

Railway shall be commenced before the right shall exist to increase taxation upon the people of this Province. Suppose we passed this, and as my hon. friend says, the Canadians are so cunning it would be quite possible for them to build ten miles and then go no further, they can do that, if this provision is put in. We have provided that this Inter-Colonial Railroad shall be commenced and prosecuted to the completion, without asking whether the revenues are sufficient or not, but in regard to the canals, it is only when the Provinces shall determine when the funds are sufficient that the work will be proceeded with. But in regard to this road we have the assurance of the Imperial Government, that no time shall be lost in completing the work. It is a singular thing that the United States at the time of the revolution, before they acquired their independence, were making provisions to admit Canada into that Union, the eleventh article of their Constitution said;

Article XI.—Canada acceding to this Confederation, and joining in the measures of the United States, shall be admitted into, and entitled to all the advantages of this Union; but no other Colony shall be admitted into the same, unless such admission be agreed to by nine States."

They were just separating from the mother country, and were very anxious to get possession of Canada. If they had possession of Quebec, which commanded the mouth of the St. Lawrence, the United States could not be attacked except from the seaboard. We have not copied the institutions of the United States, not because we found fault with the Constitution, for the wonder is not that the Constitution has failed, but that it has not failed more frequently and more fully than it has. When you consider that their people have come from all the nations of the earth, from republics and from absolute and limited monarchies, you must say it is a remarkable Constitution to so firmly bind the people together. It was originally formed to protect themselves from outward danger, this was the main object of the compact that bound the thirteen Colonies together. It was prepared with the object of defending themselves against a foreign foe, and no provision was made for internal troubles until afterwards. One great reason of their difficulties, and one of the great reasons of their war was, that there was not sufficient power in the General Government. Each State claimed an independent sovereignty. If you read the Constitution of the United States as a lawyer, and I think a large proportion of the lawyers would come to the conclusion that they had that right—that it

was a simple co-partnership entered into by these separate States, and they had a right upon the face of the Constitution to declare themselves out of that Constitution. It was fortunate for the United States that while that would be the construction put upon it by a lawyer, it was not the construction put upon it by the United States themselves, and they had sufficient power to maintain what they considered their right. Had the Southern States succeeded, they had still a country large enough for a nation, but they knew that if they had succeeded the States that were left would have fallen to pieces. They would have been like a glass toy, the moment they broke a corner off it falls to pieces. The Western States would have gone off, and they would have split up in four or five pieces. They would have fought the battle out as long as they had a man to fight or a shilling to pay him with. I have a copy of the Constitution framed subsequently to this, and it is remarkable that this Constitution was framed by a Convention, and never was submitted to a vote of the people. If there be one way more sure than another to drive us, or lead us into the neighboring republic, it will be by forgetting the good old time honored institutions of our country, and becoming familiar with and practicing the Constitution of the United States. The moment we found our Confederation upon the American principle, we will gradually settle into the United States. If we become American in practice we will very soon become American in fact. I do not wish to have American institutions under the British flag. We want nothing better than British institutions, for under them we have as much liberty, and a little more, than they have in the United States. Our institutions are more republican than the institutions of the United States. Our people have more power over their Government than the people of the United States have over theirs. If the veto power be exercised by the sovereign, the ministry must go on and another party come in. The ministry cannot retain their power and refuse a bill that has passed through the Legislature. In the United States if the veto power is exercised it requires a two-thirds vote before a bill passed, can become law. If there be one man less than two-thirds the minority must rule the majority, and prevent them from having a measure for the public interest. I will now read (from "Staefner's Secession War in America") a letter of Washington, President of the Convention appointed to draw up a Constitution:

"IN CONVENTION, Sept. 17, 1787.

"SIR: We have now the honor to submit to the consideration of the United States in Congress assembled that Con-

stitution which has appeared to us the most advisable.

The friends of our country have long seen and desired that the power of making war, peace and treaties, that of levying money and regulating commerce, and the correspondent executive and judicial authority, should be fully and effectually vested in the General Government of the Union; but the impropriety of delegating such extensive trust to one body of men is evident; hence results the necessity of a different organization. It is obviously impracticable in the Federal Government of these States to secure all rights of independent sovereignty to each, and yet provide for the interest and safety of all. Individuals entering into society must give up a share of liberty to preserve the rest. The magnitude of the sacrifice must depend as well on situation and circumstances as on the object to be attained. It is at all times difficult to draw with precision the line between those rights which must be surrendered, and those which may be reserved; and on the present occasion this difficulty was increased by a difference among the several States as to their situation, extent, habits and particular interests."

Does not this meet our case, each State must surrender some of its rights for the general interest. In the formation of society we have to give up some of our natural rights, and if they were not given up society could not be formed. The Provinces going into Confederation must give up some of their local interests. It is not we who are giving more than the others, but we yield one point and they yield another. If we pass a resolution like the one under consideration, and Nova Scotia passes another giving different instructions, and the delegates go into conferences, how can they agree at all unless each party yields some points and there is a compromise made.

The letter goes on to say:

"In all our deliberations on this subject we kept steadily in our view that which appears to us the greatest interest of every true American—the consolidation of our Union—in which is involved our prosperity, felicity, safety, perhaps our national existence. This important consideration, seriously and deeply impressed on our minds, led each State in the Convention to be less rigid on points of inferior magnitude than might have been otherwise expected; and thus the Constitution which we now present is the result of a spirit of amity, and of that mutual deference and concession which the peculiarity of our political situation rendered indispensable. That it will meet the full and entire approbation of every State is not perhaps to be expected, but each will doubtless consider that had her interest been alone consulted, the consequences might have been particularly disagreeable to others; that it is liable to as few exceptions as could reasonably have been expected, we hope and believe; that it may promote the lasting welfare of that country so dear to us all, and secure her freedom and happiness, is our most ardent wish.

"With great respect we have the honor