

Majesty and her descendants. Of course, as in every other great change, we were not unanimous in arriving at the present Constitution in all its details. Of course, it would be impossible to suppose in a free-thought country like this, that we should have been unanimous—unanimity would have been a proof of want of freedom. I cordially appreciate the remarks of my hon. friend from Quebec (Mr. Laurier) when he says that those who opposed Confederation had cordially and loyally accepted the decision of the majority of the people of Canada, or the Parliament of Canada, and of the Parliament of England. As he truly said, one of the leaders of the opposition to the new Constitution in its details, and in some of its principles, was a distinguished statesman from the Province of Quebec, my great friend, though always my political opponent, Sir Aimé Dorion, the distinguished Chief Justice of the Province of Quebec. No man acted more loyally under the new Constitution which was adopted than he did, as was shown on his entering into the Government and assuming the responsibilities of Government under the new Constitution, and, whether on this side of the House or on the other side of the House, doing his very best, exercising his great abilities to carry out loyally and faithfully in practice, the principles of the Constitution which was laid down in the British North America Act of 1867. I am sure it was a mere accidental omission on the part of the hon. member for Ottawa (Mr. Wright) that he did not allude to the merging of all political parties, of all political dissent, of all political asperities for the good of the country in 1864. No man entered into the scheme more strongly, more zealously, and more earnestly, than the hon. George Brown; and everybody that remembers that hon. gentleman, must remember that whatever he did, he did with all his might. He entered into this scheme with all his great energy—then at its height—with all his physical strength, and all his mental and intellectual power; he entered into the work manfully, and he associated with him two other gentlemen of the Liberal Party, the present Premier of Ontario, and the hon. William Macdougall; and I must say that I never had three colleagues belonging to my own party, of the same political proclivities as myself, who worked more honestly or manfully carrying out at Quebec those resolutions which formed the basis and foundation of the Confederation under which we now live. Sir, it was a great event, for good or for evil. Here were four Provinces to be formed into one, in the first place, and, with statesmanlike provision, the conference entered into the work, not for the purpose of only uniting those four Provinces, not for the simple purpose of curing the anarchy—the almost perilous, hazardous anarchy which existed in the Old Province of Canada—but they entered into it with the far-seeing design of raising on this continent an auxiliary England, similar to all its principles, and in most of its practices, to the Mother Country; to unite the whole British race, and those whom circumstances had made British subjects—and who were among the most valuable of the British subjects on this continent—to unite them altogether, and form under one constitutional monarchy, the whole of the British possessions, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. We have been successful so far in bringing together, I may say, that portion of the continent, for Prince Albert Island is so close that it may be considered a part of the continent. We are all united into one Dominion, in an auxiliary England; and if the same moderation, the same desire to perpetuate the present Constitution continues, I am sure that our best hopes will not be disappointed, and that years and years hereafter, though

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every man who now hears me shall have disappeared from the stage of action, this painting when it hangs on the wall will be looked upon by our children's children with the same admiration as being the portraits of those who were instrumental in laying the basis of a great country—an allied country to the grand old nation to which, as the hon. member for Ottawa said, we happily now belong. So far as this painting itself is concerned, I quite agree with the hon. gentleman that it is fortunate for us that in Mr. Harris, the gentleman named, we will have a Canadian artist who has already attained celebrity in Europe, and who, if he is spared, will do honor to Canada. We cannot expect, Mr. Speaker, to keep all those Canadians who will distinguish themselves in art and science; we cannot expect them to remain in Canada. The great centres of arts and science and civilization, like London and Paris, will, to a certainty, attract a great portion of these men; but whether in Canada, England, or France, still they will do honor to Canada and illustrate Canadian genius and Canadian ability; and wherever they make their habitation, they will be known as Canadian artists, and we will be proud of them, just as the people of the United States are proud of their Story and their Hosmer, though from their artistic tastes they may reside altogether in Italy. So with others, like Thomas Walden at Rome; they may be taken away in order to pursue their art, in order to be on the great fields of science and art; they may leave their country, but if they are Canadians they will be Canadians still, and we will be proud of them. As regards this particular painting I can have no personal objection to have another artist try his hand upon myself. There is another Canadian artist who draws me with power and graphic skill; and I think under the principle of wholesome competition, I may hope that Mr. Harris, whose paintings I have not seen, may, by slow degrees, rise to the artistic skill and perfect accuracy in portraying my countenance that my friend Ben-gough possesses. I take it from the kindly manner in which the proposition made by the two hon. gentlemen has been received, that it accords with the general sense of the House, and the Government will take care that a sum shall be placed in the Estimates for the purpose of carrying it out.

Mr. WRIGHT. I have to thank the hon. member from South Brant, for calling my attention to an omission in my remarks which certainly was accidental. I did not intend at all to eliminate the fact that prominent Liberal gentlemen took a most active part in the proceedings relating to Confederation. My relations with those gentlemen have always been of the most agreeable character. I well remember the singular energy with which the late lamented Mr. Brown, and also the present leader of the Provincial Government of Ontario, entered into those proceedings. I remember also the prominent part taken by the late hon. leader of the Liberal party, the hon. Alexander Mackenzie; and for that gentleman, and all the gentlemen concerned in that great scheme of Confederation, belonging to the Liberal party, I have the most extreme and profound respect.

House again resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

223. Civil Government—Department of the Interior. \$10,713.54

Mr. BLAKE. Will the hon. gentleman explain these items?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. As I have had occasion to mention already during this Session, the Government in order to make the land granting Department as efficient as possible, have ventured to come to Parliament and ask for