

subject which is this evening to engage the attention of this House, by submitting the following Resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That the best interests, and present and future prosperity of British North America, would be promoted by a Federal Union, under the Crown of Great Britain, provided such a Union could be effected on principles just to the several Provinces and Colonies.

2. *Resolved*, That the existence of immense Military and Naval forces in the neighbouring Republic, renders it especially incumbent on the people of British North America to take the most efficient precautionary measures, by which their independence against foreign aggression may be secured.

3. *Resolved*, That a Union, such as in times of extraordinary danger would place the Militia, the Revenue, and the Resources of the several Provinces, at the disposal of a General Parliament, is necessary in order to maintain the independence of British North America against foreign aggression and to perpetuate our sympathies with the Mother Country.

4. *Resolved*, That a Federal Union of British North America, based upon the Resolutions adopted at the Conference of Delegates from the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the Colonies of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, held at the City of Quebec, 10th October, 1864, is the basis of a proposed Confederation of those Provinces and Colonies, which, among other advantages, promotes the development of the trade and manufacturing capabilities of those Provinces and Colonies, and advances the general prosperity by inducing the substitution of a common tariff system and common to the Confederation, in lieu of the various Tariffs now in force in the several Provinces and Colonies.

5. *Resolved*, That the Report of the Conference of Delegates from the British North American Provinces and Colonies held at Quebec in October last, taken as a whole, contains a declaration of principles as the basis of a Federal Union, which this House cordially assents to.

6. *Resolved*, That this House, believing it is only by mutual concessions and compromises the several British North American Provinces and Colonies can ever agree upon those principles which shall form the basis of a Union, orders that the report of the Conference of Delegates from these several Provinces and Colonies held at Quebec in October last, be published throughout the Colony for the deliberate consideration of the people, so that they will devote the acceptance or rejection of the proposed Union.

7. *Resolved*, That should the larger Maritime Provinces and Canada, should have mutually agreed upon terms of Union, it is expedient that the people of Prince Edward Island should be called upon to decide on the question.

8. *Resolved*, That inasmuch the Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Canada, should at any time mutually agree upon the basis of a Union, the question be thereafter submitted to the people of the Island.

I have submitted these resolutions together, in order that honorable members may at once be made aware of the views which the advocates of Confederation, upon the terms proposed in the Report of the Quebec Conference, intend to submit by resolution to this House. Although I have submitted these resolutions together, my intention is, to take the opinion of the House upon each.

Hon. J. Q. POPE.—Mr Speaker, I wish to state that the Col. Secy. is somewhat out of order, as I gave notice yesterday that I would propose a resolution on the subject. Pursuing the course that he has done, he ought at least to have intimated that this was an open question, and that a free expression of opinion was expected upon it from hon. members on both sides of the House. I do not desire to obstruct the Colonial Secretary in his speech now since he has commenced, but merely to inform the House that the resolutions which he has submitted do not express the views of the Government.

Col. SECRETARY.—Mr Speaker, I am satisfied that I am in order. I did not deem it necessary formally to declare to this House that the resolutions just submitted do not express the views of the Government. It is well known, Sir, not only in this House, but from one end of

agreed to. MARCH 24
UNION OF THE COLONIES.

On motion of the Hon. Col. Secretary, the House went into the order of the day, viz. the consideration of the Report of the Quebec Conference, and the Despatches and papers relating thereto. The question, it was agreed, should be discussed with the Speaker in the chair, and the rule was suspended which prevents a Member from addressing the House more than once on the same resolution.

The Col. SECRETARY.—Mr Speaker, with your permission I shall initiate the discussion of the important