

SENATOR FERGUSON ON THE WAR.

(Continued from page 2)

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—The government were not without receiving the suggestion. I do my share of talking here, and it is not necessary that the senior member for Halifax or myself should say anything in order to admit that it was said. It stands fully recorded in the blue books that have been brought down, that are now in our possession, that during all these months, when these difficulties in South Africa were becoming more and more sharp—I speak now for the months of September and up to the early part of October—when almost every other colony in the empire, self-governing as well as crown colonies, had made propositions of assistance—the government of Canada did not move, and I think that the government of Canada was in an excellent position to move—a better position to move than some of the Australian colonies were, because, as my hon. friend has pointed out to this House, in some of the Australian colonies the motion to assist was only carried by very small majorities—in one instance, by a majority of only one, whereas in the Dominion of Canada an expression of sympathy with the Outlanders and support to the Government of Great Britain in wrestling with the South African question was unanimously passed by both Houses of Parliament. Notwithstanding all that, one after another of the colonies professed their assistance. On July 11, Queensland made its offer. On the 26th, New Zealand's and other offers followed.

Hon. Mr. Mills—There were no hostilities at that time.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—Hostilities had not broken out in July, at the date of some of these offers, but there was talk then of hostilities breaking out, and the government of Canada, all this time, did not move, but whatever the government did in the way of putting itself on record was decidedly unfavorable to any action by the government of Canada. My hon. friend shakes his head. I am quite sure he gave no expression himself to weaken the position of Canada in the empire, but his leader did, and a very influential member of the administration, the Minister of Public Works, was going up and down the country giving utterance to the very strongest possible objections and opposition to any assistance being offered by Canada; and in the paper which he publishes, the objections and opposition were being incessantly put forward. I do not suppose it is necessary that I should refer very much in detail to the utterances of these gentlemen, but one utterance of the Premier, and that is

THE FAMOUS INTERVIEW

with the Toronto Globe, most certainly not must be allowed to pass without some attention. That interview took place on the afternoon of October 3rd, and appears in the Globe on the following day. It was stated in the Globe at the time that the correspondent had waited on the premier the afternoon of October 3, and my hon. friend rather insisted, when the leader of the opposition here was speaking, that the premier of the country was not aware at the time he gave that interview to the Globe correspondent, of the contents, or had not received the despatch from the British government of the date of October 3, laying down certain rules upon which volunteers would be accepted from Canada. It is possible that this despatch had not reached the premier at the time he made this statement when he was interviewed by the Toronto Globe but the Minister of Public Works addressed a meeting in Toronto only three or four days ago, when he had made the announcement that he had seen this despatch cabled in the English papers before it had been received in Canada by the Government officially, and he made a complaint and a point of etiquette between the Government of Canada and Mr. Chamberlain that this despatch had been published in the British papers and had been cabled and brought under the eye of members of the Government of Canada in that way before they had received it officially from the British government. It was, therefore, evident, if Mr. Tarte is to be believed—and I suppose we have to believe him, for he is an hon. gentleman—that he at last knew of the contents of this despatch of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain before the time the premier gave this interview in the Toronto Globe.

Hon. Mr. Mills—He could not.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—Mr. Tarte says he did. This is certain that the premier, if he did not know it in the afternoon of October 3rd, must have known it not many hours later, for it was transmitted after five o'clock from London, and making allowance for the difference in time, it was in Ottawa early in the afternoon of October 3rd, and we are very sure the Governor General would be reached by an important despatch of that nature, no matter where he was, as fast as a telegram could be sent to him, and we all know too much about the care and exactness with which British statesmen do their work to believe that he kept that despatch back one moment longer than necessary from his prime minister. Therefore, it is very hard to understand that the prime minister did not have this despatch in his possession when he gave this interview to the Toronto Globe. He had as good means of knowing what was in the cable from the newspapers as the Minister of Public Works had.

