

upon territorial acquisition, but upon the good feeling which we should mutually endeavour to promote in the country and our home. (Hear, hear.) If we were to acquire this property it would be necessary to extinguish the claims, not only of the Hudson's Bay Company, but of the Indians by whom a great portion of it was inhabited, and it was right that we should know the expense at which this was to be accomplished. There had been careless and random mention of six or seven or eight millions of dollars, which had been treated as a mere trifling sum, but if the sum was not judiciously expended, it was they who should be made answerable for its outlay, and they would not be giving satisfaction to the people of the other Provinces if, in addition to the increased customs taxation which they should be compelled to lay upon them to meet expenditure in their service no less than that of Quebec or Ontario, they should proceed to impose additional burdens for such an object as the present. For a subject of such vast importance, time should be allowed for consideration, and he should therefore oppose the resolutions.

Mr. Magill said, that as far as his observation extended, the resolutions had been opposed mainly by the representatives of the Maritime Provinces, who had hitherto been in the habit of looking eastward over the ocean prairie, and as the whole Dominion might look out towards the Rocky Mountains, and over the great Pacific Ocean. They (from the Maritime Provinces) had among them gentlemen with a grasp of mind sufficient for the management of the affairs, not only of their own Provinces and of the Canadas, but of an entire Continent. After reference to the purchase by the United States of the Russian Territory, the honourable gentleman took objection to the procrastination recommended by the last speaker who had agreed to the advisability of the measure itself. Now, or never, was the occasion to take action, and the old adage was not the less a true one that procrastination was the thief of time. From the statement of the honourable member for Algoma, it was evident that the protection of civilization and mortality required our prompt interference. How had it happened that no good results had flowed from such missionary labours as had been productive of the happiest influence in Canada? Was it not, because it was not the interest of the Hudson's Bay Company to encourage missionary effort, knowing that the further the Indian was removed from civilization the more he was disposed to hunting the buffalo and the

[Mr. Thompson (Ontario North)]

muskrat (a laugh). Seeing around him such an array of intellect, he could not but feel regret that they should not be prepared to join hand and heart in so great an undertaking to which he could remember the time when no representative of Western Canada, avowing reform principles would have ventured to raise objection.

Dr. Parker said that an appeal had been made to them to acquire this increase of territory for the purpose of Christianizing its Indian population, as we had already Christianized our own, but thought that it might be doubtful whether we had any reason to regard the result of our efforts among the latter with any great complacency. A Mexican Indian, upon being told of the happiness of the hereafter, enquired whether he was likely to meet any Spaniards there, as in that case he should prefer to stay away, and he thought the Indians of this country might fairly hold the same opinions of ourselves. The control of the North-West Territory by the Hudson's Bay Company, the continuance of their charter, and the manner of its exercise, reflected opprobrium alike upon the country and the British Parliament. He would have no hesitation whatever in voting the necessary large expenditure if, by so doing, they could raise the Indian to the position of civilized humanity, but here there was no question of philanthropy, but of profit and loss, and they should be in a position to show the people that their outlay in this direction would be more than compensated by the consequent advantages. The Minister of Public Works had pointed out no such advantages. The sequence of the resolutions was most illogical, and he was astonished to find the House invited to draw such conclusions, from such premises. In support of the first resolution nothing had been advanced but a statement of the opinion of leading statesmen here. But public opinion, even though friendly to the annexation, had never declared itself in favour of the terms of annexation now proposed. Passing from the Atlantic Ocean through Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, we came upon a large tract unfit for occupation—the declaration written across the face of the earth that the districts which it set apart should remain divided. Similarly from the limit of western Canada to the first settlement at Fort Garry, on the verge of the valley said to contain ten thousand people, stretched eight hundred miles of desert, while beyond this valley lay a waste solitude, and past the Rocky Mountain barrier, but a nar-