

it did when waging war for the preservation of property to which the great majority in the Country disputed its right. Like results would, he believed, follow in England and Ireland from the disestablishment of the Irish Church, and the results of our experience in this matter we were bound to point out to our fellow-subjects in England. Representations on this subject had been made by our late Governor, Lord Monck, in the House of Lords, and also by Sir Francis Hincks; but he (Mr. Holton) thought we would give immense force to the representations by setting them forth in the form of an address from that House. He had thus endeavoured to place before the House the considerations impelling him to make this motion, and would only express the hope that this Parliament would in its first vote on topics of Imperial concern give a vote which would be in the spirit of freedom and of right, and which would tend to the honour and perpetuity of the Empire, a vote which he felt sure would send gladness to the hearts of hundreds of thousands of our own people in this country, and of millions of our fellow subjects all over the globe.

Sir John A. Macdonald replied with considerable warmth. He was, he said, bound to assume that the hon. member for Chateauguay had carefully made up his mind on this subject. But while cheerfully assuming that the same compliment could not be paid to the hon. gentleman's object, for the motion was as mischievous as could well be made in that House; he admitted at the outset that we ought not to make such a movement as this on any ordinary occasion, that such action should only be taken on high and important occasions, only in a matter of supreme necessity. Now where was the supreme necessity? The hon. gentleman made out no case. Was there any danger of the Bill not passing? Had it not been passed by a unanimous majority of the House of Commons, and even in the House of Lords? The hon. gentleman admitted it would pass; that of late they always assented to the voice of the people. Where then was the necessity for our interference? The measure had been approved by the people, had passed the House of Commons, and was certain to become law. Why interfere? Where was the necessity? Why interfere in a matter over which we had no control, and which did not concern us? Why meddle officially, and render ourselves likely to be told, "Mind your own business?" The hon. member acknowledged that our Parliament should not deal with such a matter, except in a case of supreme necessity.

formité au droit propres à assurer l'honneur et la perpétuation de l'Empire, que ce vote sera de nature à réjouir les cœurs de centaines de milliers de gens de chez nous et de millions de nos compatriotes de toutes les parties du monde.

Sir John A. Macdonald réplique avec beaucoup de verve. L'honorable député de Chateauguay a sans doute longuement réfléchi à la question. L'on ne peut toutefois pas être impressionné par l'objectif visé, car cette motion compte parmi les plus malveillantes jamais présentées. Le député admet d'abord qu'il ne faut pas prendre de telles mesures pour des questions ordinaires qu'il faut les réserver aux questions extraordinaires, et en cas d'extrême nécessité. Or, où réside cette nécessité extrême? L'honorable député ne l'a pas démontré. Y a-t-il quelque danger que ce Bill ne soit pas adopté? N'a-t-il pas été adopté à l'unanimité à la Chambre des communes, et même à la Chambre des Lords? L'honorable député admet qu'il sera adopté et que depuis quelque temps on s'en remet toujours à la volonté du peuple. Pourquoi devrions-nous nous en occuper? Cette Loi a été approuvée par la population et adoptée par la Chambre des communes, et elle entrera certainement en vigueur. Pourquoi nous en mêler? Où est la nécessité? Pourquoi nous occuper d'une question qui n'est pas de notre ressort et ne nous concerne pas? Pourquoi intervenir officiellement et courir le risque qu'on nous réponde de nous mêler de nos affaires? L'honorable député reconnaît que notre Parlement ne devrait pas s'occuper d'une telle question, sauf en cas de nécessité extrême.