IT DOES NOT SAY MUCH

for the solidarity of the Government that one member of the Cabinet would have information of that character which he would keep for a moment from his pre-

mier. It is evident that one member of the Government at all events, knew of this despatch before the interview was given to the Toronto Globe. It is certain one member of the Government knew it, and it is likely it was known to other members of the administration, and yet in the face of that the Premier says:

"There exists a great deal of misconception in the country regarding the powers of the Government in the present case," said Sir Wilfrid. "As I understand the Militia Act, and I may say that I have given a study of late, our volunteers are not to be used in the defence of the Dominion. They are Canadian troops to be used in the fight for Canada's defence. Perhaps the most widespread apprehension is that the cannot be sent out of Canada. To my mind it is clear that cases arise when they might be sent to a foreign country to fight. To postulate a case—Suppose that Spain should declare war upon Great Britain. Spain has, or had, a navy, and that navy might be got ready to attack Canada as a part of the Empire. Sometimes the best method of defending oneself is to attack, and in that case Canadian soldiers might certainly be sent to Spain, and it is quite certain that they legally might be so dispatched to the Iberian Peninsula. The case of the South African Republic is not analogous. There is no menace to Canada, and, although we may be willing to contribute troops, I do not see how we can do so. Then, again, how could we do so, without parliament granting us money? We simply could not do anything. In other words we should have to summon parliament. The government of Canada is restricted in its powers. It is responsible to parliament and it can do very little without the permission of parliament. There is no doubt as to the attitude of the government on all questions that mean menace to British interests, but in this present case our limitations are very clearly defined. And so it is that we have not offered a Canadian contingent to the home authorities. The militia duly transmitted individual offers to the Imperial government, and the reply from the War Office as published in Saturday's Globe shows their attitude on the question. As to Canada furnishing a contingent, the government has not discussed the question, for the reasons which I have stated—reasons which I think must be easily understood by every one who understands the constitutional law on the question. The statement in the Military Gazette, published this morning, is a pure invention. Far from possessing any foundation, in fact it is wholly imaginary."

Then Mr. Tarte, at St. Vincent de Paul, puts himself on record as follows:—

But in the order in council, which I hold in my hand, and which will be published one of these days, it is said that what we have just done shall not be a precedent.

"What I objected to—and I say it again, and I cannot say it often enough—is the creation of a precedent which would have permitted the Secretary of State for the Colonies to-morrow, the day after to-morrow, in a year, two years, to send us a message saying 'I should like some troops.'"

But I do not wish that the operation be repeated on the next occasion."

Here was the premier declaring on October 3, that the war was not one in which Canada could be said to be interested—that it might be interested if it were at war with Spain, which had a navy, but as the South African republic had no navy there appeared to be no cause for our engaging in this war. That was the view taken at that moment. The government also takes quite what public opinion would warrant at that time; we waited until we were sure that public opinion would warrant such a strong step as that involved. That was the premier's defence in another place when speaking not long since. He said, "we waited until we could discover what public opinion was, and we would not be justified in acting in advance of what was clearly the public opinion of Canada." All hon. gentlemen in the government

TAKE THIS GROUND,

but if the premier had waited and had not put himself on record and some of his colleagues had not put themselves on record in a very opposite direction, trying to make public opinion in that direction, there might be something in their connection that the government were waiting for the development of public opinion in the very possible direction, they are not in a position to set up the defence. The action of the Premier of Canada reminds me a little of a western orator of whom I have read, who, seeking a public position, undertook to place his views very fully before the parties who had votes in the election forthcoming. After disconcerting very fully on all the great public questions of the time he said, "these are my sentiments. I hold them very strongly. They are very dear to me, but if you do not approve of them, I am ready to change them at any time and take up any other set of opinions that you prefer." Now, that was the position of the premier and some of his colleagues with regard to sending troops to South Africa.

Another minister of the government was still more open mouthed at that moment in exhibiting his hostility and objection to assisting the mother country at that juncture. I refer to the Commissioner of Public Works. I am not going to refer just now to any of the speeches or writings of the hon. gentleman, except the one read. Hon. gentlemen are familiar with them. After the action was taken—and taken as far as some gentlemen were concerned with a very bad grace—the Minister of

A Rheumatic Cripple's Release!

