

than was before known. It banished the greedy cormorants who grew rich by the official plunder of the poor. The waste and ruin of a prolonged and cruel war were succeeded by the reign of peace and prosperity; and the pinchings of famine by the rejoicings of abundance. The *habitants* could now cultivate their long-neglected acres free from the molestation of Indian massacres or the fear of British invasion. Even the conquered colonists themselves soon recognised their improved condition under their generous conquerors."

Well, Mr. Speaker, we have kept our civil laws, but we have also with thanks and gratitude received from England her criminal laws, and I believe that the criminal laws of England are as perfect as human genius and experience can make them. Our civil laws, based on the Roman laws, are also admirable and are respected in all the tribunals of the world. Under this system of laws we feel happy and contented. So, Mr. Speaker, you see some of the reasons why we are loyal. The more we know of our English-speaking friends in this country, the more we learn to appreciate them; and I may say that if among those who do not know us there may be sentiments against us, those sentiments soon disappear when we have opportunities of mutual intercourse and are enabled to know each other more perfectly. We admire the qualities of the English-speaking subjects of Britain, and they seem to regard the qualities of our race with pleasure also. I think, on this continent, by mutual agreement, by mutual forbearance, we may live in harmony under the protection of the British flag, and approach the consummation dreamed by many of our people—that there may be a great Canadian nation composed of different races, but all animated with the desire of fostering the general welfare of all. In concluding, Mr. Speaker, I will with pleasure repeat the words of one of our most popular and celebrated public men, Sir Etienne Pascal Taché: That the last gun that would be fired in defence of the British flag on this continent might very well be fired by a French Canadian.

*Sir John A. Macdonald*: When I first saw the motion of my hon. friend on the paper, the only doubt in my mind was whether there was any special occasion for the commons of Canada to renew the assurance of their loyalty towards Her Majesty. If I had any doubt whatever, it has been more than removed by the clear and lucid statement of my hon. friend in moving the resolution. I cordially agree with every word of his eloquent remarks, and I hope and believe that the House will respond to the resolution and to the sentiments which my hon. friend has expressed, as my hon. friend has just stated, the conversation which I sought with him was simply for the purpose of suggesting for his consideration some verbal alterations, because I thought it well that if possible the resolution should be received and carried without any amendment or suggestion of amendment; and my hon. friend was kind enough to view with favour some of the suggestions I made. I hope that the desire expressed by my hon. friend, that this resolution should be adopted by the House without any controversial remarks or any statement which in any way might impair the effect which my hon. friend's address ought to have in this House and in the country and out of the country, will be realised. I shall say no more, Mr. Speaker, except that my hon. friend the Minister of Justice has suggested an amendment which did not occur to me, but which is perfectly correct: that is, that the address should, according to the ordinary form of addresses to Her Majesty, begin, "Most Gracious Sovereign." However, I cordially agree with everything my hon. friend has said. I believe the resolution truly expresses the sentiments of the representatives of the people and of the whole people of Canada; and after hearing him, I am of the same opinion as he is, that this is a very opportune occasion, under all the circumstances, for expressing the sentiments contained in the resolution.

*Mr. Laurier*: I am also of opinion that perhaps there was no occasion for my hon. friend moving such an address as this. We all appreciate the motives which have induced him to do so; but the resolution itself, unless it were coupled with the remarks which have just fallen from the First Minister, would almost imply that there was some necessity for renewing our expressions of loyalty to the British Crown. Now it is useless to say that there is no such necessity whatever coming from any quarter, because from all quarters of Canada there is nothing but the most unswerving loyalty to the British Crown at this moment, and devotion and attachment to the person of Her Majesty. The great qualities that Her Majesty has exhibited as Queen and as woman during a long career have made the question of loyalty not only a feeling of duty, but a personal feeling in the heart of every one of her subjects. What I am afraid of, however, is that there is a mistake made sometimes, that what is mistaken for disloyalty is nothing more