

these the circumstances under which the Parliament of Canada should say to the Imperial Government: "We think this is a time to censure you?" No: such a sentiment would receive a response whether inside or outside of the House. No man could be so lost to the interests of the country as to take such a view, and to say, "we do not wish imperial aid in the construction of our public works; we do not want any partnership."

It had been said by the mover of the resolution that the action of England would tend to encourage raids on Canada, but no rational man could possibly accept such a statement. England has shown that she considered our claims just, but that, failing to obtain redress for us, she was prepared to discharge the obligation herself, and to discharge it with no niggard hand, but in a way which, while it involved no payment by her taxpayers, was none the less valuable to Canada. Would such a guarantee of protection as this encourage oppression? It had been alleged that another raid had already taken place; but let it be compared with former ones. In the latter case the United States soldiers were employed to arrest the movement, and the prisoners, though at first released, were at the present moment under arrest for a new trial. He had listened with great pain to some of the remarks of the member for Lennox (Mr. Cartwright) who had shown such anxiety to assail the Imperial Government.

It would have been much more manly if the hon. member had brought his motion forward as a direct attack on the Government of Canada, for the action of the Imperial Government was at the instance of the Canadian Government, and, if there was any "ignominy," the term used by the member for Lennox (Mr. Cartwright), attached to the matter at all, it rested with the Government of Canada.

The hon. member had made a bold, unfortunate and ineffectual motion, and he had only couched his motion in its present form because he knew that the Canadian Government had the full confidence and support of the people, who would sustain the manly attitude they had assumed, and had attempted to assail the Parliament of England, 3,000 miles away. The remarks of the hon. gentleman had implied that Canada could not take care of herself.

He had cast an indelible slur on a force the country might be proud of; and if anything would tend to induce invasion, it was the utterance of the hon. gentleman himself. Further than this, he attempted to tear down the credit of the country by saying that England might as well have paid the money as put her name to the bond, and if the hon. gentleman's financial statements had any authority, they would tend to strike down the credit of the country. If the House was true to itself and to Canada, it would vote down this bold, uncalled for, unqualified attempt to shake the good feeling that now existed between Canada and the Mother Country. (*Loud cheers.*)

Hon. Mr. BLAKE then said: So we are open to approve but not condemn. He did not doubt that if any independent

member had been rash enough to propose a motion to the effect that the withdrawal of the Fenian claim was highly advantageous to the interests of the country, hon. gentlemen would have denied it very properly, but there was to be no whisper of disapprobation. He had shared the feeling that a debate on this subject would conflict with the debate on the Treaty, and for that reason he would have given a silent vote but for the extraordinary speeches and the extraordinary amendment proposed, that it should be decided that the interests of the Dominion would not be promoted by an expression of opinion of the withdrawal of the Imperial claims.

The fact was the mover of this amendment desired the matter to be given up altogether, because he knew that an expression of opinion was sure to be unfavorable. The seconder of the amendment told them that in matters in which the Empire acted for us, we had not the right to speak. This, however, could not be, for the Government of the day had told the Imperial Government in pretty plain terms what they thought of the matter, whatever view might be taken in the discussion of the matter when the whole Treaty was before the House.

The proposed amendment was one for which no one could vote who had a proper sense of the independence and spirit of the country. They were not prepared to stultify themselves and decide that they should not discuss a question of such vital consequence.

The leader of the Government (Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald) informed them that a great concession had been made by Great Britain in raising her voice in protection of our fisheries, and that she had a right to cede the navigation of the St. Lawrence, aye, and the soil of the country, aye, and the people of the country.

As to the Fenian matter, however, he would read to the House what had been the action of the Government in the matter, and stated that the expressions were such that had he used them he would have been greeted with hisses, because, of course, all the loyalty was on the other side of the House. (*Hear, hear.*)

He then read extracts from printed papers laid before Parliament to show how strong had been the manner in which the Government had urged the claim of Canada for losses on account of the Fenian raids.

Then, he continued, a Commission was appointed; and what were the results? First, the United States demanded an expression of regret for the escape of the Alabama, and she got that. Then she demanded the adoption of new rules of international law, and she got that. Next she required the application of those new rules to the past acts, and that was given her.