

cedure that I am now discussing. We are about to discuss one and the same Act of the two branches of Parliament; and if it is one and the same Act of the two branches of Parliament, should it not be taken up by one branch, discussed there, and then be brought to the other Chamber in the form in which it will leave the first Chamber, in order that the second Chamber may have the views of the first Chamber before them, and may amend the resolution or accept it as it is. If that is not done and the two Chambers attempt to pass one and the same resolution, and if the resolutions are not identical when they cross the thresholds of the two Chambers, how long shall we be carrying on the discussion and exchanging our resolutions before we agree upon one and the same text? I do not know whether my English correctly expresses my thought. This is the first objection that I see to these resolutions being presented to the two Chambers concurrently; because, if we start amending these resolutions, as it is our right to do, and it is the right of the Commons to do, I do not see when we shall ever unite and agree.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: There are three ways by which Parliament may express itself; one is by statute having the sanction of the Senate, the Commons and His Excellency the Governor General representing His Majesty. Parliament may also express itself by a joint address, an address of both Houses; or by an address of either House. It is laid down that the House of Commons may express itself by address; likewise the Senate may do so. It need not be a joint address; it may be an expression of the opinion, the sentiment, or the judgment of either House. So far as a resolution is concerned, although I do not speak with the greatest degree of confidence on the subject, I am unaware that there can be a joint resolution of both Houses. A resolution is simply an expression of opinion of either Chamber as to what Parliament should do; it has not attached to it the sanction of law that a statute has.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Would the honourable gentleman allow me a question? If these resolutions are adopted, is it the intention to send them over to the Commons to have them approved by the Commons?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: No. The object of these resolutions is that a general expression of Parliament may be had as to

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the desirability of ratifying this Treaty for the purpose of conveying immediately either to the Peace Conference or to France, who is desirous of an expression upon this subject, the assurance that in due course the Treaty will be ratified. It is quite apparent that the introduction of a Bill will necessarily occupy some time. The Peace Conference has been extremely anxious that effect shall be at once given to this Treaty. There is a provision whereby effect is not given to the Treaty until three of the Allied Powers become parties thereto. It is highly desirable for manifest reasons that this should be done at the earliest possible date. Not only are the Allies anxious that this should be done, but also Germany itself, so that that Power may at once give effect to the obligations which have been placed upon it. It has been suggested that the speedier way of doing this would be for the Parliament of Canada, by resolution of both Houses, to signify its agreement with the Treaty. A resolution of both Houses does not, in my judgment, necessarily operate as ratification of the Treaty; but it would be a fair earnest of what Parliament will do when the Bill comes before it. It is only for that purpose that this is being done.

In regard to this Chamber following the resolution of the Commons, that is not absolutely necessary. This Chamber could give an expression by way of resolution as to the desirability of ratifying the Treaty which would be possibly somewhat different from the expression of opinion of the House of Commons. It is for those receiving the resolutions to form a judgment from the expression of opinion of both Houses of Parliament as to the probability of ratification.

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE: Will the Bill be founded on the resolutions of both Houses?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: I cannot but think that the course which it is proposed to follow is not the course which should commend itself to this honourable House. I draw the attention of the leader of the Government to this fact, that whenever anything is to be done by Parliament it is done by Bill; and I understand that the intention is to have a Bill brought up following the resolutions. The Bill is introduced in one House or the other, and, after having been passed by that branch, is sent to the other branch of Parliament. That is the only means whereby unity of action may be secured. If we proceed as has