

The following Committee, viz: Messrs. Hargrave, Macdonald, and Macdonald, were appointed to report on the Resolutions submitted by the Hon. Mr. Whelan, viz: Hon. Messrs. Hargrave, Macdonald, and Macdonald.

On motion of the Hon. Leader of the Government, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the Despatch, and was called on by the Hon. Mr. Whelan.

A debate then ensued, and was kept up till a very late hour, on the subject of the Resolutions submitted by the Hon. Leader of the Government, in amendment to which, the Hon. Mr. Whelan submitted the following, viz:—

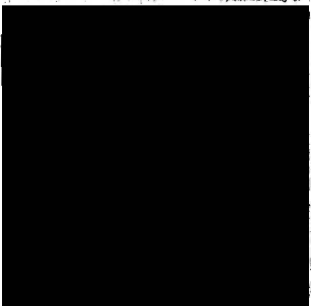
Resolved, in the opinion of this House, that the Confederation of Her Majesty's American Colonial Possessions would be in conformity with Her Majesty's frequently expressed desire—desires to their Wars, individually and generally. And that the House believes that a plan of Confederation might be so framed as not to involve the sacrifice of any material interests in the part of any Province; but inasmuch as the people of Prince Edward Island do not appear to be prepared to regard with any favor the project of Confederation, it is wisest to pass it upon public attention, as its discussion is only calculated to produce excitement and apprehension, without reasonable cause.

And further Resolved, as the opinion of this House, that there should be no vote passed by the Legislature of this Colony in favor of a Confederation of the Provinces until the people shall first be afforded an opportunity of procuring their judgment on the question at a general Election.

Program was reported.

House adjourned.

TUESDAY, May 8.



The adjourned debate on the subject of Confederation was resumed at the hour of six o'clock in the afternoon, and kept up with much interest till after midnight.

Hon. Sol. General opened the debate by resuming his speech, which he had commenced in the forenoon, and spoke for nearly two hours.

He was followed by the Hon. Mr. Coles, who also spoke at great length.

During the debate on that great and momentous question, almost every hon. member of the House expressed his views on the subject, all of whom were present excepting the Hon. Colonial Secretary, absent from the Island on the Delegation to Brazil, the West Indian Islands, and Mexico.

Hon. Mr. Coles, in the course of debate, remarked that had he been consulted in framing the Resolutions, he would have suggested an alteration in that which stated, that any Federal Union of the British Provinces which would include Prince Edward Island could

over be accomplished upon terms that would prove advantageous to the best interests of the latter; but although that Resolution was not worded exactly as he would like to see it, yet, from the statements of one of the leaders of the Government in Canada, Mr. Chabert, he has collected some statements from the Quebec Conference in 1864 which would be altogether and also statements published in Quebec reflecting the views of the Government of that country on the question of Union. In the effect, that should England favor the Resolutions of the House of Representatives, it would be the province of the Government of the Quebec Conference to be bound to support the Resolutions, as submitted by the Hon. Leader of the Government, as there appeared to be no hope of getting any modification of the Quebec Report.

Mr. Russell, while expressing himself pleased with the Resolutions submitted against Confederation, thought the language in the second Resolution about "no string" was too strong. He believed terms could be given which would justify the Island in going into a Federal Union, but at the same time, he firmly believed, such terms never would be given to this Colony.

Mr. Brocken also said, in his speech, that he would not go as far as to say that a Union of the Colonies, on terms advantageous to P. E. Island, was a matter of impossibility; but from the present construction of the question, as advocated by the supporters of the Quebec Report, he felt it his duty to give the resolutions in question his hearty support.

Hon. Leader of the Government admitted that the paragraph in question was worded in very strong terms, and had he expressed his own individual views on that point, he would have modified it. Last year he admitted the principles of a Union in the abstract; and he still thought that terms might be proposed which would be advantageous to this Island; but such terms could not be had; and in consequence of the very extraordinary course pursued with regard to this question in Nova Scotia and in the Province, it behooved us to make everything in the shape of a Union, lest we might be committed to the Quebec scheme. He believed nineteen out of every twenty of the people of this Island were opposed to Union of any kind with Canada. He, therefore, conceived it to be his duty, in deference to their wishes, and to secure a strong vote in the House, to pursue the course he had done. At the same time, he must say, expressing his own opinion, he wished the second Resolution were struck out.

The question was then put on the Hon. Mr. Whelan's Resolutions in amendment to the Resolutions submitted by the Hon. Leader of the Government, and resolved on the following division:—

For Hon. Mr. Whelan's amendment—Hon. S. Whelan, Col. Gray, Sol. General, Davies, Kaye, Messrs. McEwen, and Green—7.
Against it—Hon. J. C. Pope, the Speaker, the Speakers, Longworth, Coles, Warburton, Thomson, Hargrave, Kelly, Laird, McEwen, Messrs. Howes, Brecken, Duane, Haslam, Ramsay, Montgomery, Howland, Conroy, Sutherland, Walker, Sinclair—21.

The Resolutions of the Hon. Leader of the Government were accordingly reported to the House agreed to.

Mr. Sinclair then submitted the following Resolution:—

Resolved, That inasmuch as there will be a general election the Summer, it is, therefore, inexpedient for the Government to appoint any further delegations on the subject of Colonial Union or Confederation, or to take any action calculated to commit the people of the Colony to any scheme of Union until authorized by the people and sanctioned by their Representatives, returned at said general Election.

The supporters of the Government on that question contended that the above Resolution was unconstitutional, inasmuch as hon. members of the Executive, in their places on the floor of that House, during the debate just ended, declared that the Government would take no action whatever on the subject, and that therefore it would be unfair to throw a doubt on their expressed declaration.

The supporters of the resolution contended that their object was to stop the Government against making any concessions that might lead to the appointment of any delegation tending to commit the people of the Colony to any measure not sanctioned by their Representatives.

After considerable debate on the subject, the question was put and the Resolution negatived on the following division, viz:—

For Mr. Sinclair's Resolution—Hon. Messrs. Coles, Laird, Warburton, Hargrave, Thomson, Kelly, Messrs. Sinclair, Howland, Howes, Walker, Sutherland, Conroy—12.
Against it—Hon. J. C. Pope, Col. Gray, Sol. General, Whelan, Kaye, Longworth, Davies, McEwen, Messrs. Duane, Coles, Haslam, Montgomery, Ramsay, McEwen, Green, Brecken—16.

House adjourned.