

the approval of the Federal Government. This House would be divided in a great way, the great municipal bodies throughout Canada, for the management of local affairs. Again I say this for the good of the country. I will waive any objections I have to the Resolutions of His Honor the Leader of the Government, and will give them my hearty support; but I say, and do, that we require a united effort to resist any invasion of our rights and liberties. Taking away the population of a territory, is a serious affair. It is here that the interest of our own masters is. And if our party does not please us, we can have another; but the moment we would go into Confederation we would cease to have any control over matters which concern ourselves. The other colonies speak of us now with the greatest contempt; and then, what offence would we have? All we would get would be by begging. Therefore, I will resist, to the utmost of my power, any attempt, either to drive or lead us into Confederation.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES: When this question came before us last year, there was a Resolution submitted by which the members who supported it would be pledged to support the Quebec Scheme; and as I was not in favor of that scheme, I opposed that Resolution, but still I am in favor of Confederation on fair terms. It has been argued by the hon. member for the East Point (Mr. Henley) that, as attempts have been made to force it upon the people of New Brunswick, that, therefore, we should not admit even the principle. He believes we have a Constitution which cannot be taken away from us without the consent of the people. Well, then, if we have, how can an admission of the principle draw us into Confederation? I shall support the Resolution of the hon. member for St. Peter's (Mr. Whelan), which states that no action is to be taken till after a general election; and I am glad to be able now to express my opinion, so that, at the election the constituency I represent may return a member who is opposed to it if they desire to do so. I think it is better fairly and openly to state our opinion, so that there may be no misapprehension as to our position. Attempts have been made to draw a parallel between the Union of the Colonies, and the Union of Ireland with Great Britain; but I cannot see any similarity between them. An agitation has been kept up in Ireland for many years, chiefly on account of religious disabilities; but which I believe will soon be done away with my objections to the Quebec Scheme were on a financial basis. Eighty cents a head, with a light duty abridged on a fair basis, and in view of the comparative smallness of our debts, would be entitled to the interest of something like a half a million of money. When we consider that for five or six months of the year we are bound up by ice, and the great aids of prosperity by the railroad would be spilling past us. I admit that, taking that peculiarity of our position into view, we should get a greater sum than 80 cents per head, which would only be about one third of our revenue. All they would pay for us would not amount to a great deal. I think the grant should be doubled; then there would not be so much objection to that scheme. As to being swamped in the Legislature, I have no fear of being treated with injustice. We see what influence a few men born of Ireland going into the British Parliament have, and it would be the same here. Even if they were disposed to treat us with injustice, they could not so completely crush our colleagues as to send them upon the small population would become less in proportion to the other colonies; but I do not look upon it in that light. We have plenty of unoccupied land yet, which, together with the fisheries would absorb a large population. I am quite satisfied to remain as we are; but I do not think, with the hon. member from St. Peter's, that whether we agree to have it or not will have little influence on this question. I think it is a proof that there is a pressure brought to bear upon the other Colonies that, while last year there was only a small minority in favour of Confederation, this year they passed Resolutions in favour of it, and yet it is pretty well known that a large majority of the people are opposed to it. Therefore, the influence is that if there is such a pressure on the large Colonies, we, of course, will have to follow. From the same time colonies were treated from friends, and the future

action of the people of the Colonies, they were governed by the old and the new, as it was called; but now Great Britain says, "You are the millions of people, and it is time for you to unite and look forward to the period when you will become a great nationality. And one of the first points in the world." These provisions have hinder every other progress; and they are perplexed by a superior race of mankind. (Gross selfishness) that is, while we, a great and powerful neighbor on our borders, and we would be much more easily absorbed, it is stated, than if united. Many persons say they would rather be absorbed into the American Union than be confederated with Canada; but they surely do not consider the enormous taxation to which admission to the United States would subject us. I think the Resolutions of the hon. the Leader of the Government are very wrong; and I do not believe with the hon. member from the East Point (Mr. Henley) that our Constitution would not be taken away from us—that Great Britain would still protect us, if we rejected Confederation. It is too much to expect that she would do so. It is the policy of the British Government to unite the Colonies; and I think our duty is to go flat in the face of the Despatch before us, and say we will not go into the Union on any terms. Great Britain will say we are sorry we cannot fall on your views; but your political position is such that you must go into Confederation. But if our Constitution cannot be taken away without the consent of the people, I do not see how it can prejudice us to admit the principle.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH: I would be glad if the hon. member would define his intention as to how far he would admit the principle. If we do not admit the principle we may have the right of submitting terms upon which we would enter the Union, and to which Her Majesty's Government might assent; but the moment we admit the principle we must submit to the Imperial Government or a Board of Delegates; and I would ask what would be the fate if the question were admitted to either?

Hon. Mr. DAVIES: I do not see how, merely admitting the principle, would prejudice our interests. I do not wish to send Delegates to England on the question, but suppose we did do so, it does not follow that we are to go into Confederation on any terms that may be dictated to us, if our constitution cannot be taken away.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH: If you do not admit the principle.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES: That does not follow. I believe that if we refuse to adopt the views of Great Britain on this question, she both can and will take away our Constitution. I think she has been preparing us for it.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: I do not see that there is anything before us that would lead us to think that we will be deprived of our Constitution if we do not go into Confederation; neither do I think we have any reason to fear such a result; and why then should we be asked to surrender it voluntarily? For my part, I see nothing to induce us to go into a Union with Canada. If the Canadians take it into their heads to agitate a Union of the Colonies, that is no reason that we should do so too. It is for ourselves to say whether we will go into the Union or not. I have no intention to go into the Union; for I do not see what we would gain by it. Our expenses and taxes would be increased, and our liberties would be curtailed. As our time to represent the people has nearly expired, we should leave the Constitution of the country as we found it, and if the people desire a change it will be for them to say so at the next election. There was nothing about this question when we were elected; and I do not think there is any necessity to discuss it at such a great length now. We are pretty well understood in the country. The Resolutions