

Government to take any other steps than these it was now taking, and argued that the House had every check in its power, as accounts of expenditure would have to be brought down yearly, and Parliament has the power at any time to assert them, just as the Imperial Parliament has with regard to the coast defences of England. Desiring to maintain connection with England, we must expect the conditions on which she deems it desirable to maintain that connection. She requires that we must aid in our own defence, and she tells us that that defence cannot be secured without an organized militia. It was generally assumed in England that Canada would be a source of loss and a burden to the Empire in case of war. He believed the contrary. He did think a time would come in the history of the Dominion when it would be independent of Great Britain. That he conceived to be inevitable. He hoped it would not be in his day. What, then, should their policy be under such circumstances? If the policy of the member for Chateauguay were carried out, the inevitable result must be annexation to the United States. That he trusted would never be, and in order to avert it, in view of probable separation from the Mother Country, then their legislation should be such as to prepare themselves for a future state of national existence. While the inhabitants of the Dominion were yet young and required protection, the Mother Country extended her shield for their protection. But, in the meantime, it was obviously the duty of the people of the Dominion to protect themselves from having no choice in the future but that of annexation. He was resolved to vote for the Government proposition, believing it to be a step in the direction he had indicated; and in view of the great interests of the country, he trusted the Government would receive that support to which their present wise and far-sighted policy entitled them. (Cheers).

Hon. Mr. Johnson said it had been stated that this measure was the result of a bargain with the Imperial Government. But who made the bargain? It was a bargain he, for one, could not ratify, and he hoped the House would not in the absence of full explanations.

Hon. Mr. Chauveau said that the honourable member for Sherbrooke threw a new light upon the whole discussion, passing from the present he looked over the future of Canada, and while saying that our connection with England would not be perpetual, he could not but hope that the severance of that

[Mr. Galt (Sherbrooke).]

connection would not be within his own day. The member for Sherbrooke saw the two alternatives for Canada, either its independence or its annexation to the United States; but he (Mr. Chauveau) could say the French race would be the last people in the country to desire annexation. Their numerical inferiority to the other people in this country made them look to the connection with England as one of the great guarantees to themselves. While the people of the Dominion were overshadowed by their great neighbours, who invited to their shores all the fillibusters, Fenians, and bandits in the world, it was of the highest importance the Dominion should affirm its national existence by such preparations as would guarantee the peace of the country. The people of the Dominion were building their fortifications and preparing their movements not for the Empire itself, but for the future of the Dominion, and for their own prosperity.

Hon. Mr. Connell advocated the amendment at much length. He had, in common with his constituents, every desire to see the Dominion flourish; but he found unfortunately that every step they took plunged them deeper in debt and difficulty, and it was not to be wondered at under the circumstances that the people of New Brunswick should be restive—should feel wronged. The truth was they had been greatly deceived in almost every possible way. Instead of finding Confederation a benefit, they found that under it the taxation was not only greater, but of a kind such as they had never been accustomed to. In almost every step the present Administration had gone counter to the well defined views and feelings of the people of New Brunswick. Instead of endeavouring to conciliate that section, the very reverse course had been systematically adopted. First of all, the partizans of the Ministry cozened the people into believing the Dominion debt was not within 50 per cent of its present dimensions. Then the most unsatisfactory and unheard of tariff had been imposed; and, lastly, when the Government sought to apply a remedy, their efforts were equally unfortunate, and except in the single item of bread-stuffs, had heightened rather than diminished the evils complained of. Was it any wonder that complaints of injustice were becoming loud and frequent from Nova Scotia? Was it any wonder that his constituents were constantly writing to him expressing bitter disappointment at the fruits of Confederation? He had in his hand a letter from an