

[Tuesday,

Nov. 6, 1849.]

DEBATES OF THE CONVENTION.

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land, and all that species of thing; and he could tell those gentlemen who boasted of their loyalty that they could not carry that feeling into the hearts of the farmer and the men who have to eat their bread in the sweat of their brows; he could tell those gentlemen more, that there was amongst the farmers of this country a belief that they must get rid of these feelings. Why he (Mr. D.) alone, out of his small crop, on which he was not dependent for a living, lost by the recent policy of Great Britain, \$150; he lost that sum by taking his crop to St. Catharines instead of to Lewiston, and would any body tell him that the farmers of the country, who are dependent on their crops for a livelihood, would long endure this state of things, without thinking of a change? he believed not; he did not believe that all the flags you could exhibit to them, or all the swords and muskets either, would prevent this progressive feeling from developing itself; it might come gradually, but in this as in every other country, £ s. d. would ultimately prevail. He contended that they had not met there to talk about the glorious flag which every body venerated, there was no one present who wanted to pull it down, but they were met to find out the causes that were working at the foundation of it, and which if not stopped must necessarily destroy it. Those knew nothing of the feelings of the agricultural population, who did not know that the question is now being asked, "why is it my wheat is not as valuable on this side of line 45, as on the other?" This question was growing in interest, and he had even heard amongst the statesmen of England, the question of expediency urged. That was the excuse for Catholic emancipation and the Reform Bill, when they jumped Jim Crow. If this resolution were carried, the effect would be, that it would be supposed that no matter what England did, we would still remain perfectly loyal. Now although he thought it a great waste of time to make speeches about loyalty, as there were no annexationists in the Convention, still he did not think that they would forget the insult which had been cast upon the men who turned out in 1837-8, to put down the rebellion, by rewarding those who rebelled; he did not think that they should allow Lord Elgin, or any other man, to trample on them. He had heard the oath of allegiance alluded to, he too had taken that oath against all treason and conspiracy, and might the day that found him engaged in treason and conspiracy find him in his grave; but he would still claim to exercise the Constitutional right to alter the fundamental principles of the Constitution when circumstances required it. He thought that the question of annexation had been dragged in unnecessarily, and that the passage of this resolution would destroy the effect of their previous proceedings in England, and he would therefore move the amendment.

After some remarks from Colonels Fraser and Playfair,

Mr. JOHN DUGGAN regretted that the subject had been introduced, as it was quite unnecessary, but they could not now reject the resolution without a danger of their motives being misunderstood by the country. He therefore hoped the amendment would be withdrawn.

Mr. GEORGE DUGGAN, as seconder of the amendment, could never consent to withdraw it; he considered the proposition contained in the resolution utter nonsense; they had been convened together to apply a remedy to the evils under which the country groans. One day they were talking about England's tyranny and injustice, and the rewarding of rebels, and the next talking about their attachment to the English government. Was the payment of rebels the way to attach the people of this country to England—to strengthen the ties that bind us together—to excite our love and admiration? (Question, question.) He supported the amendment because he did not think they were called on to trumpet forth their loyalty, but to apply remedies to the evils that are weighing down the energies of the country.

After a few words from Mr. Aikman the amendment was rejected and the resolution carried.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 7, 10 o'clock A. M.

The Convention met this morning, and after a conversational discussion relative to some matters of routine, which will be found amongst the printed proceedings, a vote of thanks to the President was passed amidst loud cheers, and briefly acknowledged.

Mr. LANGTON then rose and said that after the division on the question of elective institutions, the minority felt that the question would not rest there, and they therefore agreed to remain till the close of the Convention and take part in the proceedings, on the understanding that the Convention should then be dissolved and the matter referred to their constituents for the purpose of settling the matter in dispute.—He would therefore move, seconded by Mr. Gamble:

That whereas a difference has arisen in this Convention upon the question of elective institutions, and whereas the majority of the members present have declared that the Legislative Council should continue to be appointed by the Crown, subject to limitation as to number, and not be elected by the people as contended for by the minority, and this Convention having disposed of the other business brought before it: Be it therefore resolved, that this Convention be now adjourned, to a day to be hereafter named by the Central Committee, with a view to the several branches of the British American League pronouncing their opinion, and instructing their delegates upon the question of the cessation of elective institutions to Canada, as an appendage to the British Crown, and that the several branches do make a return to the Secretary of the Central Society Toronto, of the delegates whom they may appoint, on or before the 1st day of January next.

Which was carried unanimously.

The Convention was then adjourned.