

mere colonists to that of citizens of a great British American nation, covering as it will half a continent, stretching from the mighty Atlantic on the east, to the golden shores of the Pacific on the west, bounded on the south by the great American Republic, and on the north by—sir, I was going to say the North Pole—with, not an inter-colonial railroad merely, but an interoceanic communication, stretching from sea to sea. Mr. SPEAKER, I deeply feel the great responsibility that attaches to the vote I will shortly be called upon to give. I have weighed well this matter, and taking all things into account, I can arrive at no other conclusion than that it is my duty to vote for the resolutions in your hands, and I am now prepared to do so, believing that I am carrying out the views of the great bulk of my constituents. (Cheers.)

On motion of Mr. TASCHEREAU, the debate was then adjourned.

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FRIDAY, March 10, 1865.

On the Order, for resuming the debate upon the motion "That the question be now put" upon the Resolutions relating to Confederation, being called—

HON. MR. HOLTON rose to a point of order, objecting that the "previous question" was in the nature of an amendment, and that no member could move an amendment to his own motion.

After some discussion,

MR. SPEAKER decided as follows:—"The original motion, made by the Hon. Attorney General for Upper Canada, is that the House should concur in certain resolutions relating to a Federal union of the provinces. Debate having arisen thereon, the Hon. Attorney General for Upper Canada moves, not in amendment in my opinion, 'that that question be now put.' The substance of an amendment is to alter the original question. Does this motion alter the original question? So far from that, it is a proposal to bring that question before the House for immediate decision. The authorities cited to show that this motion is an amendment sustain the contrary view in my judgment, because they only state that the previous question is 'in the nature of an amendment.' If it were really an amend-

ment, or were to be used as an amendment it would be stated that it was in fact an amendment. The motion to adjourn is also spoken of as being in the nature of an amendment, but it is not an amendment, and like 'The previous question,' does not displace the original proposition, if carried. Hence I conclude that 'The previous question' is not an amendment. The objection that the Hon. Attorney General for Upper Canada cannot move it, on account of having proposed the original motion, in my opinion is not valid."

MR. TASCHEREAU said—It is not without hesitation, Mr. SPEAKER, that I rise at this late period of the debate to offer a few observations on the measure before us—the plan of Confederation of the British North American Provinces; and my hesitation is the greater that I am under the necessity, not only of speaking on a question which has been so long and skilfully discussed, that it would appear almost impossible to say anything which may interest hon. members, but also and more, especially that after long and deliberate consideration—after carefully weighing the gist and tendency of these resolutions, and tracing out the effects which cannot fail, I believe, to result from the measure of which they are the exponents—I feel myself bound, Mr. SPEAKER, to abandon, on this question, those with whom I have always acted hitherto, to differ in opinion from those whose talents and judgment I have never ceased to admire, and to record my vote against the new Constitution which is proposed to us in those resolutions. (Hear! hear! from the left.) It could not fail to be to me a particular cause of regret that I felt compelled to come to this conclusion. I could not understand that this measure was a simple party matter—one of those questions on which those party feelings which have prevailed in Canada so many years ought to influence any body. I could not conceive how, in considering a question which, in my opinion, imperils all that we hold most dear, and opens to us, if it is carried, the prospect of a future, dark with clouds, portending evil not only to us Lower Canadians, but perhaps no less to all British North America—I could not conceive, I say, how I could be unmindful of my convictions, and lay aside my fears and the sense of duty which binds me here, to yield blind obedience and submission to the influence of political party. I thought myself at liberty to think