

whole difficulty. Let us, the Dominion, assume the debt. This would render justice to all. This objection of non-confidence in the Government is an old device of the Ministers. When the question of the seat of Government was discussed, Lower Canada was dragged into the sacrifice of her interests by the cry of want of confidence in the Government. A decision, not in the merits of the question, was thus arrived at adverse to the feelings of nine-tenths of the country.

His confidence in Parliament was unbounded—far greater than in any tribunal beyond the seas, that took little interest in our affairs. He condemned the carrying of this question to England, and various objections to his motion preferred by Quebec members, opposing the motion to assume this debt, and settle it amicably and promptly here, because of a mere silly cry, was preferring party to country—was to choose an outlet from a difficulty which must lead to serious trouble and injury to the country in the future. The award was unanimously regarded in Lower Canada as unjust, among other reasons for giving Upper Canada more than it at first claimed as its due. He was ready to take a vote on the motion, no matter whether the Government regarded it as one of want of confidence or not.

**Hon. Mr. McDOUGALL (Lanark North)** thought if the House were considering a Confederation scheme, this motion would hardly have been out of place, but at the present time he regarded it as ill-timed. It opened up a field unpleasant to contemplate. It was unfortunate that each Province as it felt itself aggrieved should come here to redress. It argued badly for the future harmony of the Confederation. He did not approve of the action of the Government in this case. If they considered the award valid they should at once have acted on it, but they seemed to have suspended the action indefinitely. The award had been made and they should have at once apportioned the debt according to that decision. Looking at the case as a lawyer, he did not think that the arbitrators had proceeded on a right principle, but that was a matter to be decided by a legal tribunal. If the principle of partnership was to be the test of the justice of the award, he contended that Quebec had nothing to complain of. He was sorry that the people of the Lower Province, many of them the very people who had helped to bring about the present condition of affairs, should now complain of the result and create discontent in Quebec instead of endeavouring to allay the prevailing dissatisfaction.

The House divided on the motion of Hon. Mr. Holton, which was lost: yeas 16, nays 96.

**Mr. MILLS** moved in amendment to the amendment that all the words after “that,” be struck out, and the following substituted. “The division of the excess of debt of the former Province of Canada over and above the \$62,500,000 assigned to the Dominion by the British North American Act, having been referred to arbitrators appointed under authority of the said Act, and a majority of the Arbitrators so appointed having made an award, this House is of opinion that the Government, in the adjustment of accounts

between each Province and the Dominion, should act upon the basis of the award.”

A vote was taken without discussion, and the motion was lost: yeas, 25; nays, 84.

**Hon. Mr. IRVINE** said he had intended moving an amendment to that of the Minister of Militia, to order the Dominion’s assumption of the surplus debt and assets, and the consequent proportionable compensation of the Maritime Provinces; but after the two distinct expressions of the opinion in the House just taken, he did not think this the proper or opportune moment to submit his amendment. (*Hear, hear.*)

**Mr. JOLY** moved in amendment that the following words be added to the motion: “That this House regrets that the Government of Canada did not take any action in order to suspend the proceedings of the two remaining Arbitrators before the award was made, when requested so to do by the Government of Quebec.” In a speech of some length he censured the Government for not having interfered in time to prevent the occurrence of this difficulty, after having been twice appealed to in the most solemn manner by the Quebec Government, to stay the proceedings of the Arbitrators after the withdrawal of the representative of Quebec.

**Hon. Mr. ANGLIN** said that after the decided expression of the House in the two divisions which had just been taken, the hon. member for Lotbinière could hardly expect to carry his motion, and it would be as well not to press it.

**Hon. Mr. McDOUGALL (Lanark North)** said that if it was a covert attempt to commit the House to the principle that the award of an Arbitration was not valid if it was not a unanimous decision.

The House divided on the motion, which was lost: yeas, 15; nays, 95.

**Hon. Mr. DORION** announced that he would vote against the amendment of the Hon. Minister of Militia, because it committed the Quebec members to the position of the decision of a tribunal of which the House knew nothing and which was not even mentioned in the resolutions.

A division was taken on the amendment of Hon. Sir George-É. Cartier, which was carried: yeas, 68; nays, 41.

## YEAS

Messieurs

Archambault  
Beaty  
Bellerose

Baker  
Beaubien  
Benoit