

and naturally, until the necessity should present itself with overwhelming force, he shrank from any appearance of committing this country to war, or anything of that kind. We have every reason to be proud of a government that could take such a step, and we hope that successive governments in Canada will always follow that example and avoid in the future as far as possible any entanglements in war.

Are we to be responsible for the foreign policy of Great Britain, whatever it may be, without knowing what it is, without its being clearly defined? Why, the question is not worthy of being discussed here. I do not think there is a man who would take that stand here. If so, we have gone back to a position of tutelage, as a colony, from which we thought we had escaped many years ago. As a part of the commonwealth of nations or, as you please, of the dominions that form the great British Empire, we in the future are going to take our own position on these matters. We are going to form our own opinions, and are not going to be bound to follow the foreign policy of Great Britain in every matter that would entangle us in war. Nor do I think that the statesmen of Great Britain feel that we should be so bound. They have no right to think for a moment that we should be bound by their foreign policy without some say in the matter. Of course, if the occasion arose again as it did in 1914, when the principles of liberty, and honour and justice were at stake, Canada could be depended upon to perceive her duty by instinct, as she did then. But let it be known to those who are ambitious to prosecute certain policies in certain parts of the world in which we are not interested, that we are not going to spend either blood or money to further their designs. The revulsion of opinion showed after the event that the policy of Great Britain in regard to the East had not been of the wisest. When the military headquarters were at Chanak on the south side of the Dardanelles, had Canada sent any message, such as Australia despatched in regard to the situation that then existed, so as to strengthen the hands of those who were carrying on this bluff, and had there been the least conflict between those armies that were then face to face within gunshot distance of each other, had there been a few rifles discharged on that occasion, the consequences would have been inconceivable. We did not know for certainty then, but we know now, that at once Turkey would have plunged into war against us; and she would have been joined im-

mediately by Russia, whose soviet government is as anxious to drive Britain out of those states as Britain is to drive Turkey out. Then that combination of Turkey and Russia would have been joined by Germany, who would be only too ready, if she had the allies, to take some military position that would enable her to repudiate all her enormous responsibilities of debt and reparations and depreciated currency. I am not overstating the case, for subsequent events have actually proved it; had the action of our Prime Minister at that moment been rash
11 p.m. there was a possibility that the world might have been plunged again into a war not much less serious than that of 1914. Now, I hope that the same temperate course will always be followed by the rulers of this country. It was Victor Hugo, I think, who said that moderation is the very breath of judgment; and I believe it is. And judgment is the quality that is required in all such cases.

I trust we shall always beware of entering into any quarrel, but that having entered it, we shall so play our part that the opponents may beware of us. But those who impute any lack of loyalty in the fact that we did not make some boastful or threatening declamations do not know the history of this country. Certainly, such a statement could never be made by an Englishman or by any other Briton, because he knows what Canada did in the late war, and he would never think that she lacked loyalty. I should be very sorry to think that such a statement could ever be made by a true Canadian, because the history of no country is more inspiring so far as the courage of its inhabitants is concerned. Canada's people have always shown themselves a brave people from the very earliest days of its history until the present time. Of course, we have had but few wars, but in her record Canada has never shirked her duty, and her sons could never be called cowards. There is not a more interesting event in modern history than the fact that after the Treaty of Paris in 1763, when this country was invaded from the south and no British troops were here to defend it, the French Canadians rose and repelled the invaders and saved the country to the British flag. In the war of 1812 all the inhabitants took an equal share; and in all succeeding struggles down to the last great war there has not been a time when Canada could be accused of failing to take her rightful place when occasion called. Anyone who suggested the contrary could not be either a true Briton or a true son of Canada. We have, I think,