

dates the prosperity and the liberty of Canada. I do not stand here to-night as the apologist of rebellion; far less do I appear before this intelligent audience as the advocate of a resort to such extreme measures on this side of the continent. The history of British Columbia proves that the colonial policy of Great Britain, although perhaps somewhat modified, is the same in 1868 as it was in 1776. The fact is, in the language of the resolution I have the honor to move, it is ill suited to the genius and wants of a free people. Our affairs are still managed by men who, being ten or twelve thousand miles away, know little and care less about this colony. Some are disposed to lay the blame on the Governor; I am not of those. No matter whom we may have for Governor, so long as he is hampered and bound by instructions from the Colonial Office, instructions conceived in ignorance of the genius and wants of the colonists, instructions breathing a spirit of selfish exaction and unenlightened fogysim, so long as this is the case it is folly to expect that the administration of affairs of the colony can be satisfactory. For an illustration of the spirit in which our affairs are managed in Downing-street, we need not look beyond the present Session of the Legislature. When these colonies were united, by some strange oversight the two systems of Supreme Judicature were left untouched and unharmonized; and the consequence has been that during the past fifteen months the United Colony has presented the anomaly of two distinct Courts of Judicature, not only destitute of any element of harmony, but absolutely jarring and conflicting. Thus we have two Supreme Judges, each absolute in his own territory, and each administering under a distinct system; and thus not only is the colony burdened with an expensive, incongruous and inharmonious judicial anomaly, but colonists are still subject to the process of capias, in passing from one section of the so-called United Colony to the other. How does the Colonial Office propose to cure the evil? A Bill is framed at Downing-street and sent out for our Legislature to pass, much on the principle of "open your mouth and shut your eyes." This Bill provides, not for fusing the two systems into one, to be administered by one Chief Justice, but for making a sec-

ond Chief Justice and perpetuating the existing judicial anomaly until one of the Chief Justices shall be provided for—not by the Queen of Great Britain, but by the "King of Terrors!" And what does such an extraordinary proposition import? Why, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, simply this: The occupant of the Colonial Office is more solicitous to provide for one of the two Judges whom he finds on his hands than he is to provide for the proper administration of British Law in a British Colony. He is more careful about the interests of an individual than he is about those of the whole body of colonists! When such things are done in the green tree what may we not expect in the dry? A most essential change must not be made in the judiciary, because the status of two Judges is in the way, and the Secretary of State does not find it convenient to provide for one of them elsewhere. The people are overtaxed to support a Civil List which is out of all proportion to the wants and capacity of the colony, and yet an official must not be discharged because the Secretary of State has no place for him. The Governor may cut off a few constables; but so completely fettered is he with those everlasting instructions from Downing-street that he cannot dispense with the services of expensive and useless officials! I repeat, there is no use in blaming our Governor for not doing that which he is not allowed to do. The Imperial Government, the Colonial Office—the whole system is to blame for it. This meeting has been called not so much for the purpose of reviewing the history of British Colonies in general, and dwelling upon our own grievances in particular, as for the purpose of considering the desirability of seeking immediate admission into the Confederation, as affording the most speedy and effectual remedy against those wrongs and abuses to which we, in common with other colonies, have been, and still are, exposed; for it may be safely taken for granted that there is but one opinion as to the unsuitableness of the present system, and the utter hopelessness of obtaining liberal and efficient institutions so long as we occupy the helpless position of a Crown Colony. I shall, therefore, endeavor, with as much brevity as possible, to point out a few of the advan-