

statements, the only result of which would be to lead people in Great Britain to suppose there was something rankling in the minds of the people of the Dominion, that we were suffering from some grave imagined injustice. I have heard speakers on the Liberal platform and I have read speeches made by Liberals during the recent election, complaining of the grave injustice which was being done to Canada, alleging that the heel of the British government was still on the neck of the people of Canada, and that we had been relegated to the position of a crown colony. These statements all had their effect in Great Britain, they had their effect upon public men there, they had their effect upon the leading newspapers of Great Britain, and the people of Great Britain imagined last September that there was something seriously wrong in the situation in this country. After the election the applause given to my right hon. friend in the republican press of the United States added fuel to the flame and caused more uneasiness and uncertainty in Great Britain.

We were all gratified that when the Prime Minister left Canada he made a very reassuring statement at the old city of Quebec. I am taking that statement from the Canadian Press correspondent's report, and I trust it is correct. This language does my right hon. friend entire credit:

Again referring to the conference, he said: "We are in the happy position of having no grievance of any kind."

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Hear, hear.

Mr. GUTHRIE:

"The relations between this Dominion and the mother country are all that could be wished for. Mr. Lapointe and I feel that our one aim and purpose should be to represent Canada as a full, self-governing nation—one of that commonwealth we speak of as the British Empire, all united under one king, one flag and one ideal."

Very excellent sentiments to take from Canada to Great Britain. Did you notice Mr. Speaker, that when the right hon. gentleman arrived in Great Britain he was immediately bombarded by reporters with the question, "What about annexation?"

Mr. LAPOINTE: Tory propaganda.

Mr. GUTHRIE: My hon. friend has had his interruption and he has his laugh. I will tell you why the question was directed to the right hon. gentleman: Because the American press had come out as his champions and loudly acclaimed his success in the election.

[Mr. Guthrie.]

Why was it that immediately on his arrival he was challenged as to his views on revolutionary action? Who started that?

Mr. DUNNING: The Tories.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Tory slander.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. GUTHRIE: My right hon. friend started it himself, and he is himself responsible for the false impression that existed in Great Britain. On the one hand, they had a false impression in regard to Canada; on the other hand, they had serious misgivings as to the situation in South Africa, but it turned out that these misgivings were largely unfounded. The Prime Minister of South Africa took very high, very radical ground in regard to the position of South Africa. He had moved in the legislature of his country that the Dominion of South Africa should have the right to declare her neutrality, and that her neutrality should be recognized internationally. That, in brief, is the ground which he took. Do you wonder that the British press was considerably alarmed, do you wonder that the public men of England were considerably alarmed by the Prime Minister of Canada raising what actually was a smoke screen to prevent criticism of himself and his government in regard to the customs scandal? But they knew nothing of that in Great Britain; they thought they had a serious question in Canada to deal with and another serious question in South Africa, and they resolved to accede to every request that should be made. Certain it is that they did all in their power to arrange any difficulties. However I am glad to say that on his arrival in Great Britain in his first interview with press correspondents we find him presenting a message of goodwill. We find also that he had no complaints to offer, that he did not mean revolution, that he was content with evolution, as is stated in the press reports.

We are glad that it worked out in this way, and we are glad, for the sake of South Africa, that a common working basis was found by the conference. But I say again, Mr. Speaker, in closing, that never in the history of this parliament from confederation down to the present moment has so serious a problem been laid before us. My hon. friend the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) is inclined to laugh at my pronouncement on the subject to-day. I predict that he will not vote this report through the House of Commons in its present form and without amendment. I venture to say he dare not do so. It will have to be changed, it will have to be limited; otherwise