

speech before the Cartier club. We have gained our constitutional rights after innumerable struggles and sacrifices. I have blamed and I blame the Laurier government for having failed to consult parliament upon a question of this importance. What is a representative system? Its very basis is the necessity for the government to consult the people through their representatives in parliament whenever important questions have to be solved which affect the whole country. I accuse Mr. Laurier of setting aside the authority of parliament in all the most important acts of his administration since he reached power. Did you ever hear of the participation of Canada in the wars of the empire before Mr. Laurier's reign? Never. Here is the reason of our participation to the South African war. In 1897, when the South African war had not yet broken out, Mr. Laurier left for England to go and represent Canada to the Jubilee festivities. There a sudden change appeared in our Prime Minister's mind. From a democrat to the core he became dazzled by honours and titles and one fine morning he found himself, according to rumour, covered with decorations and titles and he was forced to accept them. Then Mr. Laurier entered into an absolutely new road. A few days afterwards at a grand banquet given the colonial representatives he made that speech where he assured the mother country, in the event of war, that the beacon fires on the hill tops would only need to be lighted and the clarions sounded and Canada would be ready to furnish its blood and its money. This solemn declaration was binding upon the whole country. I am not among those who will blame Sir Wilfrid Laurier for having redeemed his promise, but what I find to be blame is that on March 30 last, when parliament was in session, this government offered a new contingent without consulting the representatives of the people who are sent to parliament to represent its interests and have a right to be consulted on questions of this importance.

This is all Mr. Monk is reported to have said. I know he did say more, but his organ did not report more concerning the sending of this third contingent. Throughout that by-election, himself and Mr. Bergeron, an ex-leader of the party in the other House, denounced imperialism quite severely. Now, it seems to me that when the government has departed, as this present one has, from the traditions laid down by the other party, and has done what it has done for the metropolis, the most ardent loyalists among the people of this country should be contented and satisfied. It is all very well to condemn the present government for having been remiss in its duty in not paying the expenses of this third contingent. When we look at the past record of our opponents in both Houses, we find nothing during their long régime which showed that desire which now burns in them to assist the mother country to the tune that their speeches would indicate. There is one

thing which this government has done: it has given a preference to British goods in our own market, and yet we find these gentlemen who speak of the duty of the government to pay the expense of the third contingent at the same time condemning the government for having obtained nothing in return for the advantage which British goods have in our market. Of course I know Sir Charles Tupper said that preference to British goods is a question of business, and that we should treat it as a question of business. I have no objection to do so, but, as the hon. Secretary of State said, we could obtain no such advantage in the British market as the hon. gentleman thought we could by a close bargain.

Hon. Mr. McCALLUM—The premier said we did not want it.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—There is one sure thing, that there can be no chance for a number of years to come, of Great Britain taxing its primary necessities of life in order to obtain a *quid pro quo* in the colonial market, and by going to the extent that we did go we showed our good will to the mother country, and at the same time I consider that this government has done its duty to the people of Canada and has stood by its pledge in giving thereby a reduction upon the tariff of this country which we had promised in our platform of 1893. It is all very well to say that British goods have obtained an advantage here, but the people of Canada have obtained an advantage—have not only obtained an advantage in getting cheaper goods coming from Great Britain but from other countries as well. I have seen it declared in the Conservative press that the effect of that preference had gone beyond the market of Great Britain—that the reduction upon the British goods had forced the Americans to reduce their prices in order to be able to enter our market. So that the preference given to Great Britain, which seemed to touch the hearts of the British people, has at the same time had the effect of reducing the price of goods not only in the lines produced in the British Isles, but on many lines of goods imported from the United States.

Hon. Mr. McMILLAN—What particular line has the hon. gentleman reference to?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—I am speaking generally of lines similar to those British