

jection by a large majority. It, for you, am not changed. I entertain the same objections to the Scheme which I entertained then, and I am therefore glad to present to the Resolution, as submitted by the Hon. the Member of the Government, in harmony with the House on the question of a majority on both sides. In respect to Prince Edward Island, the allowance of 80 cents per head of our population in exchange for our revenues is quite insufficient. What! only £48,000 a year for the relinquishment of our revenues of £70,000 a year, and that too to be in full settlement of all future demands upon the General Government. A most princely offer indeed! Why, in the course of a few years, it will in all probability amount to £150,000 a year, and all that, together with our independent constitution, we would, according to the Quebec Scheme of Union, if we accede to it, have to surrender. In an annual allowance of £48,000 for our local expenses, all of which, with the exception of the salaries of the Lieutenant Governor and the Judges, we should have to defray ourselves out of that insufficient allowance; and should it not be found sufficient, we would have to make up the deficiency by direct taxation. This is quite sufficient to convince us, I think, that if we were to enter into Confederation on the basis of the Quebec Report, justice could never be done to us. This is the decided opinion of the people as a body, generally speaking, and through a majority of their parliamentary representatives they have already declared, and will now again declare, that the Quebec Scheme of Confederation will never be assented to by them. That they are most decidedly opposed to a Union with Canada upon any terms, we know with certainty, and their decided objection to it, or rather rejection of it, as affirmed by a majority of their representatives in this House, last Session, it is now our duty to re-affirm. We must all admit that Nova Scotia and New Brunswick must be the best judges of their own affairs, and have a constitutional right to decide concerning them for themselves. But, when we see it asserted in their papers that if a Union, on the basis of the Quebec Scheme, take place at all, it must include Prince Edward Island, and, further, whilst admitting that possibly, if we exerted ourselves to procure them, better terms might be conceded to us, maintaining that we shall not be allowed to stand aloof; it behoves us most distinctly and promptly to declare that we will not go into the projected Union on any terms. If we were to admit that such terms could be conceded us as would make our union with the other Provinces beneficial to us, that would go a long way towards warranting an assumption on the part of the other Provinces, and even on the part of the Home Government, that, by a little skillful management on their part, and the promise of one or two flattering concessions, we might be induced to give a favorable ear to the Scheme; and, as respects proceedings on our part, the next step might be the appointment of delegates to the London Conference. And, that step once taken, our delegates would be in the hands of the other delegates; the majority would decide; we could neither insist upon better terms, nor could we fall back upon our original resolution to reject the scheme. We would be completely trapped, and our heads drawn into the noose. Our best course, therefore, will be not to admit the possibility of such terms being accorded to us as would be acceptable and conducive to our interests. The first Resolution repudiates the idea that we can be embraced in any Union of the Provinces, upon the terms of the Quebec Scheme, in any way which would be beneficial or advantageous to us. The second is stronger; and one hon. member (Mr. Sinclair) has said that it is too strong. But it only says that this House can-

not admit that a Federal Union for the North American Provinces and Colonies, which would include Prince Edward Island, could ever be accomplished, on terms that would prove advantageous to the interests and well-being of her people; and assigns a reason for that affirmation; but it does not say that if Great Britain and the other Provinces would agree to it, a *Digitized Union*, which would allow us to retain our Revenue might not be made acceptable to us. It has been said that if Prince Edward Island remain out of the Union, she will either be left in a most undesirable isolated position, or be annexed to the United States. As to the perils of isolation, the people, I feel certain, will be very willing to encounter them, provided they are left in the enjoyment of all their present rights and privileges. And as to annexation to the United States, I believe that we will never take place against their will; and, moreover, I believe that such annexation will never be sought by them, so long as Great Britain shall be willing to regard them as her children, and to watch over and protect them, with that truly parental care and solicitude for their well-being, which she has hitherto manifested towards them. The people of this Island will never consent to be annexed to a foreign power, unless great Britain shall herself first consent to that. That, however, I believe she will never do; and our present happy connexion with her will, I trust, endure for so, ages to come. As long as Britain is willing that it shall be we will remain true in our allegiance to the British Crown. But the duties of Great Britain to us, and to all her other subjects in these Provinces are great. It is her duty to protect us, by her fleets and armies, against any foreign foe. But, whilst we assert this, we freely admit that it is also equally our duty, in each of the Provinces, to contribute freely from our local revenues towards our defence; and cheerfully will we of Prince Edward Island fulfil that duty in fair and just proportion to our means. I shall steadily resist anything like an acknowledgment of the principle of a Federal Union of these Provinces as asserted in the Quebec Report; for I believe that were we once to admit that principle, we would, inevitably, be driven into it. Our acknowledgment of the principle would be tantamount to our signing and sealing of the bond; and we, our children, and our children's children would be bound by it for all time to come. I know hon. gentlemen in this house will say that it is our duty to acquiesce in the Quebec Scheme of Confederation, because that scheme is not only approved of by Her Majesty the Queen and her Government, but also because it is their earnest desire that it should forthwith be carried into effect. Now, with great deference to the opinion of those hon. gentlemen, I beg leave to say that, although in sentiments of loyalty and attachment to the British Crown, I in no way yield to them; yet, representing, in this House, a large independent and intelligent constituency, whose opinions concerning the projected Union of these Provinces fully coincide with my own, to those opinions it is my bounden duty firmly to adhere. Now is the time for us to be cautious. These are my sentiments, and, in pursuance of them, I am ready to support the Resolutions now before us, but if they can be amended without an acknowledgment of the principle of Union, in such an amendment of them, I shall, most likely, be found quite willing to acquiesce. I will not trespass upon the attention of the House any longer, at present, further than by again saying that I am prepared not only to vote for the first Resolution, which says that it is "the deliberate opinion of this House, that any Union of the British North American Colonies which would embrace Prince Edward Island, upon the terms and principles set forth in the Resolutions of the Con-