

should for all time to come be limited to 65. A narrow-minded French-Canadian, whose racial antipathies were fundamentally anti-British, it might be expected, would oppose confederation no matter how important it might be to the interests of the Empire on this ground: Why should he place himself in the hands of a hated British majority? To do so would be to imperil his language and his creed. Indeed, as a matter of fact, this view was presented in the old Parliament of Canada during the debate on the resolutions which ultimately became the basis of confederation.

### HOW FRENCH MEMBERS VOTED IN 1865.

In the debate on the Speech from the Throne in 1865, in which the Governor-General recommended the favorable consideration of certain resolutions agreed to by representatives of the different provinces at Quebec in the previous year, the Hon. Mr. Dorion moved the following amendment:

"That this House deems it a duty respectfully to express to your Excellency its firm conviction that the people of this Province, fully appreciating the blessing of their existing political relations with the great Empire of which they form a part, neither seek nor wish to create a new nationality."

Of the forty French members who voted on that resolution, only 18 voted for Mr. Dorion. The full French representation of Quebec in the Legislature was 51 French and 14 English members. Of these latter 7 voted for Mr. Dorion. It is, therefore, plain that, at the inception of Confederation when 4 out of the 5 British Provinces were openly committing themselves to the formation of a new nationality in which the English-speaking element would be vastly in the ascendancy, the majority of the French-Canadians were broad enough and British enough to support the proposed federation, the express object of which was to strengthen and perpetuate British supremacy ultimately over half of the American Continent. Had the French-Canadians been exercised by a craven fear of race or language, or had they from a spirit of disloyalty been disposed to resist Confederation, do you think it would have been accomplished? Compare their course with the action of Nova Scotia, almost entirely English, and where do they stand? Is it not perfectly clear, therefore, that in this first and supreme movement by which Canada has become heir to half a continent, the French-Canadians were not less loyal than their English-speaking brethren to the Federation of Canada.