

of this Empire will be imperilled or the young and mighty dominions must join with the Motherland to make secure the common safety and common heritage of all.'

The Prime Minister, basing himself on the memorandum of the British Government and on the information obtained from a higher and more authoritative source, tells Canada that there exists a need, and a pressing need. The Prime Minister of Canada is posted as to the needs, obligations and dangers of the hour. He has pointed out the duty of the moment, and he relies on our attachment to the traditions of our race.

My duty is to extend my most hearty support to those who are endeavouring to cope with the situation, while at the same time maintaining intact our country's autonomy. If I were called upon to support a permanent contribution or naval armament policy, I would refuse, because I consider that the Canadian Parliament has not the right to adopt such a policy without previously obtaining the approval of the people. As I have confidence in the wisdom of the people, as I am assured of the far-reaching and far-seeing aspirations of the Canadian mind, I am satisfied that the people will decide that such a policy is distinctly national.

At the very heart of the Empire, that masterpiece of human political science, statesmen, in word and attitude, call for assistance from the sister-nations. In approving the proposal of the Prime Minister of Canada, I do not agree to engage our young communities in wars foreign to Canada, but I am performing work which makes for the maintenance of peace. To carry on that noble work, the Prime Minister of Canada extends to the Mother Country the assistance of a colony which is to-day on a nation-footing.

It has been said that this is equivalent to paying tribute, that it amounts to slavery and serfdom. Those who speak thus do not realize what are the rights as well as the duties of our young people. The representatives of the nation, proud of their rights and of their liberties, are not bending under the domination of England, but on the contrary, agree to a policy worthy of a proud and free nation.

Previous to the Christian era—

Mr. BELAND: (Translation.) Pass on to the deluge.

Mr. PAQUET: (Translation.) Pass on to the deluge! The deluge for my hon. friend from Beauce took place on September 21, 1911. Previous to the Christian era the people of Athens had recourse to the imposition of a tribute. At the apex of its power, a thousand cities were tributary to Athens; they were obliged, forced to pay an annual tribute of six hundred talents. The Romans exacted heavy tributes from conquered peoples; and as stated by an

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historian: 'The conquering people lived out of the revenue forthcoming from the provinces, as the landlord from the revenue of his estates.'

There is nothing to be found resembling it in present conditions. We have a people enjoying full constitutional liberty, and who, in the exercise of their powers, take advantage of their rights and franchises to assist the Mother Country, not for the purpose of enabling her to conquer new kingdoms, or to spill blood in further wars, but in order to strengthen the Mother Country, to give her more prestige, so that she may maintain everywhere Christian civilization and ensure peace to the whole world.

This legislation does not establish a tribute; no, we are concluding to-day a new alliance with the Mother Country, an alliance which is not conceived for purposes of attack, but which is inspired by the need for peace, to permit the development of the Canadian fatherland. Previous to 1870, the French talked lightly of the greatness and power of Germany. They were scornfully looking towards Germany, and while they were making fun of her, Germany slowly but surely was rising as a menace at her back. And to those who laugh to-day at the German scare, we may well recall the parcelling which took place of French territory.

In view of the new German naval legislation, when four-fifths of the entire German naval force will be in a position to strike at once, at the first signal, who can say what the future will be? Who can say what unexpected complications may tomorrow bring on the most serious and fearful difficulties in our way?

During the elections of 1911, I opposed Mr. Laurier's policy, because I did not want that the men required for the development and the carrying on of our agriculture and industries should be sent off to fight on distant seas, while we had no opportunity of making ourselves heard in the councils of the Empire. And if, in this hour of peril, I support the Bill of the right hon. Prime Minister of Canada, it is precisely because it provides for the protection of our seaboard, our territory, and extends efficient assistance to Great Britain, without the Canadian people being called upon to fight outside of Canadian territory.

This year the Mother Country applies 240 millions to the maintenance of her naval forces. Were I to support the Liberal policy, and favour the building of two fleet units manned by Canadians, I would be imposing on my country an enormous expenditure. At a time when we are making good our foremost expectations, at a time when there is an influx of immigrants towards our shores, people whose help we require to develop the resources of our beautiful country, we cannot afford to attempt carrying out a ruinous and unpractical policy.