

it was the best I was able at the moment to suggest, or to the particular course which this resolution proposes. The object I desired to gain I have already sufficiently stated, and, if this motion which is now put in amendment will have the effect of directing the attention of, and obtaining authority from the Imperial Government for the representation that I think we ought to have, then my object will be attained. My hon. friend from Bothwell (Mr. Mills) says that the Government need no resolution of this House in order to communicate with the Government of Great Britain and Ireland on this subject. That, no doubt, is true, but it cannot be gainsaid on the other hand that the formal expression of the opinion of this House that communications be opened up with Her Majesty's Government with a view to fuller representation of Canadian interests will have much greater weight than the mere action of the Government would have without it.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Look at the concluding words of the amendment.

Mr. McCARTHY. I will come to the concluding words in due course. No doubt, this is a matter to which the Imperial Government will have their attention called, and they will see the discussion which has taken place, and we may hope that the object which we all appear to have in view, no matter how we may differ as to the ways and means, may be attained. I do not see why my hon. friend thinks the latter part of this amendment cuts down the effect of the former portion. I certainly did not propose that we should have any representation at Washington which would be inconsistent with our relations with the British Crown. I am content to await the development of affairs and to get such powers from time to time as our position demands, and I believe that, if these powers are granted, it will not lead to dismemberment, but to closer relationships between us as a colonial dependency and the mother country instead of leading, as my hon. friend seems to think, towards independence or separation.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). No.

Mr. McCARTHY. I am glad to hear that my hon. friend does not desire that, but certainly my hon. friends opposite seem to expect it, and the leader of the Opposition at all events has stated it in clear and unambiguous terms. Whatever may be the end that awaits us, it is right and proper that, in the meantime, we should have such representation as to protect the material and political interests of this Dominion. Therefore I accept the amendment. I think it would be a pity and that it savours of special pleading to be able to draw a distinction between the resolution and the amendment. I think the Government might have accepted the resolution. The mere expression of the House that this was the best way to obtain representation for Canada would not have bound the Imperial authorities certainly, nor would even this Government have been bound by what after all was merely an abstract expression of opinion. In the same way this amendment simply empowers the Government to open up negotiations with the British Government on the subject, and we shall await next session the result of these negotiations with a good deal of curiosity and I hope a good deal of satisfaction.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). The concluding words of this resolution assume that the request which the hon. gentleman made in his resolution and which he says is being made in the early portion of the amendment, may be one inconsistent with our relations to the Empire. If that be so, it must be wholly inconsistent with the hon. gentleman's views.

Mr. McCARTHY. I do not read it in that way but simply as a declaration on the part of this House that this fuller representation should be given to our representative, and that it should be consistent with the existing regulations between us and the mother country.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). That is not the way it reads.

Mr. McCARTHY. It reads as follows:—

"It is expedient that communications be opened with Her Majesty's Government in order to bring about such fuller representation of Canadian interests at Washington and at the capitals of other countries in which such other representation may be found desirable as may be consistent with the proper relations which should exist between Great Britain and Canada."

I cannot understand that as meaning anything more than I say, that we do not ask that the relation we propose should be inconsistent with those which now happily exist.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I will read the passage to which I referred as to the remarks of the hon. gentleman. He said:

"I have felt for many years, and the longer I am in public life, the more strongly do I feel, that it is impossible for this great country to thwart the natural development and the process of evolution which is going on. We must remember that we are a great nation, we are recognized in that capacity, although we have not yet the full powers of nationality."

Mr. McCARTHY. Hear, hear.

Amendment agreed to on a division.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and House adjourned at 10.20 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, 12th May, 1892.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

MONTREAL AND LAKE MASKINONGÉ RAILWAY CO.

Mr. BÉCHARD moved:

That the petition of C. Beausoleil, M. P., President of the Montreal and Lake Maskinongé Railway Company, and others, presented this day; praying to be permitted to lay before the House the petition of the aforesaid railway company, for the passing of an Act authorizing them to lease or sell their railway to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and for other purposes, notwithstanding the expiration of the time for presenting petitions for Private Bills.

Motion agreed to.