

now before the House, is that a humble address should be presented to Her Majesty, setting forth that it is in the interest of Canada to have the control of the commercial treaties which we may have to enter into with foreign countries, and this request is not an excessive one. So far, no one has ventured to say that such a request was not a legitimate one, or that it was not the natural crowning of the National Policy inaugurated by us in 1879. This request does not embody anything disloyal; it does not embody anything objectionable to the Mother Country if she wishes to treat us as a mother treats her children; she cannot take umbrage at it except in the case that she would wish to keep this country under the control of her own merchants, in contradiction to the interests of our common country. Now, Mr. Speaker, I am myself in favor of these resolutions, although my vote is not to be considered one of non-confidence in the Government on that question. On the contrary, I maintain that this proposition is not a vote of censure against the Government, for to the present day the Government, instead of being open to censure on this subject is deserving of praise for the fact that the policy that it inaugurated in 1879 is the policy upheld by the resolutions now moved. If we may control our own Tariff we may also and we should control our commercial relations with foreign countries. We ought to have control of those commercial treaties which will enable us to utilize and dispose of the surplus products of our manufactures in the near future. I do not think, Mr. Speaker, that, as I said just now, these resolutions are injurious to our interests. I do not, moreover, think that they bring us directly towards political independence from the Mother Country. The Imperial Government is not obliged to grant them to us, and should it not see fit to do so it will not, to use popular language, give us a beating for making it; we shall simply be told that the Imperial Government does not feel inclined to grant us so great a latitude as that that would be given us by conceding to us our commercial independence. Possibly then the country may give vent to some expression of the popular feeling; it may happen that upon our request being refused the country will enquire if an injustice is not being done to it. Time will settle these matters, and when I speak of time, many years may go by until it does come, but with time will rest the settling of that important question of the independence of our country. We have a sufficient extent of territory, we have a sufficiently large population, our country is rich enough to aspire to a national existence. We have oftentimes been told in the course of the debates on the National Policy, that the object of that policy was to build up a country and to establish the basis of a great nation. I do not, therefore, see, Mr. Speaker, why we should not at once adopt the consequences of the principle which we have established, and I consequently fail to see why the resolutions now before the House should be charged with being disloyal. I repeat it—my intention in voting for these resolutions is not to show disloyalty to the Mother Country. She has granted us much already, and will probably grant us this new request, for the Mother Country apparently sees that our country is making too rapid strides; that this country is already too great a one for her to control its destinies in an arbitrary or despotic fashion. Thus, if our request be granted, so much the better; it will be a cause of rejoicing for the country. Since it has been considered advisable to spend such considerable amounts to obtain for us commercial treaties with France, Spain and the East Indies, there is no doubt that if the present request is granted to us, that we shall at once have obtained the object which we have had in view up to this day. Mr. Speaker, as I said just now, the vote that I propose to give on this question is not one of non-confidence. It is a vote expressive of an opinion which I have held long since, an opinion which I have expressed on other occasions before the electors and before the public

and I do not think it is forbidden to give utterance to one's opinions on subjects of this importance in this Parliament, simply because we are told that it is inopportune to make such a request. I do not look at matters in that light, Mr. Speaker. I do not see that the matter implies an insult or that it is inopportune to make the request to the Mother Country. If she refuses, we will repeat our request; we will insist, and before the unanimous expression of that feeling by Canada she will have to give in some day, as she has already given in on many other points. That day will be a grand one for the country, and those who have to-day the courage of their opinions will be able to congratulate themselves later on for having rendered so great a service to their country. For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I will vote in favor of the resolutions of the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake).

Mr. COURSOL. I am prepared to express my approval of this resolution in the abstract. I have devoted a good deal of attention to this question, and after full deliberation I have come to the conclusion to give my assent to the proposition. It may appear at first sight to be a motion of non-confidence in the Government, but I do not view it in that light, if we are to believe the remarks made by the hon. mover in introducing the resolutions. Like the hon. gentleman who has just sat down, I do not consider that in voting for the resolution I am expressing a want of confidence in the Government, but I wish to affirm a principle which I believe to be correct. If the right of petition belongs to the humblest British subject it certainly belongs to this Parliament, and in this instance the resolution asks Her Majesty the Queen to take into consideration a certain request which we make. We ask the Government of Great Britain to consider whether it would not be advisable to grant us certain concessions which we believe will be for the benefit of this country. It may be said that this is not the proper way to approach Her Majesty, that in our present circumstances we cannot obtain such a power, and that it must necessarily be refused. Mr. Speaker, if the English Government were to refuse such a request, I, for one, would like to know the reason why. But if, because we are in the dependent position of colonists, we are refused this petition then, as loyal subjects of Her Majesty the Queen, we should accept the situation. I would have preferred that this resolution should have been made at another time and under other circumstances, also that it should have been expressed in clearer and plainer language. Nevertheless, their principle I approve; I see no impropriety in voting for this resolution. I declare again that it is not, in my opinion, a motion of want of confidence in the Government. We have already had two instances, this Session, of resolutions being moved in amendment to the motion to go into Supply, when the resolutions were moved by the friends of the Government. Last night we voted in favor of an Address to Her Majesty, asking her to accord certain political rights to Ireland. If we may pray for political rights for Ireland, why may we not pray for our own rights? Therefore, holding the views set forth in the conclusion of the resolutions—views which I have already expressed before my constituents—I feel it my duty to vote for the resolutions.

Mr. ROYAL (in French). Mr. Speaker, I will vote against the resolutions of the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake) for two reasons: First, because I look upon it as a vote of non-confidence in the Government, and, secondly, because I do not think that this method of discussing the independence of the country is the one which should be adopted. I believe in matters that are clearly defined. Place the question in a pure and simple form before the Parliament, divest it of all that can take away from the force of debate, and my opinion will not be an undecided one. Moreover, we have no complaints to make so far against the Govern-