

deny it. I say that at all events, it is a measure of delay. It is one of the means of delaying separation, it is one of the means of preventing friction between the parent state and the colony; it is one of the means which will serve to reconcile, if it is carried out, the fullest measure of self government on the part of all the present dependencies of the Empire with the continuance of the connection, and it is the only solution that offers itself. What does the hon. gentleman do when he supports the motion which is placed before the House? He is asking that the Canadian Government shall have a voice—in what? In the domestic concerns of this country? Not at all. He is asking that the Canadian Government shall have a vote in determining the external relations of the country. Is that voice to be an effective one or not? Is it to be a voice whereby Canadian interests will have paramount influence in determining what the policy of the country shall be, what the settlement shall be? I say again on this question, as I said on the other motion, that the business of the Imperial Government is to trust to responsible advisers of the Crown in a large colony in regard to matters where its interests are paramount, just as much as it is our business to trust them. We do not ask them for a voice in the settlement of any disputed question between the United Kingdom and Russia in respect to matters in Central Asia. And why? Because their interests are paramount there. It is they and not we who are chiefly concerned. But on questions relating to the sovereignty of Her Majesty on this continent, we are far more interested than the United Kingdom, and why should not the determination of that question be in the hands of the responsible advisers of the Crown here, just as the other question is in the hands of the responsible advisers in the United Kingdom? My hon. friend beside me says that a dependency grows to a nation just as certainly as a child grows to a man. I agree with that view, and am pointing out to the Government and the country the only means by which you can reconcile the growth of this country and its development, with the higher aspirations which must come from the larger interests that from time to time grow up in the country. I say that you have in the division of executive authority with respect to the external relations of the Empire a solution of the question, and no solution is to be found on any other ground; and it is because that is the case, and because the motion of the hon. member for North Simcoe points in that direction, I give that motion my cordial support. I say again that it is not on the line of the federation of the Empire that the solution of the relation of the various parts of the Empire is in my opinion to be found. On that question you have no such thing as a common opinion. The Empire is too widely scattered. You cannot bring the representatives of its different portions together and settle any question affecting the whole, or any distant part without trusting to that particular part for all your information as to the wisdom of the course to be pursued. You must ever remain ill-informed with regard to every other matter except that which specially concerns your own particular section. Therefore the exercise of executive authority must be always a matter of confidence on the part of all the portions of the Empire in the one that is specially affected, and when the Minister of Marine says that you cannot reconcile such an

arrangement with the existing state of things, I say the hon. gentleman is begging the question. No one supposes that you can incorporate a new feature on the constitution of the Empire without making alterations and adjusting the ancient parts to the new. That is a necessary consequence of an important change like this. The question we have to consider is: whether the change is demanded by the altered circumstances of the country, and I say that it is. I say that the events which have happened during the past few years with regard to the external relations of this Dominion show that to be the case. Why, Sir, the hon. gentleman himself has been at Washington for the purpose of negotiating. The hon. gentleman not long ago was there, and I understand he was greatly dissatisfied with the treatment which he received from the British embassy.

Mr. TUPPER. I do not think the hon. gentleman ought to say that without authority, as I have never given the slightest intimation as to my not being received properly by the British embassy. On the contrary, I was received in the most courteous manner, and every representation I made on behalf of the Canadian Government was also received in the same cordial spirit.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Well, Mr. Speaker, it is a matter of report that the hon. gentleman was so far dissatisfied that his chief advised him to return, unless greater attention was given to his representations.

Mr. TUPPER. There is no truth in that statement whatever, not the slightest. There is not the slightest foundation for that statement.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I accept the hon. gentleman's statement, but let me say this: It is one of the misfortunes of being compelled to have to discuss these adventures across the border, without having the necessary official information that ought to be in our possession; and so we are obliged to trust to such information as has been given; and to such information as we have been enabled to obtain from various quarters. I admit that it is not a satisfactory way of obtaining information, and it is not at all proper to be forced to the discussion of questions on the relations between Canada and the United States, without having that information. But, Sir, that is not my fault; it is the hon. gentleman's fault. The hon. gentleman says that he was received with the greatest courtesy and that all the representations he made were listened to. We must assume that he had representations to make and that it was important that they should be heard. I suppose their importance would not have been diminished if the hon. gentleman had been allowed to speak on behalf of the Government of Canada instead of being obliged to speak through some other party.

Mr. TUPPER. I may state, and it is not a secret as the papers have been laid before the British Parliament; that I was not only permitted to make my representations to the British Minister but that I attended every conference between the British Minister and the Secretary of State of the United States and was heard myself.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Then it is very important that these papers should be before us.

Mr. TUPPER. They are before the English Parliament now.