

have no other duty than that of contributing, in the measure of their resources, to the defence of their respective territories.

Upon that principle, the various Militia Acts of Canada were passed.

In conformity with that understanding, Sir John A. Macdonald refused, in 1885, I think, to supply Canadian regiments for Imperial service.

To safeguard the same principle, the Laurier government introduced the so-called *no-precedent clause* in the Order-in-Council under which Canadian volunteers were enlisted for the South African war in 1899.

In the latest official document containing the views of the Imperial authorities upon the whole problem of Imperial defence, the following propositions were emphatically stated:

“2. The maintenance of sea supremacy has been assumed as the basis of the system of Imperial defence against attack from over the sea. This is the determining factor in shaping the whole defensive policy of the Empire, and is fully recognised by the Admiralty, who have accepted *the responsibility of protecting all British territory abroad against organised invasion from the sea*. To fulfil this great charge, *they claim the absolute power of disposing of their forces in the manner they consider most certain to secure success, and object to limit the action of any part of them to the immediate neighbourhood of places which they consider may be more effectively protected by operations at a distance*”.

.....
“4. It is scarcely necessary to point out that the system of defence for the whole colonial Empire must take fully into consideration the special conditions of the various colonies.....
The defence of Canada, with its long land frontier, obviously requires to be treated on a different basis from that of the small island of St. Helena”.

.....
“19. ... Doubtless a time will come when the increasing strength and resources of the self-governing Colonies will enable them to materially assist the mother-country, by placing at her disposal for operations in any quarter of the globe bodies of troops formed from the excellent material of strong, self reliant Colonists, *but at present the development of their own vast territories in time of peace, and the effective protection of them in time of war, is undoubtedly the best contribution the Colonies can offer to Imperial defence*”....(*)

(*) Memorandum of the Colonial Defence Committee, December 31st 1896.