

see the United States people and Government forget this irritation, forget those occurrences, and submit such a question to arbitration, to the arbitration of a disinterested power, they have established a principle which can never be forgotten in this world. No future question can ever arise that will cause as great irritation as the escape of the Alabama did, and if they could be got to agree to leave such a matter to the peaceful arbitrament of a friendly power, what future cause of quarrel can in the imagination of man arise that will not bear the same pacific solution that is sought for in this?

I believe that that Treaty is an epoch in the history of civilization, that it will set an example to the wide world that must be followed, and with the growth of the great Anglo Saxon family, and with the development of that mighty nation to the south of us, I believe that that principle will be advocated and adopted as the sole principle of settlement of differences between those people, and that it will have a moral influence in the world. And although it may be opposed to the antecedents of other nations, that great moral principle which has been established among the Anglo Saxon family will spread itself all over the world. (*Cheers.*) It is not much to say that it is a great advance in the history of mankind, and I should be sorry if it were recorded that it was stopped for a moment by a selfish consideration of the interest of Canada.

Had the Government of Canada taken the course, which was quite open to them, to recommend Parliament to reject these articles, it might have been a matter of great interest as to what my position would have been. I am here at all events advocating the ratification of the Treaty and I may say, notwithstanding the taunts of the hon. gentlemen opposite, that I was chosen for that position, certainly because I was a Canadian and presumably because I was a member of the Canadian Government, but my commission was given to me as a British subject, as it was to Sir Stafford Northcote and other members of the Commission. I went to Washington as a plenipotentiary, as Her Majesty's servant, and was bound by Her Majesty's instructions, and I would have been guilty of dereliction of duty if I had not carried out those instructions. And, sir, when I heartily joined under the circumstance in every word of that Treaty with the exception of the Fishery Articles, and when I obtained leave to have inserted in that Treaty a reservation to the Government and the people of Canada of the full right to accept or refuse that portion of it, I had no difficulty as to my course. (*Cheers.*) I did not hesitate to state that if that clause had not been put in I would have taken the course of resigning my commission.

I was perfectly aware that I should be subject to reproach. I wrote to my friends in Canada and they have my letters, stating that well I knew the storm of obloquy and reproach that would meet me on my return and before even I crossed the border I was complimented with the names of Judas Iscariot, Benedict Arnold, &c. The whole vocabulary of Billingsgate was opened against me, but here I am, thank God, today, with the conviction that what I did was for the best interests of my country; and after all I have received at the hands of my country, and after the confidence that has been accorded me for so many years, I would have been unworthy of that position and that confidence if I were not able to meet reproach for

the sake of my country. I have met that reproach and I have met it in silence. I knew that a premature discussion would only exasperate still more the feelings of those who were arrayed against me, and of those who think more of their party than their country. (*Loud cheers.*) I do not speak particularly of the hon. gentlemen opposite, but I say that the policy of the Opposition is regulated by a power behind the throne which dictates what that policy must be. (*Cheers.*) No one ever saw a patriotic policy emanate from that source except on one occasion, and that was when that source was induced by myself to forget party struggles and party feelings for the common good of the country. (*Cheers.*)

I have not said a word for twelve months; I have kept silence to this day thinking it better that the subject should be discussed on its own merits. How eagerly I was watched. If the Government should come out in favour of the treaty, then it was to be taken as being a betrayal of the people of Canada. If the Government should come out against the treaty, then the First Minister was to be charged with opposing the interests of the Empire. Which ever way it was, they were lying in wait to find out a mode of attack. But "silence is golden", Mr. Speaker, and I kept silence.

I believe the sober second thought of this country accords with the sober second thought of the Government. We come down here and ask the people of Canada through their representatives to accept this treaty, to accept it with all its imperfections, to accept it for the sake of peace, for the sake of the great Empire of which we form a part. I now beg leave to introduce the Bill, and to state that I have the permission of His Excellency to do so. (*Loud ministerial cheers.*)

The hon. gentleman resumed his seat at 9.45, after having spoken for four hours and a quarter, amid loud and continued applause from all parts of the House.

The Bill was read a first time, and the second reading fixed for Tuesday, but **Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD** declined to make it the first order for that day.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** desired, before the motion was carried, to make a few observations upon the speech of the hon. gentleman. It was not his intention to discuss the Treaty critically tonight. After the long, exhaustive and able speech of the hon. gentleman, it would be manifestly impossible to enter into a critical debate; that would take place more properly on the second reading of the Bill. He had listened with a great deal of interest, and he might say with a great deal of pleasure, to the hon. gentleman's speech, as it had unfolded very fully his own views, although they did not harmonize with his (Hon. Mr. Mackenzie's) or with those who acted with him politically.

The hon. gentleman had stated that the course that they—the Opposition—had pursued was one dictated by some power not present in this House. He regretted this statement, because they desired to discuss the Treaty on its merits, although disposed to condemn the action of the hon. gentleman opposite and his associates. He might inform the House that within a few days of the