

tion than the red? Were the people to be called upon to respect, and to purchase a charter divorcing half a continent, condemned by it to sterility, unchristianity and barbarism? (Hear, hear.) He held that the Company's claims to the exclusive right to trade were not worth a dollar. Traders from the Red River and Americans had penetrated into the fur-bearing region, and introducing their supplies cheaper, were enabled to undersell the Company, which, finding itself subjected to a ruinous competition, now desired to resign its business and to make a handsome profit by its sale. He hoped the Government would postpone the question, and let it go for decision to the country. He would never consent to make this leap in the dark, unless in accordance with the wish of the people, clearly expressed upon a full understanding of all the facts.

Mr. Connell regretted that almost the first time he rose to address the House it should be on resolutions brought down by the Minister of Public Works. These resolutions no doubt were prepared with much care and with a strong desire on the part of the Government that they should pass the House. He regretted that the Government considered it their duty to bring forward these resolutions at the present time. The House had been in session nearly 30 days and they had not yet had a financial statement before them, so that they could judge whether they were in a position to deal with this all important subject. He had been elected by a large constituency to aid the Government in giving effect to the consolidation of this Union, and it was his duty to so vote in this House that acts should not be passed to increase the burdens upon the people. In his opinion the acquisition of this territory would involve a sum of no less than \$6,000,000 for the purchase of the rights of this mammoth company. He was not prepared to give his vote for a measure of that kind, and the people of the Province from whence he came were opposed to it. If these resolutions pass does not Parliament pledge itself to settle this question, and to provide for any amount awarded by arbitration or judicial decision? This is not all. We must at once provide for the government of this newly acquired territory, and it must have its governor, council, and assembly. He believed the time would come, and it might be at no distant day, that they would have to take action in this matter, but now their finances were not in a condition to do so. At the Quebec Conference, it was agreed that this subject should be dealt

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with as soon as our finances permitted. When that time arrived he would be prepared to deal with the question. They should look first to the settlement of their own Dominion and the development of their own resources before they sought to acquire new territory. When Mr. Brown went to England to negotiate in connection with a settlement of the claims of the Hudson's Bay Company, the whole of this territory could have been secured for a sum not exceeding two million dollars. Has it increased in value to such an extent that its new owners demand a sum exceeding \$6,000,000 for their interest in the territory? Was the Government afraid of losing this bargain that they bring forward these resolutions in such haste? It is said that, unless we take action in the matter, these parties will sell to the United States. If the right of the British Government rests on so doubtful a title, it is well for this House to pause and not go into competition with the United States. He had heard it said that Railroad Bill and this must pass together. If this is the policy of the Government, he would say to them that even the Railroad would not induce him to vote for the expenditure of so large a sum of money, without proper consideration of the subject. He (Mr. Connell) then referred to the various resolutions, and after commenting upon them, said the 6th resolution was the one to which he particularly objected. He was quite prepared to go for an address that would carry out what was done by the late Parliament of Canada—that is showing to the British Government that no rights existed in this country; and if so, that the Government of England had a right to deal with the subject. When it was so dealt with and the transfer made, it would be time enough for the House to consider it. He was prepared, so far as the finances of the country would permit, to aid in opening the country; but, until he had the means he was not prepared to record his vote in favour of the 6th resolution, because it would be injurious to the trade and commerce of the country, and interfere with the payment of interest on our existing liabilities, which amounted to upwards of 77 million dollars. This, with our new liabilities of twenty million dollars for Intercolonial Railroad and the local tax of the country, was as much as we were prepared to bear, particularly in view of the present financial condition.

Mr. McMillan could not understand how any person could be in favour of Union and opposed to the carrying out of a policy with-