

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, May 6th.

## [Continuation of Debate on Fortifications.]

Col. GRAY considered that enough had been said to show that we should depend upon ourselves. England had promised if we built our fortifications to supply ammunition and guns. Now these works were to be constructed on money obtained in England on the guarantee of the Imperial Government. The question was simply this—were those fortifications desirable or not? An hon. member had stated that an iron clad ship could enter the harbor of Fortmouth in spite of the fortifications. He then went on to show that this position was incorrect, and that at Charleston the old fort of Sumpter had resisted the whole power of the American fleets backed by American daring and pluck. No one desired war with the American people, who spoke our language and were of the same race with ourselves, but let us suppose it possible. Were we, under the belief that it was possible, to take no steps to defend ourselves? He reviewed the argument of the honorable member for Lambton with regard to the practicability of invasion, notwithstanding the fortifications of Toronto and Hamilton. He said this policy was the first of the kind which as a Dominion we were called upon to assume, and he thought it was incumbent on us to assume it. He said further that while England paid something like 25s. a head for the maintenance of her armies and navy we only paid 1s.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON complained of having been taunted with keeping silence on this subject, and rose to show that he was not afraid to express his sentiments. Five years ago he had said that the measure of fortification was necessary, but we had nevertheless got on very well without it, and still do so. He did not want to retort insinuation for insinuation, but we might ask if the measure was not withheld until those honors which the honorable gentleman so worthily wears were thrust upon him. He admitted, however, that the time had arrived when we should assume the burden of our own defence, instead of fostering it upon the overtaxed people of the mother country; but nevertheless, we might be permitted to inquire whether the proposed fortifications were necessary. He had lived for a considerable length of time, during which there had been no difficulty with the United States, and he thought he might live for some time longer and not see one. A quarrel, however, might arise, and it would be necessary to defend ourselves.

Hon. Mr. GALT did not think that the Government could pursue any other course than that which they were pursuing. They are merely carrying out their share of a treaty with the Imperial Government, and they had neither information nor details to submit to the House. There was a difference between the position of the Government in the matter of these defences and the Parliament of England in the matter of her coast defences. In England Parliament were the sole judges of the position, here we were not, but only jointly so with the British Government. It could not be doubted, however, that the obligations of self defence rested with us. It was for England to consider on what condition she would retain us in connection with her, and she has told us that she cannot defend us without our aid, and she requires from us the construction of certain fortifications. The connection with England exposes us to dangers which we accept. He

believed that it is for the advantage of England to retain her connection with us. It has been assumed by writers in England that Canada, in the event of war, would be a source of expense to England, and that it would be better and cheaper for England if we were quite independent and she had neither direct or indirect interest in us. He believed that a period would come when this country, from increase of population and diversity of interests, would be independent of Great Britain, although he hoped it would not be in his day, and he thought our present ought to be framed with an eye to that future, so that when separation does occur, we should be in a position to maintain our independence. As a people we were rapidly approaching national manhood, but still the protection of England was necessary to us. In giving us fortifications and organizing an efficient militia, the Government are pursuing the best course to make us masters of our destinies, and he would be wanting in his duty if he hesitated for one moment to give his support to the Government in this measure.

Mr. O'CONNOR was assured by some members that it was impossible for this country to defend herself in the event of a war with the United States. It was said that the population of the United States had increased; so had ours. It was also said that we had an extended frontier; so had the United States. We had before been engaged in war with the United States; we had not then got the worst of it. He thought it poor policy to tell the people of the United States that we were not in a position to defend ourselves. They were a divided people, we were all united, as opposed to the United States and had the whole power of Great Britain at our back. It was a very grave question which he was sure the gentleman on the treasury benches had gravely considered.

