

united piece of territory from our boundary to Mexico. With regard to the northern Anglo-Saxon race—to which we belong—we find that they possess all the north except Alaska. If the United States have a single and compact piece of territory to the south, we want the same in the north. Look at history as regards the acquisition of territory by nations: Lorraine by France, Poland by Russia, Scotland by England, Texas and Alaska by the United States. How has this been brought about but by a national policy. For hundreds of years it was the policy of France to acquire Lorraine; so it was with Russia and Poland. It has been said that republics cannot have a national policy as monarchies can; I say that they have a policy with regard to land. And I say that we should have a policy of the same kind. Let us lay down this principle, that we intend to create a great nation, and intending to do so, we should have all territory north of the United States. I have no objection to the United States gaining territory to the south, but I do object to her coming north or holding Alaska. Let us glance at Alaska for one moment. The country is similar to our own. It has coal, fish, and lumber, as we have, and its contiguity to our country ought to induce us to believe that there is a natural alliance between us. We all know how much the purchase of this piece of territory cost the United States in hard cash. Then its annual cost is nearly two million dollars, or forty millions to support it as a United States Territory for twenty-five years. Then look at the population, a mere nothing; and its revenue, hardly worth taking into account. It is said by many that America is sick of her bargain, and that Russia sold the United States. I think this is a favourable time to bring it up. Canada can well afford to pay for an extended frontier on the Pacific Coast. If we purchased Alaska the Americans could still come in to fish and gather furs; so, commercially, there need be no difficulty. I believe we could get along smoothly; therefore, I have to move this resolution:—

“That Canada shall purchase the Territory of Alaska, if possible.”

I hope, Sir, in all our relations for the future we shall remain international, not national.

Hon. DR. CARRALL—I rise to support the resolution of the Hon. Mr. DeCosmos. The only objection I can see is, that perhaps it is a little premature. That Canada will ultimately acquire it, I can have no doubt. In supposing that the acquisition of this Territory, and the consequent hemming in of British Columbia would have the effect of leading the people of Canada to believe in the ultimate destiny of the British American possessions being drawn into annexation, or absorption, the Hon. W. H. Seward made an egregious blunder; he did it in his ignorance of the Canadian character. It is not necessary for Canadians to get up and show their loyalty daily, they are ready and able to occupy their position of *imperium in imperio*. There may be some people in Canada who do not like the Government. In what country are there not some uneasy spirits? The United States has them, and England is not free from them. I shall decidedly support the Hon. member, although, I think, he is, perhaps, a little in advance of American statesmen as to the acquisition of territory.

Hon. MR. HUMPHREYS—I think Mr. Seward understood what he was about when he effected the purchase of Alaska. I feel convinced that the Government of the United States will not consent to let us have it. I have a strong feeling in favour of the United States, and am satisfied that they should have Alaska. I don't think Canada can afford to re-purchase the Territory; nor do I think she has men to pit against the intellectual giants of America. I think the Hon. Member for Victoria District has perpetrated a joke on this Council; I shall, however, support his motion.

Hon. MR. RING—I rise to support the motion of the Hon. Member for Victoria District.

Hon. MR. ROBSON—I think this a subject of too great importance to be disposed of hastily. It ought to be fully discussed. I agree with the Hon. Member for Victoria District that such is desirable, but I also agree with the Hon. Member for Cariboo that it is somewhat premature. I think the people of the United States would like to get rid of it; would be rather glad to back out of it. Their policy is to let it “paddle its own canoe.” If we wait it will probably fall into our hands. If we are to make a suggestion as to the acquisition of territory we should not confine ourselves to Alaska only. Let us have Maine also. It impinges upon Canada on the Atlantic; and it is a portion of land out of which England allowed herself to be cheated. It is well known that Maine is most important, as giving an open winter seaboard to Canada; a large portion of Canadian trade has had to pass through Maine in bond. I believe the Dominion of Canada will eventually utterly absorb America. (Laughter.) Some may laugh, but that is my conviction. The United States have made great progress, but the Constitution is very defective.