

occasioned constant surprise, but in no respect greater than in one particular which gave us the greatest pleasure, namely, the sudden restoration of peace over a country that had been convulsed with a most gigantic and destructive war. As to ourselves equally with them had the fears of war been dissipated. We no longer stood in dread of armed bands crossing our frontier to ravage and destroy, or of having to expend large sums of money to send volunteers for the protection of our own people and to prevent raids into the United States. Besides being relieved from those burthens and fears, we found most happily an improved feeling towards us growing up in the American mind. [Hear, hear.] He thought that good feeling was increasing rapidly, and that the irritation which our neighbors felt towards us—not so much on our account as on that of Great Britain, but which was reflected upon us—was disappearing quickly. He thought the Americans were beginning to see that the Government and people of this country had discharged their duties towards them, under circumstances of great difficulty, with a degree of honesty and straightforwardness which, he believed, they would see and appreciate fully in the time to come. He believed they would see that no step our Government could have taken to prevent the outrages and losses which had been inflicted upon them had been omitted; that with our limited revenue we did all we could to preserve peace upon our borders with our neighbors; and we were now able to find an acknowledgment on their part in published despatches that we had done our duty in this matter. When that came to be generally recognized by the American people he believed the irritation arising from the hostile acts complained of would be entirely removed, that we would be separated from any responsibility for those unfortunate acts, and that the Americans would recognize that they owed us gratitude and thanks for the way we had performed our duties throughout the late conflict, when a different course on our part would have entailed upon them serious difficulties and losses. Then in regard to the state of feeling in England, he thought it would not be denied that there had been a manifest change in the ideas of the people there, and that the class of politicians who looked upon the colonies as a burden instead of an advantage to the mother-country was no longer leading public opinion, but that the time had again come when England regarded her colonies as a main source of her greatness, and that her proper policy was to consolidate and unite them more closely with herself, as in this position she would be able to stand the brunt of any attack or any difficulties to which she might hereafter be subjected. [Cheers.] He believed, further, that England considered that the feeling of Canada was one she might fully depend upon, should danger ever come. [Hear, hear.] With regard to Confederation, he need only refer to the despatches before the House, which fully answered the boast of the hon. member for Chateauguay, that he shook it had

Hon. Mr. GALT thought that the complete sanction given the scheme of uniting the colonies, not only by the Imperial Government, but by the people of England, and the unmistakable way in which it had been mentioned in the Address from the Throne, was an answer to the taunt of the failure of Confederation. He thought we did, therefore, stand in a widely different position from that occupied in March last when one of the Lower Provinces pronounced against the scheme, and when we were quite uncertain as to the view England would take upon it, or as to her future policy thereon.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON—Yes, the policy of coercion.

Hon. Mr. GALT—The coercion was that kind of coercion the mother country was entitled to exercise in exchange for the burden of defence of the colonies. It was the kind she could fairly exercise, and not the kind which was exercised in Canada in time past. [Hear, hear from Hon. Mr. Holton.] The Imperial Government was burdened with the expense of defending these colonies, and if she was to be considered as coercing us in expressing the opinion that the Union would help us and promote the work of defence, then he maintained that was a coercion she was fully entitled to exert. But the coercion the member for Chateauguay meant to insinuate as being exercised was not an appeal to the reason, loyalty or interest of our fellow-colonists, but an interference with their rights and privileges and a use of stern compulsion—

Hon. Mr. HOLTON—That is not the compulsion of the Imperial Government, but that you wish for.

Hon. Mr. GALT said we did not desire to exert any such influence, but one that would make them go heart and hand with us, and do everything for the common good. We desired to appeal to their interest and patriotism, believing that in so doing we were using the strongest kind of coercion. (Cheers.) He would not have referred to this subject but for the interruption of the hon. member for Chateauguay. He was going to remark that in addition to peace being restored and the dread of war removed, there was a prospect—which he believed was now stronger than ever—of the union of these Provinces being accomplished. (Cheers.) Instead of having a feeling of want of reliance on the Colonial system in England, we found the contrary was now the case. Besides we in Canada itself had to thank Providence for having given us an abundant harvest, and we might certainly look to this to restore general prosperity. The people having suffered from bad harvests, and the fear of an interruption of industry by war, were now being reassured, and these disadvantages no longer existing—we might well hope that peace and contentment would overpread the land. [Cheers.]

Mr. GALT concluded by moving—That in addition to the stamp duties now levied there be hereafter levied on every promissory note of \$25 and under one cent, and on every promissory note of \$50 and under two cents, and on