal rights for British subjects in the Transvaal; but some public opinion felt that this was not enough. J.S. Willison, then editor of the Toronto Globe, bluntly told Laurier that he would have to send troops or go out of office, a conclusion with which Laurier was reluctantly forced to agree before long. Parliament at the time was not in session. On October 14 a Privy Council report said:

The Prime Minister in view of the well-known desire of a great many Canadians who are ready to take service under such conditions is of opinion that the moderate expenditure which would be involved for the equipment and transportation of such volunteers may readily be undertaken by the Government of Canada without summoning parliament. . .