

That situation is, I say, intolerably unsatisfactory. I am not arguing what Canada would do to-morrow if called upon. My own notion is that, as in the Boer war, more men would volunteer than could be accommodated with places. But I do say that Canada cannot be satisfied with an arrangement which gives her no voice whatever, in the matter which is of all others the most important to her.

Remember for example the Fashoda incident. Lord Salisbury's prompt and peremptory ultimatum to France brought the two nations to the very verge of war, and Canada would have been expected to send her men. But Lord Salisbury probably never imagined what that might mean to Canada. With statesmanlike tact, British and French descendants have in Canada been almost welded into one people. But not entirely so. If Canada is to take part in a war against France it should be in pursuance of arrangements well thought out and agreed to under unexciting circumstances.

Look too at the British-Japanese war alliance, by which each party guarantees the eastern territory of the other. Should Japan and the United States go to war, and should the United States take Formosa (as from Spain she took the Phillipines) the United Kingdom and the United States would be at war. And Canada? Well, all that I say is that eventualities of that sort ought to be provided for. If Canada had had any voice in the making of war-treaties for the Empire she would never have agreed to the Japanese alliance. No one who has had the pleasure of visiting the Japanese Islands can fail to have been impressed alike with the beauty of the country and the energy and capacity of the people. But we do not wish Japanese jurisdiction established either in Alaska or Puget Sound. It would alter our whole domestic economy; and we cannot agree to help them as against the United States.

But what can be done? We cannot expect to be kept informed upon every step in British foreign negotiation, even though it may be such as to involve the possibility of war? Why then speak of being consulted? War comes suddenly, and consultation by cable is impossible.

Quite true. But is there one alternative only, namely that, for all time, Canada is to be a mere appendage and to have no voice at all in matters of peace and war? If so, I for one vote against being an appendage.

There is fortunately another alternative. There is the usual method of procedure when two nations wish to act together in case of war. They make an agreement about it. They do not interfere with one another's foreign affairs. One does not, usually, consult the other, one agrees merely to support the other in certain eventualities.

Are we ready to agree to engage in war with France, or the