

The question was distinctly put to Sir John Thompson, Minister of Justice, in Parliament, by Mr. Choquette, whether Continental Union, or, as they termed it, Annexation, was a lawful opinion, and the Minister of Justice answered that it was, provided the means were lawful.\* The means employed by the Continental Union Association were strictly lawful. Its declared object was to "obtain, with the leave of the Imperial Government, the submission of the question to the Canadian people, and to prepare the people for the vote." The consent of the Imperial Government was most distinctly recognized as indispensable.

I had not the slightest personal interest in the matter of any kind. Whether my course was right or wrong, I was actuated solely by the conviction which I had long entertained, and which I shared with public men in England, whose patriotism as well as their loyalty was unquestioned, that the re-union of the English-speaking race on this continent would be beneficial to both branches of the race, especially to the Canadian branch, and that it would be not less advantageous to the mother country.

In January, 1893, I spoke at a meeting of the Continental Union Association, and intimated that I was on the point of leaving Toronto on my annual health trip to the South. No sooner had my back been turned than Mr. Castell Hopkins, as a member of the St. George's Society,

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\* "Mr. Choquette—Would a speech favouring annexation be seditious ?

"Sir John Thompson--Not if the person thought that the Constitution should be changed by lawful means."—*Debates of the House of Commons of the Dominion of Canada*, (May 19, 1892,) Vol. xxxv, col. 2833.