

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Perhaps the Minister of Justice or the hon. Secretary of State will give that information when he rises to reply. I can assure the House from my knowledge of the feeling of the people in this country that they occupy a position to-day such as they did not occupy twenty or thirty years ago. They consider themselves as much a part of the British Empire as the men who live in Great Britain itself, and having received the protection of that empire since our existence they are prepared to put their hands in their pockets and pay the full expenditure attending that contingent, and I only hope that the government may change their minds and that they may set a precedent and ask parliament to pay every cent in connection with that contingent and their maintenance during the war.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—And the proportion of the arms, equipment and expenses attending the campaign?

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Everything attending it. I go the full length, I put myself in the position of a son defending his own father's fireside, and that son is not worthy of the parent if he is not prepared at any moment to assist in defending his father not only with physical force, but with every means at his disposal. I went as far as I deemed it advisable when I seconded the motion at the last session of parliament moved by the hon. Minister of Justice, in which this House unanimously expressed its approval of the policy of Great Britain in protecting the civil and religious rights of British subjects and foreigners in the Transvaal. At that time I used this language:

While it is not our province in this Chamber to even suggest an appropriation of money or the raising of money to assist in carrying on a war, should a war unfortunately occur, we can at least say that any appropriation that will be asked for by the Commons, no matter who might be in power at the time, would be readily voted by the Senate for that purpose.

I am still of that opinion, and I hope that as the government changed its opinion in reference to sending the contingent, that they may also change their opinion upon this question of expenditure. I know that it has been said by the Minister of Public Works in defence of the course which he has pursued, that Sir John Macdonald never

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offered to send any contingent to assist Great Britain in her difficulties. My answer to that is that no necessity existed in the past similar to the one that exists to-day.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. ALLAN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—My hon. friend the Minister of Justice says 'Hear, hear!' Is there any comparison between the position Canada occupies towards the British Crown at the present time and the position it occupied at the time of confederation? At that time we were looked upon as mere colonists and treated as such. We had not the status, which we have to-day in the British Empire. And even, had it been required at that time it would have been given just as readily as at present. The Minister of Public Works went further, and stated that Sir John Macdonald always looked with suspicion on the question of Imperial federation because it might involve Canada in the wars which might take place between England and some foreign power. Let me read one little extract from Sir John Macdonald's speech in the confederation debates, and it will show that he saw in the future what was coming, and that he prophesied exactly what has taken place to-day, and instead of holding the opinion that the Minister of Public Works has attributed to him, he held precisely the contrary view. Speaking of the growth and strength to the empire by the federation of the different provinces that then existed, Sir John Macdonald pointed out that through the influences of the provinces we would become one of the strong arms of the empire. He said:

It will be year by year less a case of dependence on our part and of overruling protection on the part of the mother country, and more a case of healthy and cordial alliance. Instead of looking on as a merely dependent colony, England will have in us a friendly nation to stand by her in North America in peace as in war. The people of Australia will be such another nation, and England will have this advantage if her colonies progress under the new colonial system, as I believe they will, that though at war with all the rest of the world, she will be able to look to the nations in alliance with her and owing allegiance to the same sovereign who will assist in enabling her again to meet the whole world in arms as she has done before.

Does that sound like the utterance of a statesman who was opposed to rendering aid to the mother country in her difficul-