

to have our affairs placed before Her Majesty's Government in a proper manner. He (Hon. the Premier) was of this opinion because the statesman now in charge of the Colonial Office in England, Mr. Chamberlain, was a man whom he felt sure would take the most favorable view of our case, and would be willing to assist us in every way. It was fortunate for us that at this time such an able man filled the position of Secretary of State for the Colonies. It must, however, be understood that nothing should follow from these negotiations that would in any way seriously affect our own rights of Government. The Resolutions are entirely free from anything that can be construed as entertaining that which may take away or even limit the rights of self Government which the Colony now enjoys. The practical results of these negotiations will have to be submitted to this Legislature for their approval. He would therefore ask the Committee to assent to the proposals which were now before the chair.

Mr. Bond considered the matter before the chair to be a National rather than a Party question. He congratulated the Hon. the Premier on the able and dispassionate manner in which he had introduced these Resolutions. He desired to take the earliest opportunity of recording his support to the Resolutions, and he and those associated with him would wish "God Speed" to the Premier on his mission to the Imperial Government. There was good reason, and good hope, in our proposal to approach the Throne on the matter of assistance to develop our natural resources, because in the past England had always been willing to assist her Colonies. It was time, also, that our claims for the settlement of the Treaty Rights were enquired into, and the difficulties in connection therewith set at rest. Two things he would ask for, first, that no sanction on our part should be given to any Bill on the lines of that submitted in 1891, and second that we can consent to nothing that may lead to the abrogation of the Charter of the Colony. He again wished the Government every success in their mission, and believed the result of the negotiations would receive the unanimous sanction of the Legislature.

Hon. Receiver-General thought it a happy omen that this important matter should receive the hearty approval of every member of the House. So much had been said by the Hon. the Premier and the leader of the Opposition, that there was not much for him to touch upon, but he was pleased that we were all agreed that the best thing that could happen to the Colony at the present time was the coming of a Royal Commission. The good things that this Commission would have to say about our great natural resources must result in the immediate influx of capital, so that these resources may be developed, and employment of various kinds be given to our people. He (R.G.) believed the coming of the Commission would also result in our financial burdens being considerably lessened. Perhaps the most important matter for the Commission to deal with would be to take evidence and report upon the condition of the people on the French shore, and to ascertain in what particular respect the Treaty obligations of Great Britain and France may have operated to the prejudice of that portion of our population, and further to suggest remedies for the removal of these disadvantages. The more he (R.G.) thought of the matter, he considered our case was so strong that our claims could no longer be denied. We shall go to the Secretary of State for the Colonies with our colours nailed to the mast. We shall plead not only for sympathy but for justice. The present Head of the Colonial Office stands second to no man in the British Empire for ability and influence, and in granting us a full measure of assistance he (Mr. Chamberlain) would only be carrying out the policy he had always advocated. At the same time we can never assent to anything that may interfere with our rights of local self government. This was the position that he (R.G.) had always taken.

Mr. Morris desired to add a few words in support of the Resolutions before the chair. He was in accord with such proposals respecting a Royal Commission now because the Colony was never in a better condition to approach the British Government for assistance. By the recent railway contract we had decreased our National Debt by one million dollars, and we had converted what were liabilities to be assets of the Colony. He believed the Imperial Government could float a loan for us which would save us three hundred thousand dollars a year in interest alone. He hoped that the result of the negotiations would also include the settlement of the French shore question.

Mr. Donnelly supported the Resolutions, and was of opinion that our claims for sympathy and justice from the Motherland would receive far more favourable consideration from the hands of Mr. Chamberlain than could have been hoped for in 1891 from Lord Knutsford, who was Secretary of State for the Colonies at that time. He (Mr. D.) was especially anxious that the present condition of the people living on the French shore should be properly enquired into, but he agreed with the Leader of the Opposition that no