

between individuals, and if I had a business proposal to make to a man I would not be very much flattered if, having my proposal before him, he should discuss the question of annexing me and causing my identity to disappear. It seems to me that we will do a great deal in this country to quiet a feeling of legitimate anxiety which exists if we now voice what is exactly the feeling of the country, because I have no hesitation in saying that there is not a public body in Canada that would not, upon this question, declare themselves, as it seems to me we ought to declare ourselves now. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, without wishing to delay in any way the interesting discussion which was going on yesterday, I beg to move that the following words be added to the main motion in your hands:

But, before resuming the discussion of the terms of the agreement concluded between the government of Canada and the President of the United States, and with a view to dispel the feeling of unrest created in Canada by comments made in both countries as to the political consequence of the agreement, the House wishes to affirm emphatically its determination to preserve intact the bonds which unite Canada to the British Empire, and the full liberty of Canada to control her fiscal policy and internal autonomy.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Mr. Speaker, it is quite evident that the incorrigible jokers or humorists, as my hon. friend (Mr. Monk) styled them, are not all on the other side of the line; we have some of them in Canada. My hon. friend (Mr. Monk) has spoken of some friend of mine on this side of the House who gave expression to certain utterances in his green and salad days, but we have all been young, and for my own part I am ready to confess that I have had my green and salad days too. However, they are over by this time with me, although it would seem that there are some men who are always in their green and salad days, no matter how mature in years they may be. I need not mention who the man is on that side of the House who is still in his green and salad days. Sir, this discussion in which we are now engaged has given rise to a great deal of comment on both sides of the line. Men there are on the other side of the line who have interpreted this arrangement as meaning ultimately the annexation of Canada to the United States. Men there are on this side of the line who have taken the same position, but I am glad to say there is not one man on this side of the House who has ever thought of such a thing. It appears that men there are on the side of the House on which my hon. friend (Mr. Monk) sits whose views upon this question are disturbed, and who believe that in the discussion of this question of a better trade

arrangement between us and our neighbours the Canadian people would be so wanting in self-respect that they might be driven beyond an agreement so wise in itself to a conclusion which the hon. gentleman dreads. If there are such men in this chamber I repeat that they do not sit on this side of the House. But if it is necessary, in order to strengthen the wavering faith of the hon. gentlemen who sit with and around my hon. friend (Mr. Monk), for my part I have no objection whatever to accept the present motion and to say that this discussion will not in any way affect or jeopardize the allegiance of this country to the mother land. Surely, it is not worth while discussing that; surely there was no necessity for this motion. It affirms a principle which everybody is persuaded of and which no one needed to affirm, but in order to make it doubly sure, in order to affirm not only to this country but to the other side also that this discussion in which we are now engaged does not mean what has been stated by my hon. friend (Mr. Monk) it may mean, I shall for my part vote for his motion and I hope all on this side of the House will vote for it also. I have to say to my hon. friend that all the correspondence that has taken place on this question has been brought down. Why should we not bring it down? What object could we have to serve by keeping anything from this House. I do not know as to whether Mr. Fielding or Mr. Paterson, or somebody else has received a private letter or letters, but any correspondence in the hands of the government has been laid before the House. I have only to say, Sir, that we will vote for this resolution.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). Mr. Speaker, I did not know that my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) proposed to introduce this motion until after he had come into the House to-day, and therefore, I did not prepare to speak upon it. I would like to say, however, that it would seem to me to have been a wise course for the Prime Minister, if he thinks that conditions at the present time are such as to justify him in accepting this motion, to have brought it in as Prime Minister of this country, and to have asked the parliament of Canada, and the people of Canada to accept it. But my right hon. friend appears to have departed to-day from the line of argument which he took some years ago in accepting this motion. He says that there is no danger, and that the people of Canada realize that there is no danger, and that there is no man in this House who realizes that there is any danger. The loyalty of the Canadian people does not need to be affirmed; but let me tell my right