

May 6, 1872

Mr. STREET thought it was to be regretted that this matter of the Fenian claims had not been strenuously urged. We all felt that a wrong had been done, and that it would be cause for gladness if the American people, who had supported the Fenian movement, had been called to pay for the damage that had been done by those outrages.

He did not, however, think it expedient at the present time to discuss the question of the withdrawal of these claims. The resolution was, in point of fact, a direct condemnation of the Government, and the people of England, and he did not think, under the circumstances, that it was one this House should pass.

Holding these views it was his intention to support the amendment of his hon. friend, and he only hoped that the amendment would meet the approbation of the House. Of course the great question which was involved in this matter would come up for consideration at another time, when the House would be able to speak more fully than in discussing the subject piecemeal. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr. MILLS said they had been told that the Fenian raids were made upon Canada from hostility to Great Britain, and that, because Great Britain controlled the matter, and should have pressed the United States for compensation, we must now look to the Mother Country for reparation. He thought the object of Canada should be to substantiate the position taken, and that the American Government should guarantee that they would exercise diligence in the future: but he considered that, by accepting a money consideration from the Imperial Government, Canada would put it out of her power to deal with any matter of the kind in the future.

He referred to the acts of Southern refugees during the Civil War in the United States, and the demand of the American Government for the extradition of Barby and the St. Alban's raiders, and thought the Government should have demanded the extradition of O'Neil after the Fenian invasion of Manitoba. He knew that the Americans were afraid that such a demand would be made, as they felt that it could not be refused if made.

He could not see on what ground the resolutions of the member for Lennox (Mr. Cartwright) could be opposed. It could not be expected that Canada would submit to Fenian raids for the next 15 or 20 years because England will endorse her paper. He considered that the proposition of the Government was to sell the honour of the country for a certain consideration.

Hon. Mr. TUPPER thought a stranger entering our legislative halls for the first time would find a great deal of difficulty in ascertaining the position of public affairs by listening to the speeches of hon. gentlemen opposite. The least thing they would have expected, after listening to the very animated address of the hon. member for Lennox (Mr. Cartwright) would have been a frank, fair, manly statement of the facts as they existed. What were they? Canada, a dependency, and a very strong dependency of the British

Crown: Canada, a country fostered through long years of infancy and childhood to man's estate, was invaded by a lawless band. The Imperial Government expected that they would be prepared to strike in their own defence, as Canada did strike; but they gave her the aid of the Imperial forces at the expense of the Empire, and, having given that aid, and driven back the invaders, they at future stages pressed a claim for compensation to the country from whence the invasion came.

The House need not be told, after the able exposition of the First Minister (Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald) that England considered it to be of the greatest interest to Canada and the Empire that all questions of dispute between the two countries should be settled, and any one who heard that speech must be convinced that if there was one question more than another that rendered the parent state anxious for settlement of matters, it was the conviction that a struggle between the two countries, however comparatively unimportant to the parent state, would be a matter of vital importance to the younger country. England was prepared, at almost any sacrifice, to endeavour to arrange the whole of the questions on which they were at issue with the United States. She assumed the responsibility of instructing the Commissioners to withdraw the claim for Fenian losses rather than break up the whole negotiations, and leave her relations in regard to this continent in the same unfortunate position in which they before stood.

By the act of representation of the claim, they committed the Imperial character to it as just and legitimate; and by taking the responsibility of withdrawing that claim which was admitted, both by Lord Granville and Mr. Gladstone, they were prepared to assume the consequences and provide that Canada should not be precluded from compensation for injuries done to her. Was there in this anything that Canada could properly complain of? No; if there ever was an act committed by the Imperial Government that deserved the confidence and support of Canada it was the present.

The Government of Canada felt that they had a right under the circumstances; in the first place that the Imperial Government should press for compensation on the Government of the United States, which was done; and in the second, that should that compensation not be obtained, they had a right to some reparation at the hands of the Imperial Government. The result of the application was stated by the Minister of Finance (Hon. Sir Francis Hincks), viz: that Canada would receive compensation to the extent of \$600,000 a year.

If Canada had to go into the market for the large loan necessary to carry out her great public works her credit must have sustained a rude shock; but instead of that she would go side by side with England, and the result was the saving he had named. Was it nothing to the taxpayers and people of Canada that they could say, that, having suffered by those lawless invasions, and England having, in the interest of the Empire, felt it unwise under the circumstances to press their claim—which she admitted as just—they were compensated to the extent of \$600,000 a year? Were