

to be, sir, your Excellency's most obedient humble servants.

"By unanimous order of the Convention,
GEORGE WASHINGTON.

"President.

"His Excellency the President of Congress."

If Washington had been writing concerning the position of the Provinces at the present day, he could not have stated the views of the parties who have to form this Confederation more forcibly. It states our position from beginning to end. We find that only eleven of the States at that time adopted this Constitution. New York came in too late to vote for the first President. I will now read the organization of the United States Government:

On the first Wednesday in January, ten States appointed electors to vote for President of the new Government. On the first Wednesday in February thereafter, the electors in each State met at their respective Capitals and voted for the first President, and Washington was elected. In the meantime the State of New York repeated its conditional ratification of the Constitution and agreed to join the new Government, hoping to secure certain changes in the Constitution in the future; but the proceedings of New York took place after the time fixed for the appointment of presidential electors, and hence that State did not vote for the President. Congress was ordered to convene on the 4th of March, 1789, in the City of New York, but there was not a quorum present, and it was adjourned to meet again on the first of April, on which day the first Congress under the Constitution assembled. On the 30th April, 1789, George Washington was inaugurated as the first President. Thus commenced the Constitutional Government composed of eleven States, all of which seceded from the Confederation of 1781, leaving but two members in that perpetual Union. These were Rhode Island and North Carolina. As the Union had been dissolved by the secession of eleven States, the whole structure fell; and on the first April, 1789, of the organization of the Constitutional Government there were three independent Republics, resulting from the political revolution of that era; one composed of the eleven States; another of Rhode Island, and the third of North Carolina. Every possible effort was made to induce the two independent sovereign States to join the new Government, and for a time they seemed to be determined never to ratify the Constitution. North Carolina yielded, and joined the new Confederacy on the 21st November, 1789; but Rhode Island continued inexorable. There was a powerful opposition among the people to the ratification of the Constitution, and that State maintained its independence until

the 29th of May, 1790, being nearly two years after the Constitutional Government had been adopted by the ten seceding States. The Union finally with the independent Republic of Rhode Island completed the organization of the thirteen United States, and established the great American nation—the wonder of the most wonder-teeming age. We have thus briefly traced the formation of the new Government of the United States under the Constitution formed in 1787. It is only left for us to remark, that this great organic code of the Union was never adopted by a vote of the people. The Conventions of the States ratified it; but we are unable to find that a single State entered the Union by a vote of the people. The Legislature when they meet are the people, and they have not only the power to deal with subjects that were before the people when they were elected, but they have power to deal with all questions that may occur during their existence. They are the people for all legislative purposes, and they have the power to change the Constitution when they think the country requires it. The Imperial Parliament has dethroned and elected Sovereigns without appealing to the people. My hon. friend (Mr. Smith) has said that those who went for Confederation were looking for personal advantage. I say to represent the people in the General Parliament is an object worthy of our ambition, and my hon. friend would be one of the first to aspire to that position. He believes he is pursuing the course the interest of the country requires, and we believe we are pursuing the course best calculated to promote the welfare of the country. We do not think it is a matter of prophecy; it is simply a matter of looking back to history, and we know that like occurrences produce like effects. It would be a dangerous thing if all politicians agreed; it is much better to have the subject ventilated—to have an opposition, and that opposition to come before the people and explain this opposition. After this question has been placed before the people in its most glowing colours, they have seen it; for the interest of the country to enter this Union. These resolutions bind the delegates hand and foot, and the moment you pass them you reject the resolutions to appoint the delegates. It would be simply sending a delegation who would come back with their fingers in their mouths, having done nothing. There must be mutual concessions; you could not get five men to enter into partnership upon the terms one of them would draw up. This Quebec Scheme when it was made was not binding upon the Government. It is provided in our institutions that those who take office have both Executive and Legislative duties to perform.

The Legislature of the country must be under their direction, and they must have such a majority in both branches as to be able to carry forward those measures they think will be for the interest of the country, and to resist those measures which they think will be prejudicial to it. They take the responsibility and they must control the Legislature of the country, and when it was adopted by the Government, it was not binding upon the country, and if placed in a position in which they cannot control it they must resign their seats. If the Government bring forward a Scheme of Union and the House refuse to pass it they must resign. It is not necessary that they should resign if defeated upon a question of minor importance, because it frequently happens that a Government is defeated and still has a majority. If they then resign the minority has to rule. I felt that when this Scheme was first brought before the people that the Government would be defeated upon it. The Government were not popular enough to carry Confederation, and if the House had died a natural death they would have been defeated, and Confederation too. My opinion was that by dissolving the House as we did we would lose our position a year sooner, but Confederation would be carried a year earlier. It being then defeated, people then began to think about it, and in the short space of sixteen months there was a revolution in the feeling of the country upon the question. My hon. friend (Mr. Smith) came to the House opposed to Confederation, but if he had come to the conclusion that the people had changed and were in favour of it, he might have come in with a resolution in favor of Confederation, or he might have prepared a Scheme differing from this where it was defective and had a large majority in this House. Suppose some of the members of his then Government had resigned, he could then have formed a Coalition Government and carried his Scheme. I suppose he was opposed to Confederation, and did not think it would be doing right to take that course. I believe he considered that the course he took would best advance the interests of the country, and we are also taking the course by which we think the interests of the country will be advanced and its prosperity increased.

The debate was adjourned until tomorrow at 10.

Hon. Mr. TILLEY—brought in "A Bill relating to the imposition of duties for raising a Revenue."

The House adjourned until 9 A. M. tomorrow.

T. P. D.