A "jury" of doctors, specialists and medicine vendors decreed that James Smith, of Grimsby, Ont., should spend the rest of his days in the agonizing chains of rheumatism.

Common sense and modern medical science produced rebuttal evidence and procured his release.

The Great South American Rheumatic Cure turned the tables, relieved the pain in a few hours and healed, cured and freed.

To the man or woman suffering the agonies of pain produced by Rheumatism, of whatever form, as an essay on its causes, its symptoms, and its action, see the One desirable objective point with the

without discussing its formula at all, has proved the most efficacious of remedies, and to back up their convictions, are prescribing it daily in practice; and doctors have always been the slowest to convince of the merits of any proprietary remedy.

South American Rheumatic Cure is powerful, potent, but harmless. It is specific for all phases of Rheumatic Ailments; it goes directly to the seat of the troubles, dissolves and eradicates from the system the foreign matters which cause the excruciating pains which stiffen and swell the joints. It acts quickly and surely, and as proof of it there is ample testimony to show that in cases of many years' standing, where the patient was almost helpless, bed ridden and so acute was the suffering that it was necessary to turn the victim in sheets

because it was torture to have even the gentlest touch of the hand on the body. In twelve hours after the first dose was taken all pain was gone, and inside of three days recovery was so marked that the patient walked without assistance. Many have had a similar experience and have testified to it.

James Smith, a dairyman of Grimsby, Ont., was a great sufferer from gout and rheumatism. He was almost helpless; could not walk without crutches. He had tried a number of remedies, and had been treated by almost innumerable doctors without any permanent help. He began using South American Rheumatic Cure. In a few hours the pain left him; in a few days he threw away the crutches and has never had a touch of the trouble since. You are at liberty to write him about his own case. No need for an hour's suffering. South American Rheumatic Cure can do as much for you as it has done for thousands.

South American Nervine is a wonderful tonic for the stomach. It cures all disorders of the digestive organs, repairs exhausted nerve power, puts on flesh, and is a general health builder.

South American Kidney Cure is a liquid kidney specific; it cures Diabetes, Bright's Disease, Inflammation of the Bladder and all disorders arising from imperfect working of the kidneys. It gives relief in six hours.

Public Works went to a meeting at Saint Vincent de Paul and claiming to hold

A DOCUMENT

in his hand, which at that time as a privy councillor he had no right to take out of the records of the Privy Council office, and shaking it before the meeting he said: "It is true we have agreed to send a contingent; we have sent that contingent and we have carefully guarded ourselves so that it shall not be taken as a precedent. It shall not involve this country in any future struggle of this kind. It is finally and carefully guarded in the document itself that it is not to be regarded as a precedent." The Minister of Public Works evidently thought that he was playing a trump card about this precedent business, but I do not think—even at that time—and certainly not at this moment,—that very much importance was attached to his declarations with regard to the precedent matter. And if a full and complete answer to the Minister of Public Works was required, we have it from the Minister of Justice across the floor of the House in the address which he has delivered today. He spoke of the way the British constitution had grown, and he said it would be madness for any person to profess to form a constitution for the British Empire on paper and lay it down by rule; that the relation of the colonies to the empire must grow out of cases just like this one with which we have been dealing. That was the view of the Minister of Justice and I agree with him, but if the view propounded by the Minister of Public Works is a correct one, this is the most important incident in the history of this empire, one of the most important incidents in the history of the world,—the colonies stepping to the front, and offering assistance and taking part in the wars of the empire is to have no significance. I entirely and completely agree with the view presented by the hon. Minister of Justice to this House. It is

