

tion; we shall be doing matters of business in a business way. I believe that we shall be acting on these same principles of growth and development to which I referred a while ago—that we shall be evolving those principles of vitality and development upon which the continuous growth and expansion of the Empire really depend; that we shall be proceeding in the direction of accomplishing that on which the maintenance of the Empire really does depend—such an organization of its internal parts, such an arrangement of external regulations, such a system—unsymmetrical and full of anomalies, if you please, but partaking of the federative character—as will be calculated to make it continue and exist more and more, not indeed as the arrogant dominator over any power, but as the mighty moral force—proving, as well by its internal organization as by its external relations, the truth by precept and example of those principles of freedom, justice, and liberality, which should sway the modern Christian world. I move, under these circumstances, this resolution:

“That Mr. Speaker do not now leave the Chair, but that it be *Resolved*, that Canada no longer occupies the position of an ordinary dependency of the Crown; she numbers four millions of free men trained in the principles of constitutional Government; she comprises one-half of the North America Continent, including seven Provinces federally united under an Imperial Charter, which recites that her Constitution is to be similar in principle to that of the United Kingdom; and that she possesses executive and legislative authority over vast areas in the North-West, out of which one Province has already been created, and in time others will be formed.

“That special and increasing responsibilities devolve upon the Government and Parliament of Canada in connection with the development of her resources, the improvement of her condition, her general progress in the scale of nations, and her geographical situation which renders her even more responsible than the Government of the United Kingdom for the maintenance of international relations with the United States.

“That having regard to these considerations, there is no possession of the Crown, beyond the limits of the United Kingdom, which is entitled to such an ample measure of self-government, or so full an application of the principles of constitutional freedom, as the Dominion of Canada.

“That it would be for the interest of Canada to obtain freer access to the markets of the world; and that a more extended interchange of commodities with other countries would augment the national prosperity.

“That in most of the treaties of commerce entered into by England, reference has only been had to their effect on the United Kingdom, and the Colonies have been excluded from their operation, a fact which has been attended with unfortunate results to Canada, especially as relates to France.

“That the condition of Canada, and the system on which her duties of Customs have been, and are now imposed, vary widely from those existent in the United Kingdom, and open to the basis and negotiation of commercial arrangements with other States or British possessions, views and considerations which do not apply to the case of, or harmonise with the policy of the United Kingdom; which it is difficult for the Government of the United Kingdom to advance; and which can be best realized and presented by the Government of Canada through a negotiator named by her for the purpose of providing separate trade conventions with countries, with which Canada has or may expect distinct trade.

“That the complications and delays involved in the reference to the Departments of the Government of the United Kingdom of points arising in the course of trade negotiations enhance the difficulties of the situation, and diminish the chances of success; and have already resulted in loss to Canada.

“That it is expedient to obtain all necessary powers to enable Her Majesty, through Her representative, the Governor General of Canada, acting by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, to enter by an agent or representative of Canada, into direct communication with any British possession or Foreign State, for the purpose of negotiating commercial arrangements, tending to the advantage of Canada, subject to the prior consent, or the subsequent approval of the Parliament of Canada signified by Act.”

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I suppose that the main proposition of this resolution or amendment is, in the first place, that it is expedient we should extend the trade relations of Canada with other nations. There can be no objection to that. It is for the advantage of Canada to have trade relations with every nation that will trade with us. The next proposition is that it is expedient—I do not know whether the resolution goes further, and says that it is absolutely necessary—that we should have direct communication by an envoy of our own with those foreign countries. If Her Majesty's Government, the Queen of England and the Queen of Canada as well, will extend our powers and

enable us to send special envoys to foreign countries she will, as Queen of England and Canada, see to the enforcement of treaties we may make. That would be to our advantage. Nobody could object to it, and we should be grateful for it. But I think the hon. gentleman is far too sanguine in his expectation that Her Majesty's Government would agree to the proposition so long as we remained—however important we may be, and far be it from me to minimize the importance of Canada as regards its numbers and wealth—a colony of Great Britain. England is not likely to consent, so long as we remain a dependency, to our having separate ambassadors and envoys of our own; and more than that I think the motion betrays an absence of knowledge on the part of the hon. gentleman of the principles that actuate other Governments in dealing with Canada, so long as it is a dependency, and while the relation between nations are carried on by accredited ministers, several ranks are established. There is great jealousy between nations as to the rank of their envoys sent from one nation to another. If it is an important nation they have ministers, plenipotentiaries and ambassadors in the highest sense of the word. Then they have resident ministers; they have *chargés d'affaires* and secretaries of legation. And if England made a proposition to France or to Spain, that her colonies should have that power, both nations particularly would resolve, as history has shown, to maintain the dignity of the diplomatic service, and they would refuse, so long as we are a dependency of England. Nor could we expect consequently to be able to confer the necessary rank upon an officer who would be our envoy. No foreign nation would deal with it on these terms. We must remember that France and Spain, two nations to which the hon. gentleman especially alluded, have colonies; and they would not and could not according to the principles that govern their policy with regard to their several dependencies, accept the proposition. And we all know how important their colonies are. They could not and would not grant power to colonies of England which of necessity they would refuse to their own. Spain has continuously and deliberately refused to allow direct negotiations with the Chaplain-General or local authorities of Cuba or the Phillipian Islands. Cuba is her principal and wealthiest colony. France would not allow for a moment Algeria or the West Indies, or her colonies and dependencies in the east, to enter into direct communication with any foreign nation. They would say it was altogether inconsistent with the colonial relations and would refuse to their own colonies such a demand or such a request, if it was made; and, therefore, as they would refuse it to their own colonies, they certainly would not grant it to the colonies of England. The new born zeal of the hon. gentleman for Canada, in assuming this position, is rather amusing, when we look back for the last seven years. I am not aware that the hon. gentleman or those with whom he acted, ever considered that our commercial prosperity ever depended upon direct relations with foreign nations. I am not aware—my memory may be at fault—that those hon. gentlemen opposite ever made a single advance to any foreign nation or sought to develop the trade of Canada in any part of the civilized or uncivilized world. I believe it was in our time that the development and extension of our trade was commenced, and I am proud to say that our Mother Country is truly a Mother Country, in the best sense of the word, always assisting us, especially of late, in any attempt or any expressed desire of Canada for the development of her trade with any and every country in the world. England is an old country. She, of course, does not move with a revolutionary rapidity that the hon. gentleman would desire, therefore it is she marches with a steady and distinguished pace. Perhaps a querulous gentleman like Mr. Cobden would grumble because the various responsible departments in England carefully