

cannot wait to treat it with indifference, much less opposition. When the proper time arrives, it will be prepared to enter into the merits of the whole question. I have had no opportunity, through indisposition, to express my opinions on the subject at any public meetings, except some held in my own district; and when it comes up here I shall regard it as my duty to assume all the responsibility which attaches to my position in the matter, as well as to deal with every feature of the question. I would be glad were my hon friend to withdraw his amendment, as I consider it to be no thing a matter on which to divide the hon Committee. I have no objection to it being so.

Mr CONROLY.—Mr Chairman, if party feeling has not been sunk on this question in this House, it has been pretty well laid aside in the country. At Tignish, a part of the district which I have the honor to represent, where the people are very much divided in their political opinions, my colleague and I lately attended a speaking at which every one appeared to be opposed to the proposed Union. I never saw a time when newspapers were so much sought after, and the speeches delivered at public meetings so generally read. The speech of the hon Solicitor General was read in every part of the island with great interest, and his appointment to a seat in the Executive is discredited, in consequence of his decided Union sentiments, to have been very injudicious on the part of the Government. I know that the country is dissatisfied with the appointment, therefore I have no hesitation in supporting the amendment proposed by the hon leader of the Opposition.

Hon Mr HENSLEY.—When I came into the house this afternoon, Mr Chairman, the resolution proposed by the hon leader of the Opposition was on the table. I would rather, it had not been brought forward, or at least, that it had been put in another form; but as he appears desirous to press it, every member must say yes or nay. The question on which we are required to vote, is, Should the hon Solicitor General have been appointed to a seat in the Executive? Notwithstanding all the respect which I entertain for the hon gentleman alluded to, yet considering his extreme views in favor of Union, and the excited state of the country on the question, I consider the Government would have done better with the people had his appointment not been made. When, I previously addressed you, Mr Chairman, I stated my intention to submit a resolution expressing regret that the Government had declared its policy on the question of Confederation. Though I have abandoned the idea of proposing a motion to that effect, yet I must state, that as this subject is one of the most momentous which has ever come before the consideration of the Legislature, I think the Government ought to have given some decided expression of opinion upon it. I believe there is sufficient information before the public to have warranted such an expression of opinion. It is all very well to say that a majority of the members of the Government have made speeches against Union; but they ought to have done so as a Government with some decided declaration in regard to the question. What information can be gathered from such speeches when we find them here contradicting each other as to the tendency of their remarks. Even some of the speeches given in Canada, we are told, are not to be understood in the sense which we would take to be their natural meaning. I will vote for the amendment; but in so doing I disclaim any personal objections to the hon gentleman to whom it refers. I have, on the contrary, a very high respect for him. The hon member for Murray Harbor has stated that he will support the paragraph, and not the amendment. I have heard him express strong sentiments on the question of Union—saying that the man who supported the scheme must be almost a lunatic. If he is not sorry that a person of this description should be appointed to a seat in the Government, then I have nothing more to say. (Laughter.)

The question was then put to the Committee by the Chairman.

For Mr Conroly's amendment.—Honourables Coles, Kelly, Thornhill, Wicks, Hensley, Laird, Messrs Sinclair, Courry, Walker.—9.

Against it.—Hon. Mr. C. Pope, Longworth, Col, Gray, Col, Secretary, Davies, Ray, Speaker, Whelan, Messrs Ramsay,

Brecken, Montgomery, Hastings, Green, McLaughlin, Duncan. 16. The result of the vote was as follows:—The amendment was carried by 10 yeas and 16 nays. The House adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow.

