

of great benefit to the people of this country. (Hear, hear.) Our power of doing good was, however, brought to an end, and you all know the contest that arose. You all know the narrow majority which each government had in turn, and you know also the result which was finally brought about and which has been so freely discussed here to-night, that is the coalition of 1864. Now, sir, I come to the point in these resolutions which is of the greatest interest to myself and my colleagues, and perhaps it may be proper for me to direct attention to my share in that coalition and my views with regard to governments formed in that manner. In the first place, the "coalition" of itself does not, I think, carry with it anything that would warrant condemnation. (Hear, hear, ironical cheers and laughter.) You may not accept this statement, but I assert most positively that the coalition which was formed in 1864 was free from all immoral and improper motives, was for the good of the country and was a coalition the object of which was a full justification of those gentlemen who went into it. (Hear, hear.) Well, then, my definition of a coalition is this: If you have a government in existence with an organized opposition; if you have separate and distinct issues before the country in which two parties are involved, upon opposite sides; if you have one party arrayed against another party; and if the views of either party, carried out into law, would affect the right and interests of the people or a larger portion of the people of the country;—if, I say, under those circumstances a portion of one party holding opposite views to the other party should go over to that party and enable it to carry its principles and measures into effect, then such a coalition would be improper and immoral. (Cheers, hisses and some confusion.) Now, sir, what were the

facts in 1864? We had been contending that certain changes were necessary for the welfare and good government of this country. The party opposed to us, the conservatives, had opposed that view; but at a certain time they came to say, "It is necessary and right that we should modify our views; we acknowledge that a majority of the people of this country are determined that there shall be a change in the constitution of the government, and we believe it is our duty to go in with you and consider what that change should be;" and in the consultations which followed it was agreed that that change should be either the confederation of the whole provinces of British North America or the federation of Upper and Lower Canada. Now, there was nothing improper in that on the part of either party, because it is true that they judged rightly and were acting in accordance with the desire of the whole people of this country. I may say that as far as Upper Canada is concerned there never was any real opposition to the coalition—I mean any organized, effective opposition. I believe there were three or four members from this section of the country opposed to confederation, but there never was anything entitled to be called an active opposition to it. Therefore those who entered the coalition judged rightly. They were acting in accordance with the opinion of the people of Upper Canada, and were therefore doing their duty. (Hear, hear.) I quite agree, sir, with the statements that have been made here to-night that the object for which that coalition was created, the conditions upon which it was formed, the authority given by the people through their representatives sanctioning its formation—that the whole of that will come to an end on the 1st day of July next. (Loud cheers.) Yes, I mean to say that the position of every public