Mr. BRATTY said he held the gentleman on the treasury benches responsible for the legislation of the House and he would vote against the amendment and for the motion. He hoped the time would never arrive when the Dominion of Canada would be tamely surrendered. He was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but he might safely predict that that the time would never come. The very females of Buffalo, who ought to have the milk of human kindness in them, were hostile to British institution and cheered the Fenians. It could be seen from what happened in Mexico what would be the result to us in the event of separation from England. He hoped the vote would almost be a unanimous one in favour of the measure.

Sir GEO. E. CARTIER said that the motion in amendment was simply "stuff," and read from the proceedings of the House to show what was done in 1862 with regard to a similar Bill in 1862 and in 1865, and he complained that he had not been treated fairly by the member for Lambton, who had said that he had purposely delayed the measure, inasmuch as he had given notice of it so early as the 25th of March and had afforded every opportunity for the free and full expression of public opinion on it. He read an extract from a despatch to show that the whole power of the Empire would be placed at our disposal for our defence.

Mr. MACKENZIE rose merely to defend himself from the charge of inconsistency in having voted differently from what he now did on a former occasion. He said before, and said now that he would expend the last penny for the defence of the country. He thought it was a fair inference to draw that

the hon. gentleman opposite had not been prepared with his measure at an earlier time. He spoke of four delegates from old Canada to London, building the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick two years before a confederation, as being positively absurd.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said that the hon. member for Lambton had repeated his speech instead of simply making an explanation in violation of the courtesy extended to him. If the delegation to London had acted deceitfully and untruly, the member of Lambton was *particeps criminis*, for he had voted for the \$1,000,000, which they required as an earnest to the British Govt. that they were ready and willing to undertake their own defence. He read an extract from a speech of Mr. Mackenzie's on a former occasion to show that he had heartily supported what he now called a diplomatic vote.

Mr. WELLS wanted to know if £111,000 stg. was to be expended in Montreal, it was not stated how much was to be expended west of Montreal.

Sir G. E. CARTIER could only say that the largest amount would be expended at Kingston, where there the defences would be of a two-fold character—Naval and Military.

Mr. RYMAL wanted to know if nothing was to be done in the way of naval protection for the upper lakes, as assuredly in the event of a collision with the United States, the western peninsula would be a scene of conflict.

Mr. MACDONALD (Antigonish) contended that if \$1,000,000 had been voted by the old Province of Canada for defensive purposes the old Province ought to pay the money.

The vote being taken on the amendment there were: Yeas, 51; Nays, 102.

The House went into Committee, and the Resolution was carried and reported upon, when the House adjourned at 3 a. m.

## DEFENCE.

The following are the Resolutions submitted to the House of Commons by the Hon. Sir G. E. CARTIER for the construction of works of defence, on the 1st inst:

1. That it is expedient to provide that a sum not exceeding £1,100,000 sterling be applied to the expense of constructing works of fortification for the defence of Montreal and other cities and places west of Montreal, and also for the defence of the city of St. John, in New Brunswick.

2. That it is expedient that the sums required for the purpose mentioned in the preceding resolution be raised from time to time by loan, under the guarantee of the Imperial Government, and that the sums so raised, with the interest thereon, be a charge on the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada, next after the appropriation for the construction of the Intercolonial Railway, as shall also such further sums as may be necessary to repay the said loan, either by way of a sinking fund, not exceeding 1 per centum per annum on the principal sum so raised for the purpose of paying off the same, or in such other way as the Government in Canada may determine.

In speaking to the motion for going into Committee, the Minister of Militia remarked that the Imperial Govt. would assume the responsibility and cost of maintaining and improving the defensive works at Quebec and Halifax; and that that Government expected the Dominion to assume a fair share of responsibility in its own defence and protection. The matter had been brought up in the conferences between the Colonial delegates and the Imperial authorities; and an arrangement had been come to which was satisfactory to the Home Government, and would in all probability be satisfactory to the people of this country. It had been reported in several papers that all the money which he appropriated would be spent in Montreal on works there; but this was not true, the fact being that the fortifications would be created