

ation upon the people, that it is no wonder the people of this Colony with much anxiety the subject of this legislation. He was glad however to find, by the Resolutions submitted, that no fears need be entertained that they will commit in any way to the principle of Confederation. Indeed, if he had any objection to the Resolutions, it would be that the language in the last Resolution was rather too strong. It might imply that we were to contemplate that no terms could be given us; which would induce this Colony to comply with the desire of the British Government. He believed terms could be given, but he freely believed no terms would be given which would compensate us for the sacrifice we would make in going into Confederation. We have this to consider in tabling our Resolutions to see that they are not such as to prevent some hon. members from supporting them, although such hon. members may be opposed to Confederation; the Resolutions against Confederation last Session were carried by a majority of twenty, and if our Resolutions this Session are carried by a much smaller majority, it might injure the cause by allowing the pro-Confederates to misrepresent the feelings both of the House and of the country; by arguing that it indicated a change of sentiment in favor of Confederation. He hoped this House would be united in supporting a Resolution which, whilst drawn up in courteous language, will yet firmly express our refusal to acknowledge the principle of Confederation.

Mr. DUNCAN. I protest against a Union of Prince Edward Island with the Canadas upon any terms. We could not possibly gain anything by it, but it would certainly be prejudicial to us in every particular. We could not be benefited even by free and unrestricted commercial intercourse with them. Everything which could be exported from this Island, Canada produces; and, therefore, no trade of any importance can spring up between that Province and this Colony. If we were to send up into Canada, they would have to send them down again to Halifax for a market. As for fish, they can export enough to supply all North America. Our oxen, sheep, &c., all that we could supply them with; and I would say if they want them, let them pay for them. Their railroads and canals would not benefit us. As for our sending delegates to London, with a view to the procuring of better terms, the idea was absurd in the extreme. What concessions for our benefit could our two delegates—were we to send them—obtain against the opposition and enmity of the delegates of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Canadas—two for each of those Provinces, eight in all opposed to our two? Besides Canada has declared that she will not admit of any alteration in the Quebec Scheme, and even threatened that if the Imperial Government should insist upon making any she would withdraw her allegiance to the British Crown, and declare herself independent. Nothing could be more unjust to Prince Edward Island than representation on the basis of population, as laid down by that scheme, according to which the Canadas would have 100 representatives in the House of Commons, more than the aggregate of all the Colonies, the number assigned to us being only 5. Representation on this basis might do very well for Canada; but as respects Prince Edward Island, it would be nothing but mere mockery. Again, by that scheme, in exchange for our revenue, now £67,000, we should receive only some compensation in our part, agreed to give us £200,000 sterling to enable us to buy up the proprietary claims, we should still, in this point of view, be material sufferers. In fact the whole scheme has been devised for the benefit of Canada, and were we to go into it, we would, as I have said before, be losers in every particular. We would have to yield up our position of independence—the power to make our own laws and to direct the application of our own money—our local legislature would be the little better than a town council; and should our local revenue become inadequate, we would have to submit to the burthen of direct taxation; and, in fact all our interests would be sacrificed for the benefit of Canada. The Resolutions are by no means too strong. If it were possible I would wish to have them made still stronger.

Hon. Mr. WARBURTON. If the determination of the great majority of the House was—as he believed it was—to declare against a Union of Prince Edward Island with Canada, upon any terms, that determination could not be expressed in language too strong. It was necessary to give the House Government to understand that his resolution on that head was conclusive. Our representation by 5 members to the House of Commons would be of no service to us. The allowance to us of 80 cents per head of our population, as determined by the Census of 1861, in exchange for our revenue, and in full settlement of all future demands upon the General Government, would be a palpable injustice—£48,000 for a revenue already nearly double that amount! Besides, according to the system of taxation which obtained in Canada, our taxation would be doubled. To give us any chance of justice at all, the Union, should we be forced to accept, it should be a Legislative Union. In a Federal Union we should have no power at all; our Local Legislature would avail us nothing; and, in that case, it would be as well that our Legislative Halls should be blown up in the air. If we were to be compelled to enter into a Union at all, he would prefer a Legislative one; but he believed scarcely one man in the Island, certainly not many, would consent to a Union of any kind. If we looked to history, we should find a warning against the Quebec scheme in the unequal and ill-assented Union of Ireland with England.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH. Last Session, I supported the Resolution submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the Government, (Hon. J. C. Pope); and I did so because I believed that a Union of Prince Edward Island with Canada and the other British American Provinces upon the terms laid down in the Quebec Scheme, would be disastrous to her best interests. I conceive my position to be an exceptional one, and that, from its peculiarity, although we should be taxed equally with the peoples of the other Provinces for Railways, Canals and other Public Works in Canada, it was not in the nature of things that we could derive any direct benefit from them. During five months of the year, cut off as we are by an icy barrier from the continent, I considered that we could hold no commercial intercourse whatever with the other Federated Provinces; and that, therefore our Union with them, except upon terms very different from those contained in the Report of the Quebec Convention, would have been one of extreme hardship and injustice. Another objection on which I had to the Union was that according to the Scheme laid down in the Report, representation to the House of Commons is to be based upon population. Representation on that basis is as objectionable, as it respects New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, as it is with respect to Prince Edward Island; but as being objectionable as applied to those other two Provinces, does not render less so to Prince Edward Island. Upper Canada is a growing country, and her population will rapidly increase; and as that increases, so, according to the Quebec scheme of representation, her representation in the Federal House of Commons would increase, whilst that of Prince Edward Island would decrease. And, in fact, if the increase in the population of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick does not, in the future, grow more rapidly than it has in the past, they will also, if the plan be strictly carried out, be losers, instead of gainers, as respects legislative representation. Thus, as respects representation on the basis of population, the scheme appeared to me to be unjust to us, and I was therefore prepared to go against it; and the result of our deliberations upon it in this House was its re-