

Methodists, 29,688 Presbyterians, and that there are only 190 who cannot be classed in some religious denomination. Therefore I think we have a very strong claim upon nearly, if not quite, all the religious denominations of this Dominion. By nationalities, I find that the island is inhabited by 58 Africans, 543 Indians, 148 Dutch, 7,960 English, 12,430 French, 347 Germans, 7,329 Irish, other nationalities of a mixed character only 241, Scotch 55,436, and I am happy to inform my friends from British Columbia that in our island there is not one "Heathen Chinese." The area of Cape Breton is 2,800,680 acres. The area of Prince Edward Island is 1,365,400 acres. The population of Cape Breton is only 84,500, although in 1820 it was 26,000, to a population of 16,000 for Prince Edward Island, but, since that time, the population of Prince Edward Island, which was more highly favored in many respects, and particularly in a political respect, has largely increased in proportion, and is now 108,891. I beg to assure you that I do not complain of the expenditure in any portion of this Dominion, I do not complain of the expenditure in any section of the Province of Nova Scotia, and, while my resolutions would imply the fact that the City of Halifax, Pictou, Cumberland and other counties in Nova Scotia, owing to a preponderating influence in the Local Legislature, secured advantages which we do not possess, it, unfortunately for us, only reveals the fact that they were truer, or rather that their representatives were truer, to the interests of their respective counties, or were more successful, at least, in securing public expenditure in their respective counties than the representatives of the people of the Island of Cape Breton. But, while I am willing, as it has already been said in the Local Legislature, to support measures for expenditure in all sections of the Dominion where it can be shown that such expenditures tend either to encourage immigration into our country, or to induce our people to remain at home, or to encourage them to return from the United States, I claim that a similar expenditure and for similar purposes should be made on the Island of Cape Breton. In conclusion, I may assure this House, as I have already, I believe, shown, that Cape Breton had many eventful periods. It had its periods of tragedies from its discovery about 200 years before the discovery of America by Columbus until the fall of Louisbourg in 1758. It had its period of persecution, when its people were taxed without a voice in the Legislature of their Province for 21 years. It had its period of prosperity from 1784 until 1820 when ruled by a Governor and Council. It had its period of unjust treatment from 1820 until 1867, when it enjoyed not much more than the privilege of grumbling. On local works, they received only a fair share of the amount expended, but they complained, and with reason, that they had not expended on public works, chargeable to public account, on which they had to pay interest in other parts of this Dominion, a proportion of that which the people of other sections enjoyed. There was also a period of hopeful appeal to the Local Legislature and to the Dominion Parliament for aid for public works on the island; and lately we have arrived at a period of very general sympathy, which extends, I hope, from the Atlantic to the Pacific and which will find expression in expending money for the necessary public improvements required for the distribution of the products of our island. I think that in all those circumstances our people were patient beyond measure, and they now look hopefully forward to better treatment in the future. I beg now to appeal to all the nationalities in this Dominion, except the heathen Chinese, and to all religious denominations as well, for sympathy, and to all political parties in this Dominion, for aid in securing the money necessary to give us railroads and improvements, on harbors, and breakwaters, which

are necessary for the development of the inexhaustible resources of our highly favored island.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I am sure this House has listened with great interest to the hon. gentleman, and with more approbation of the general line of his speech, which is no more than it deserves, from the elaborate history he has given of the birth, parentage and education of Cape Breton. I fancy the hon. gentleman feels that he has gained what he desired to gain by bringing the position of Cape Breton and its wrongs before this House. I do not think, however, that this House is prepared to vote for this resolution as it stands, because I do not think we are sufficiently well acquainted with the wars between Nova Scotia and Cape Breton to decide which was in the wrong. To vote for the adoption of this resolution would be merely stating, among other things, that Nova Scotia has wronged and tyrannised over the people and crushed the energies of Cape Breton. Well, that may be so, but I do not think the House is prepared, without giving a study equal to that of the hon. gentleman on the subject, to declare that Cape Breton has been so deeply injured by the Province of Nova Scotia. We had great pleasure in hearing the hon. gentleman's speech, and we will have still greater pleasure in perusing it at our leisure in *Hansard*, and after we have studied it fully we will be in a position to decide how far Nova Scotia has injured Cape Breton, and what are the best means of redressing the wrongs of that interesting island. So far as Parliament is concerned, we have tried to get at Cape Breton by the extension of the line towards Canso, and that extension being, I may say, finished, I hope we will succeed in extending it across the straits to Sydney, or Louisbourg, or some other point, perhaps to be selected by the hon. gentleman. Everything has been done in that direction, and I hope that the great capabilities of Cape Breton will be developed ere long by the construction of a railway through the island which will bring it into immediate and easy connection with the rest of the Dominion. I hope the hon. gentleman will be satisfied with the statement of his case, and will withdraw the motion.

Mr. CAMERON. In view of the remarks made by the right hon. gentleman, the leader of the Government, and with the consent of the House, I beg leave to withdraw the resolution for the present.

Motion agreed to, and resolution withdrawn.

#### IMPROVEMENT OF THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN.

Mr. McCALLUM moved for:

Copies of all reports, correspondence and surveys, if any, in the Department of Public Works as to the improvement of the North Saskatchewan river for the purpose of navigation.

He said: I make this motion in the interests of the people of the North-West, as well as in the interests of the whole Dominion. I understand that we can navigate that river now at certain seasons of the year for a distance of a thousand miles, and it is desirable that we should have a thorough survey of that river to see if it is capable of improvement. Since we have acquired that territory the Government of this country have expended only \$20,000 in the improvement of that river, in removing boulders and taking obstructions out of it. According to the information we have, for 800 miles along that river the land is fit for settlement, the climate is excellent, and the soil produces good crops. I have myself been as far north as Edmonton, that is 200 miles north of Calgary; I was there in harvest time, and I know that the land produces first rate crops. Edmonton at the head of navigation is quite an important place—it is a large village. Out of the river gold is taken; coal is obtained from the river banks, and splendid crops grow on the lands adjoining the river. It was formerly