

tained, it would be in consequence of the feeling exhibited by both the great parties in the House of Commons of Great Britain on this question, and that nothing would more contribute to secure a peaceful solution than to have the various outlying portions of Her Majesty's possessions show promptly their readiness, as Queensland has done, to sustain by arms the Imperial government, in the position that government had assumed. I do not think that any one will find in that suggestion any intimation of any desire to do anything more than place the First Minister and the government of the day, at the earliest possible moment, in possession of the fact that the opposition in this House were ready to co-operate with them, in every possible way, with regard to such a measure as might be usefully adopted.

Well, Sir, we all know that some time after that a delegate from South Africa visited Ottawa. I will not undertake to say what passed between that gentleman and my right hon. friend, but I may say to the House that he came to me and expressed his great satisfaction at the sympathy I had shown and the intimation I had thrown out as to the desirability of Canada assuming such a position as would strengthen the arms of the British Empire with regard to that great question; and he was good enough to suggest that I should in this House take some action on the line which I had suggested in my remarks. I told him at once, and frankly, that I could not do anything of the kind, that, in my judgment, it was of the most vital importance that no party character should be given for a single moment to this momentous question with which we were confronted, but I told him that he was at liberty to say to the First Minister that any action he would take in that direction would obtain from me the most hearty and enthusiastic support.

I do not think that that indicated any desire on my part to drag down so momentous a question into the miserable arena of party politics. Well, Sir, matters remained in statu quo for some time after that, and on July 28 I received a copy of the *Star*, published in Montreal, containing a cable from London of that date, which I will read:

Regarding the proposed resolution in the Dominion parliament in support of Sir Alfred Milner's proposals for the removal of the grievances of the British subjects in the Transvaal, I learn to-day, on the highest possible authority, that the British ministry would cordially welcome such an expression of Canadian opinion. New South Wales, Queensland, India, Lagos and Natal have each sent expressions of sympathy, and have offered troops in the most improbable event of hostilities. The British feel that their efforts to secure justice to British subjects and bring the Transvaal crisis to a speedy and pacific end would be greatly aided by evidence that the Queen's subjects all the world over, including Britain's premier colony,

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

Canada, are of one mind when British rights are jeopardized.

Now, Sir, what did I do when I received this? Did I take the opportunity of drawing the attention of the House to this subject, or of pressing my hon. friend across the floor of the House, as I could have done, in regard to this important cable? I did nothing of the sort. I went to my right hon. friend and showed him the *Star* of that date, and ventured to express my opinion to him that the time had come when it was obviously desirable, and I thought eminently necessary, that Canada should take action. My right hon. friend at once said, after reading over the cable carefully: 'I will move a resolution on Monday'—that was on Friday—and I will ask you to second it.' I said to my right hon. friend that I would not be able to do so, as I had an engagement in Toronto on that date, and he said he would send me a copy of the resolutions, and would ask me to write him a letter which he could read in the House on the subject. Well, Sir, I received a copy of the resolutions, with which the House is already familiar, as they are on our journals, expressing sympathy with Her Majesty's government and approval of the action that was being taken by Her Majesty's government. Now, I draw the attention of the House to the letter which I sent to my right hon. friend as a further evidence of my great anxiety to indicate what, in my opinion, was required of Canada, in order rightly to discharge our duty as the parliament of this country in relation to this great matter. I may say that I did not confine myself to the limits of the resolutions which had been prepared by the leader of the House, and I will read what I wrote:

Ottawa, July 29, 1899.

Dear Sir Wilfrid Laurier,—I regret to say, in reply to your note just received, that it will not be in my power to attend the House to-morrow, or it would have given me much pleasure to second the resolution of which you have sent me a copy in relation to the Transvaal, as I think—

And I draw attention to this:

—we are bound to give all the aid in our power to Her Majesty's government in the present crisis.

I went beyond the question of sympathy, it being a matter upon which I felt very strongly, and I wished to make the leader of the government acquainted with the strong view that I entertained upon the question. Now, Sir, I do not think that any person will say, under these circumstances, that I did anything that was calculated to show that I was desirous of making any party capital in relation to this matter.

I may say that I was obliged, as the House is aware, to leave for England just before the House rose, and I returned to Canada on the 18th of September, going immediately