A MOST IMPORTANT TURNING POINT

in the affairs of this empire of ours. Some years ago I was appealed to by some gentlemen in Montreal to take an interest in organizing a branch of the Imperial Federation league in my own province. Although in full sympathy always with the closer bringing together of the colonies with the empire, for reasons which I then stated, I declined to take the initiative in prompting such an organization. One of the reasons was that I was at that time too actively engaged in politics to be the medium of bringing the best men on both sides together for united action on a question of that kind, which ought to be the result of combined action of men of both political parties. I gave another reason, and I remember my words very well. I had thought them over very carefully—and that was that it would be difficult to make great progress with the question of Imperial Federation in a time of peace. But I said in my letter to Mr. McGoun at that time that the first gun that was fired in a great war by Britain would bring the colonies together like the leaves of a closed book. The views I then expressed have been amply verified by what has happened in the present war. There has been a great deal of discussion which I think would have been infinitely better left out, with regard to the attitude of races and so forth towards the empire during this war. I lay the blame for all this discussion at the door of the Minister of Public Works, and to some extent to the Premier of Canada.

Sir McKenzie Bowell—Hear! hear!

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—I say they are entirely to blame for all this unseemly discussion. I believe that when a great question arises affecting the welfare and presence at this empire of ours, under which we all enjoy

EQUAL AND GLORIOUS LIBERTIES,

the great heart of the people of Canada, irrespective of race or descent, whether of

Norman, Saxon, Celtic, or like my hon. friend the leader of the opposition, of Scandinavian origin, is of one mind. I believe that is the case, and notwithstanding appearance of differences which have been given to the discussion, it will be found in the end that we are almost entirely of one heart and mind on this question. Speaking of the French-Canadian people, who form so very large a part of the population, I know a little of them in my own native province, and I have no hesitation in saying that a more loyal, devoted and true-hearted people to the empire under which we live than the French-Canadians of Prince Edward Island we do not possess.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—And when the call was made by the British government for assistance in South Africa, our Acadia friends contributed their quota. There was no question about it, and they sent their full proportion of the men from our province, and I rejoice to know that it is not only in my province that such a state of feeling exists. I recognize it in the fact that the dear and only son of the head of this House has gone forward to fight in battle. That is the best recognition of it. We have also an additional evidence of the loyalty and of the enthusiasm of the French race in Canada to the British Crown in addition to all that we have had and history has given to us in the past, in the valuable services rendered to the British government in the Sudan by Major Geround, and we have evidence of it again in the departure for South Africa of that son of a distinguished citizen of Montreal. And from the bottom of my heart I deprecate the discussion of this question from the standpoint of race or creed.

GOLDEN PRINCIPLES.

A true devotion to our profession for the public good. Accuracy, attention, politeness and sterling value to all ranks and classes of our people.

Combs, Brushes, Sponges, Perfumery, Tooth Powders, and Tooth Washes, and a host of other every day articles, at special and attractive prices. Paine's Ointment Compound is our best selling medicine. Why? Because it possesses health restoring virtues unknown to other medicines.

REDDIN BROS., - Druggists
CH'LTOWN, P. E. I.

SECOND EDITION.

HILLSBORO RINK

AFTERNOON SKATING:
Tuesday and Friday, 2.30 to 5.30; Saturday, 3.30 to 6, with band until further notice.

EVENING SKATING
Monday and Thursday 8 to 10. Band in attendance. Coupon Books now on sale, 5 skates for one dollar.
E. C. PROWSE }
E. H. B. BEE } Managers

156 POPULAR SONGS with words and music neatly printed and bound in one volume. grand collection of Musical Gems, sentimental, patriotic, comic; a veritable treasury of the world's popular and beautiful songs. Price, 10 cents, postpaid. Dealers: McMillan, 11, Yonge St., Toronto, Ont.



He's Got a Bite of the most toothsome tobacco made.

HOLLY

Bright Chewing Tobacco


DOMINION TOBACCO CO., - MONTREAL.




T. A. MacLEAN

contracts for plumbing and hot water heating undertaken and completed. A large staff of expert pipers and plumbers engaged. ALL WORK GUARANTEED. Get our prices before closing contracts as we insure you first class work at competition prices. Address,—

T. A. MacLEAN,
Massey Temple Building, 211 St. John St., Ont.

HILLSBORO RINK