

DEBATE IN THE SENATE

ON THE RESOLUTIONS RESPECTING

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL then rose and proposed the Resolutions providing for the admission of British Columbia into the Union with the following speech: In bringing the subject before the House, I am quite aware that hon. gentlemen have not only studied it, but have had an opportunity of hearing a great deal of discussion on the question in the House of Commons and reading many articles in the public press. Still, I think we may very well consider, before going into details, the general importance of the question and the magnitude of the interests involved in the passage of the resolutions. I do not for one moment shut my eyes to the amount of the undertaking which the Dominion will necessarily have to perform. But all those who took part in the original framing of Confederation—all those who have since given their acquiescence to the project—have constantly had before them this ulterior object, they have desired to see the Provinces and Colonies constituting British America united into one great country stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This is shown not only by the debates which took place at the Conference at Quebec but also in a direct and authoritative way by the resolutions which were the result of the conference. It is shown also by the language which is used in the British North America Act of 1867—the constitutional Act of this country at this time. From these facts it will be seen that the idea of developing her Majesty's dominions on this continent by the union of all British America, has been certainly kept in view. Both those who advocated union originally and those who have now on account of its adoption given their assent to it, have been and are still of the opinion that we should stretch our dominions across to the Pacific and

endeavour to form one country under one Parliament, as the only way of maintaining on the continent those institutions and that form of Government which we believe to be the best calculated to promote our happiness and prosperity. It cannot, then, be denied that the admission of British Columbia is an essential part of the scheme of Confederation, and without it we could not look for the full development of the political, material and industrial advantages which are expected to result from the consolidation of the whole of the British American possessions under one Parliament and Government. I have noticed on several occasions that even those who occupy a very prominent position in another place, and have taken ground against these resolutions, have generally admitted that a railway is an essential part of the scheme, and that it should be built as soon as the resources of the country will permit. More than that, I have not read anywhere in the public press, during the last three months, during which the subject has been before the country, the statement of the proposition, that a Union with British Columbia is undesirable. Therefore, we may be allowed to assume that there is a prevalent sentiment throughout British America that the Union of all British America is desirable. Now, leaving the general question—the importance of the interests involved and the necessity of Union as respects the development of the resources of the Confederation, I may proceed to consider the terms on which the Union is to be effected. The general scheme involves three propositions which form the chief subjects of discussion. These propositions, on which grave doubts appear to have arisen in the minds of some gentlemen, refer to the representation of