

those of his regiment, at the disposal of Her Majesty's government for immediate foreign service. In requesting that Lord Derby will be so good as to bring the matter before the Secretary of State for War, I venture to hope that His Lordship will be able to strongly recommend the acceptance of this offer.

I am, &c.,
(Sgd.) CHARLES TUPPER,
High Commissioner.

And here is the despatch of Lord Lansdowne, then Governor General, to Lord Derby, on that subject. The right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) may say that the statement I have made from recollection, that the force maintained by Canada is not contained there.

February 12, 1885.

Government ready to sanction recruiting by Canada for service in Egypt or elsewhere. Force should be specially enrolled from the different parts of local battalions under Imperial Army Discipline Act. Laurie—

That is General Laurie, who was then a member of this House—

—Laurie preferable to Williams. I would suggest brigade of three battalions, 500 each from maritime provinces, old Canada and North-west. Laurie might command brigade and Williams one battalion. Melgund would like to serve as brigade major; entire cost would fall on Imperial exchequer.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman says 'Hear, hear.' I ask him to contrast the position of Canada at that date with Canada's position to-day. I ask the hon. gentleman if he does not know that the resources of Canada had just been taxed to the extent of an enormous sum of public money to secure the construction of a great transcontinental line of railway, regarded by Great Britain as of vital importance to the strength of the empire. I ask him also not to forget that at that time we were on the eve of an insurrection in the North-west that cost Canada \$6,000,000, and this was a reason which perfectly justified the government of Canada at that time for not doing that which our honour and our duty alike would make proper at the present moment. Why, Sir, we were in the throes of a war in which the Dominion of Canada without the aid of a British soldier, bore the whole brunt and the whole expense.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). Will my hon. friend kindly give me the date of that despatch?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. February 12, 1885. As my hon. friend tells me who was then Minister of Militia and Defence (Sir Adolphe Caron).

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. It commenced in February.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. So I give that at once to the hon. gentleman as a proof.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). A bad certificate to the late government that saw the rebellion coming and did nothing to prevent it.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Now, I am afraid my hon. friend is trying to draw a red herring across the track.

Mr. FOSTER. Remember that old musket.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Now, Sir, what was the result of this action, this sentiment that the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) brought with him from France and with which he permeated this country, when he used all his power in the government to prevent anything being done, and used all the power of his press to stir up and excite the people in Lower Canada, the people in Quebec in regard to this question? Sir, I am only expressing the general public opinion, an opinion founded upon undoubted evidence of a very strong character, in what I am about to say regarding the resignation of the hon. member for L'Annapolis (Mr. Bourassa). What brought about that resignation? The Minister of Public Works is credited, at all events, by the people of this country with having induced one of his supporters to resign and to denounce in the most emphatic terms the conduct of the Prime Minister of this country as unconstitutional and indefensible. That is the position. Has any gentleman in this House, on either side of it, ever seen such a spectacle before in the past history of Canada as that of a member of the government absolutely inducing a supporter of the government to resign and to denounce over his own signature the action of the Prime Minister, and to quote his own language, to prove out of his own mouth, that he had violated the constitution of the country; that consequently he could no longer support the government, and must place himself at the disposal of his constituents? Well, Sir, he did resign his seat, and what happened? Why, this government was challenged as no government in any other country was ever challenged before, challenged by one of their supporters with having betrayed and trampled upon the constitution of the country; and when this former supporter went back to his constituents the government dare not put up a candidate against him. I say a more pitiable exhibition was never seen before.

Sir, this is the letter addressed to his chief, the leader of this government:—

To the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, P.C., G.C.M.G., Prime Minister of Canada:

Sir,—In a statement published in the Toronto 'Globe' on the 4th inst., you said with reference to the sending of Canadian troops to the Transvaal: 'As I understand the Militia Act, and I