

themselves advised. Mr. Chairman, the Resolutions in your hand, which have been submitted by the hon. member for Saint John (Mr. Cudlip) express that the Confederation of the B. N. A. Provinces would be injurious to the best interests of these Colonies, and recommends that a delegation proceed to England to force that idea on the ministry of that country. I have listened with a great deal of attention, and I may say patience too, to the long address of the hon. member from the County of Carleton. He says he has given this subject his attention prior to the elections, and turned it over, and revolved it in what he is pleased to term his mind, and come to the conclusion that it will be beneficial. I have listened, willing to be convinced, ready to yield to reason whether it comes from a friend or an opponent; and I must confess I have not discovered anything to lead me to believe that his premises are correct. When, in the early part of the Session, we had under discussion the Governor's Speech, I took occasion to express my disappointment at the policy which the Government were pleased to set forth in that Speech, not in reference to a Union of the Colonies, but in reference to the great public works which should have been taken up. I said I regretted that the Government was not formed on any defined policy. I then expressed my desire and intention to give them my support so far as they introduced measures which I believed for the good of the country. Not taking my position as a tame follower, or servile supporter of the Government, I have supported them when their measures were good, and opposed them when I considered they were not so. On the Militia Bill I opposed them, as I thought the money could be better expended. The Post Office Bill I supported, thinking it would save some \$3,000 or \$4,000 a-year to the country. I supported the Treasury Note Bill also, because I believed it would be the means of saving a large amount of money to the country. And now lest the people might misconstrue my position on Confederation, I desire to express my opinions on these Resolutions, so that I may not be misinterpreted or misunderstood by my constituents on a question, the greatest that ever came before this House. I say it is of great importance, and therefore we feel a deep regret that we are called on to discuss it, for it has not grown out of our wants, but of the local necessities of Canada—out of the differences which exist between Upper and Lower Canada, and He and their pecuniary difficulties. We all