

sary since some of the delegates were desirous of hushing up the question with a view to the further dissemination of the erroneous impression as to the neutrality of the convention. Should such an impression be allowed to gain further currency it would seriously militate against the usefulness of the League. Notwithstanding the professed peaceableness of the annexationists, there was not, he maintained, the slightest probability of the peaceful consummation of their policy. "They were solving the bonds of society and revolutionizing the country in the purpose of maintaining the great principles of civil and religious liberty, but for the mere chance of commercial advantage." Anne he contended, would not redound to the great economic advantage of Canadian public as was so loudly claimed by the annexationists; it would sacrifice the agriculturists of the province to the preponderance of farming and manufacturing interests of the United States. He attacked the annexationists of perverting the views of the English government and people in regard to the separation of the colonies. The leaders of the Liberal party in England were not anti-imperialists. They had loudly disclaimed any intent or desire to hold the colonies in an unwarlike subjection. They were not anxious to get rid of the overseas dominions in proposing to extend to the colonies a larger measure of local autonomy. He did not agree with many of his fellow Conservatives that annexation was a mere matter of time; on the contrary, he was convinced that it would develop a deeper sense of attachment to the Mother Land, such as had appeared during the war of 1812.

Mr. R. Macdonald supported the resolution in a ranting pro-British speech. There was not, he believed, a single member of the convention who was an out and out annexationist although there were several who were suspected of annexation sympathies. He hoped to reclaim many of the annexationists (some of whom had signed the recent manifesto of pique and others with a view to forcing the English government to take notice of the sad condition of the colony) by holding out to them the prospect of the future prosperity of the country. The vaunted prosperity of the United States was fictitious, the result of heavy borrowings of English capital. It would indeed be ungrateful for Canada to secede at the moment when England had granted to them the right of self government. Annexation would be disastrous to the interests of Canada. They would lose control of the public lands, the customs duties and the postal system of the province. The liberal grants from the imperial treasury would be cut off. Taxation would be increased and they would be burdened with a part of the United States debt. Even though England should consent to a peaceful separation, which was most improbable, the Canadian people, he declared, would never agree to convert the free soil of the province into a slave state. In conclusion he appealed to both political parties "to clear their skirts of the annexationists" and "to unite in pressing upon the British government the necessity of procuring an entrance into the American market for Canadian products."

At this point, Messrs. Gamble and Mack attempted a diversion by