

It cannot bear the creation of another nation, especially one of such a liberal and enlightened constitution as the Dominion of Canada, alongside of it. One of two things is perfectly certain to my mind: That the Dominion will absorb the United States, or that they will meet as one nation, each giving up something. I think it is contrary to nature that they should continue separate. I believe that so great will be the success of the new British North American Empire, that it will absorb all the English-speaking people on this continent. The people of Maine desire to belong to Canada, and have done so for years. If, on the Pacific, the Dominion acquires Alaska, and the State of Maine on the Atlantic, I assert that the great destiny of the Empire is assured. I move that the State of Maine be included.

Hon. MR. HUMPHREYS—All we lack now is a Leech or Douglas Jerrold. I think we shall immortalize ourselves; probably we shall appear in *Punch*. I think Mr. Seward won't blame us.

Hon. DR. HELMCKEN—I must move an amendment. We shall be absorbed before this absorption can take place. I shall move to leave out the words "if possible." I think the frog has swollen to the size of an ox.

Hon. MR. ROBSON—These debates should be carried on with becoming gravity.

Hon. DR. HELMCKEN—I think so, too, and I think it would be the duty of any Leech amongst us to secure a correct sketch of the movers of the resolution and amendments.

Hon. MR. DECOSMOS—I think the Hon. the Attorney-General should give his opinion.

The words "if possible," on vote, were struck out.

Hon. MR. DECOSMOS—Shall the words "State of Maine" be included?

Several Members—Yes, yes.

The motion "That Canada shall purchase the Territory of Alaska and the State of Maine" was carried.

Hon. MR. HUMPHREYS—Mr. Chairman, as there is no further resolution before the Committee, except my own upon roads, I shall, without further words, move its adoption.

Hon. MR. BARNARD—I think it unwise to hamper these conditions, but I consider this an important question. I am here to protest on behalf of persons who pay road tolls. The excuse made for this imposition is that the Colony is indebted for the construction of these roads. People have looked to Confederation to relieve them of the \$4 per barrel duty upon flour, which they have been paying for so long. I desire to move an amendment to strike out the Douglas Road, as I believe it to be unnecessary. I know that the Upper Country people will raise their voices against the continuance of the road tolls.

Hon. MR. DECOSMOS—The question was alluded to by myself when the terms were under discussion. I think the roads, if not national, ought to be local. I think the matter ought to be approached differently in dealing with this road. I think that shortly this plank in the platform of terms will be useless, because the railway will span the distance if Confederation is granted on the terms proposed; therefore, I do not see the wisdom of handing them over to Canada. I think it desirable that road tolls should be abolished, and that we must have something to compensate us for giving them up.

Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I cannot assent to either the original motion or the amendment. I premise by saying the matter has received considerable consideration. The original resolution, which was suggested by the Hon. Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, took up this whole matter. I am sorry the House has not adjourned to give him an opportunity to explain his views upon this question. His opinion is that the road from Yale to Cariboo would not be so well managed by the Government at Ottawa as by the Local Government. The Hon. Member for Yale says that there are no reasons for road tolls. There is one, as stated by the Hon. Chief Commissioner. It is being continually improved, therefore a road of that description ought to carry with it a road toll for its construction and maintenance as a matter of principle, even after the original cost is paid.

Hon. MR. HUMPHREYS, with the consent of the House, withdrew his resolution in order to make some verbal alterations in it.

Hon. MR. BARNARD—I shall move the same amendment as I moved to the former resolution. I will read it:—

"That the Government be requested to insert in the Terms of Confederation to be proposed "to Canada some such clause as the following: All public roads and property of British Columbia at the time of admission to belong to British Columbia, except such public works and