

contingent, THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT DISCUSSED THE QUESTION FOR THE REASONS WHICH I HAVE STATED—reasons which, I think, must easily be understood by everyone who understands the constitutional law on the question. The statement in the *Military Gazette* published this morning is a pure invention. Far from possessing any foundation in fact, it is purely imaginative."

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Statement which appeared in the *Military Gazette*, published in Toronto, which was reproduced on Page One of the *Toronto Globe* on October 3rd, 1899, and which drew the foregoing reply from Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

"If war should be commenced in the Transvaal—which seems most probable—the offer of a force from the Canadian Militia for service will be made by the Canadian Government."

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Editorial leader which appeared in the *Toronto "Globe"* on October 7th, 1899, in defence of the refusal of the Government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to send Troops to South Africa.

"For not immediately and without Parliamentary authority taking measures to despatch a Canadian contingent to South Africa, the Government is being subjected to criticism, which, upon examination, will be found to be unwarranted. We may dismiss from consideration as unworthy of serious reply, the charge that the Premier is slow to act because he is a French Canadian. That is a charge which obviously strikes not only at him, but at one-third of the people of Canada; and it would hardly be conducive to general belief in the strength and unity of the Empire to have it go abroad that such a cleavage exists in the Dominion on a question affecting Imperial interests. The question is not one to be discussed on personal grounds. The money which it is proposed to expend is not the money of the members of the Government, but of the people of Canada, and the lives to be risked are in the main the lives of men who have little or nothing to do in deciding what steps shall be taken.

"Now it would be a serious step for the Government, without the sanction of Parliament, to undertake to send a Canadian contingent to Africa, and the gravity is not wholly, or indeed mainly, a matter of expense. The British Empire has for many years had on its hands wars of a minor character, wars in which the safety, honor and integrity of the Empire were not regarded as being at stake, but which were recognized as being incidents in the government and growth of possessions extending all over the globe. But no such step as is now proposed has been hitherto taken. We say this with recognition of what was done in the case of the Crimean War, and of what was done by the Canadian voyageurs in the Soudan.

"What is now proposed is certainly a new departure, involving important considerations, and the question whether that departure is to be taken without the consent of Parliament is not to be disposed of with a