

subject at this moment, but I do hope and I do expect that the hon. gentleman will place the House at the earliest possible moment in full possession of all these facts and of all these papers to which he has alluded, and will at an early date give us an opportunity of having the fullest discussion on this most important question. I will say this for myself, that I am now, as I always have been, prepared to go as far as any man can possibly go in endeavoring to conciliate the good-will of the great nation beside us. I regard that as a matter of incalculable value to Canada, although I may differ extremely from the hon. gentleman in regard to the mode in which he has been attempting to obtain it. I am afraid that, when these matters come to be considered, the best that we can say will be that possibly out of this evil some good may come, and that possibly the people of Canada may at last find that it is necessary for them to assert their right, in all matters relating to their trade and commerce in North America, to manage their own affairs in the fullest extent. I believe, and I have good reason for believing, that, if that negotiation could have been entrusted wholly and entirely to Canadian hands, very much greater and better results would have accrued to us from such conduct than have resulted in the present instance. I fear that our cause was prejudged by some, at all events, of those to whom it was entrusted, long before they touched the shores of this continent, and that they had then made up their minds that no interests of ours should be allowed to interfere with the supposed interests of the parent country.

Mr. MITCHELL. I believe an agreement has been arrived at by the leaders of both sides to close this debate at 6 o'clock, and, therefore, although I would like to say something criticising some of the views of the right hon. gentleman and criticising also and differing from the views of the two gentlemen who have spoken on the Opposition side, time will not allow of it, because I do not want to prolong the discussion, especially as it would not be fair to discuss the terms of the treaty until we have some further information before us. I must thank the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Joncas) for the manner in which he referred to me in this connection, and I must congratulate both the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague) and the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Joncas) for the able way in which they performed the important duty of placing the views of the Government of the day before this House. I do not agree with the statement contained in the Speech that both nations will be satisfied with this treaty. I do not agree with that. The treaty does not strike me as being in the interest of Canada; I do not see that concessions are made to Canada. But as I said before, I would merely wish to put my statements on record as dissenting from the declaration of satisfaction which is affirmed in the Address, and which is supposed to represent the opinion of the whole House. I will make no further remarks on this subject than to thank the House for giving me an opportunity of setting myself right in reference to the discussion which may come up after the papers are laid upon the Table. There are a variety of other matters in this Speech to which I also take objection. I think that the reference to the increase of trade requires the most close examination at our hands, and that some steps ought to be taken which would lead to that result. But looking at the clock, it is impossible that we can deal with these subjects now, and I merely make these statements in order that it might not be said hereafter that I sat silent, and by my silence gave assent to the statements contained in the Queen's Speech with reference to this particular subject. There is another thing I want to say. I do not like these arrangements made by the leaders of the two great parties in this House, and although I am generally in pretty good accord in voting with the hon. gentlemen on this side of the House, there were some statements made

by the hon. gentleman in my eye in relation to the railway policy of this Government, and also in relation to the National Policy, which I do not entirely agree with. Now, Sir, I will say in relation to the National Policy, that I was one who supported the right hon. gentleman in 1878, and was defeated on it. I also supported him in 1882, as an independent member, on his National Policy. But, Sir, the National Policy of 1878 is not the National Policy of to-day. When they put twenty-five per cent. on goods consumed in this country, is that to be compared with the duties which they impose to-day? I am credibly informed by some respectable merchants in Montreal that the present tariff amounts to 145 per cent. upon certain classes of goods. Is that the National Policy I supported in 1878 and 1882? No, Sir, it is not. I wish to put myself right upon that point. And then in relation to the railway policy, I differ somewhat from my hon. friend. I believe the policy pursued by the Government of the right hon. gentleman is correct in constructing a railway from one side of this continent to the other. I have supported them in that policy all through, but I must say in relation to some portions of their policy, it may be that we shall have to explain why it is that we cannot go on giving them complete support. Just one thing more. The right hon. gentleman has pointed out what he thinks has created the prosperity of this country. He has ventured to say that the reason why the North-West country is not as prosperous now as he claims it ought to be, lies at the door of hon. gentlemen on this side of the House, who, as he says, have decried that country. Well, Sir, it may be that there is some blame attaching to them in that respect; it may be that hon. gentlemen on this side of the House have too often condemned the measures which were proposed by the Government. But I tell the right hon. gentleman that the cause of the retarded settlement in the North-West during the past few years is the misgovernment and mismanagement of his Government, which led to a rebellion in which they spent \$7,000,000. That is the real cause why the country has been kept in a backward state for the past four or five years; and if the hon. gentleman had paid more attention to the administration and the conduct of the public business of that country, he would have prevented the rebellion, and we would not now have to deplore the unfavorable accounts of that country which are now going abroad and retarding immigration. But on all those subjects I shall take another opportunity of saying something during the progress of the Session.

Paragraphs 1 to 13, inclusive, agreed to.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved:

That the said resolutions be referred to a Select Committee composed of Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Hector Langevin, and Messrs. Montague and Joncas, to prepare and report the draft of an Address in answer to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both Houses of Parliament.

Motion agreed to.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD, from the Committee, reported the draft of an Address, which was read the first and second time and ordered to be engrossed, and to be presented to His Excellency by such members of the House as are of the honorable the Privy Council.

SUPPLY.

Mr. BOWELL moved:

That this House will, on Tuesday next, resolve itself into a Committee to consider of a Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

Motion agreed to.