

the Home Government, will represent that, if Canada shows a fealty to the English Crown and a desire to aid in the protection of the Empire, she has a right to expect a protection from the Empire in regard to the rights which really belong to it, and in connexion with which that fealty is given. In conclusion, I may say that there are some political doctors who, of late, have promulgated vague ideas under the name of Imperial Federation as to the advantage which the Empire and Canada might gain from the creation of a central authority in London with colonial representation. We are progressing satisfactorily now, and I want these political doctors to leave us alone. We are satisfied with the relations which Canada has with the Empire at present, and they had better leave us alone. If they imagine that we will submit to any sort of taxation dictated by a body assembled in London, they will find that no one possessing any sense in Canada will consent to anything of the kind. There is no man of sense in Canada who would consent to it. I merely throw this suggestion out now in order that, when we are sending this devoted and loyal address to Her Majesty, as representing the sentiments of the people of Canada, we should also let Her Majesty's Ministers know that if they countenance, as some have countenanced, this agitation for a change in our relations, based upon giving up a certain portion of our liberties, the people of Canada are not unanimous, at all events, and I believe there is only a fragment of them that feel inclined in that way. I felt it a duty to myself, as a representative man, when we are sending this address, that we should also let them know that there are some things in which our relations to the Empire, and to the Executive of the Empire, might be very much improved in the interests of Canada.

Mr. Patterson (Essex): Representing a remote part of Canada, which is to some extent cut off from the rest of the Dominion, I may be permitted to say that I cordially join in the sentiments of the mover of this resolution. I would not have trespassed upon the time of the House were it not that I have seen in newspapers lately some reference to my constituency, and to the town in which I live. Well, Mr. Speaker, although I do not think it necessary to contradict any newspaper report, I take this opportunity to say there is no truth in the newspaper statements derogatory to the loyalty of my constituency, or of the town of Windsor in which I live. I believe it as loyal a town as is to be found in Canada, and I would like no easier task than to contest that constituency with an annexationist. I may say that it gave me a very large majority at the last general election, and I am very certain that no question of annexation was then put forward. Some statements have been made affecting a fellow townsman of mine, Mr. Solomon White, lately a member of the provincial Legislature. I have Mr. White's personal assurance that what he did say was, that if our relations were to be changed, if there was to be any constitutional change in the direction of independence, while he is perfectly satisfied with our relations with the mother-country now existing, rather than support independence he would go in for political union with the United States. While I do not echo his sentiments in that regard, I think there are men in this House, and a good many men in the country, who would agree with him. I think he has a perfect right, as we all have, to exercise our own judgment as to the future, because we all must look forward to some future for this country. For my part, I hope the time is far distant when there may be any severance of the tie binding as to the mother-country. I believe there is no possibility of annexation to the United States under their present constitutional system. Our own constitution rests on a far higher basis of liberty; we are more in touch with popular sentiment, and the people have a more direct control of those who serve them in a public capacity. During a lifetime I have had opportunities of witnessing the two forms of government, and I have no hesitation in saying that all my sympathies are with our own system, and all my energies will be devoted to supporting and continuing the system of government which we possess. I heartily endorse the sentiments of my hon. friend from North York (Mr. Mulock) in the address which he has moved in this House this afternoon.

House divided on motion of Mr. Mulock.

YEAS :

Messieurs Amyot,
Archibald (Sir Adams).
Armstrong.
Audet.
Bain (Soulanges).
Bain (Wentworth).

Messieurs Baird.
Barnard.
Barron.
Bécharde.
Bell.
Boisvert.