

row strip on the Pacific shore. Districts so sundered were impossible of union. The progress of the United States had been instanced, but that progress has arisen from the continuity of their fertile soil, and the variety of its capabilities. An American standing on the southern shore of Lake Erie could pass a watchword to the Gulf of Mexico, transmitted from one settler to another across the whole breadth of the land. But a union of isolated settlements, of isolated territories, and of isolated peoples, would not fail to prove a source of danger, and of overthrow to the Government and the Dominion. As to the commercial advantages anticipated by the resolutions, he asked was there any article of commerce to be transmitted between the Atlantic and the Pacific, the value of which would not be consumed three times over in the charges of its transit. The abstract proposition that prosperity was to be secured only by stable Government, he might pass over as axiomatically true, and as being equally applicable to Mexico. The fifth resolution drew a perfectly illogical conclusion from the preceding four, and it had been by no means shown that it was expedient to address Her Majesty in the terms proposed. There had been a change of position on the part of the Ministry with respect to the extent of territory they required. The Government of the late Province of Canada had desired the annexation of the North Western territory only, and had never, as was done now, made any claim or pretension to the less fertile region of Rupert's Land, where the rights of the Hudson's Bay Company are strongest, and for relinquishing which they will require the greatest amount of compensation. The late Government had proposed the extinction by the Imperial Legislature of the Company's claims, which had been approved by the Secretary of State, Mr. Cardwell, and consented to by the House of Commons, on the condition of Canada's providing a proper system of Government. We now are asked to purchase, in our generosity, what was then tendered as a free gift to our predecessors. The national policy that caused the remodeling of the East India Company, called for the extinguishing of this charter also. It was our duty to petition the Imperial Government with this object, and until our petition had been denied, we were not justified in laying burdens upon the people for the acquisition of territory, which should be ours free of charge. It had been said that the Company's claims were to be settled in the courts, but whether in our own courts or in those of

England, was not clear, and we should find ourselves involved in long and tedious litigation. If the purchase money were to be a small matter, would it have been proposed that an Imperial loan should be resorted to? To undertake the government and settlement of this territory comprehended the opening of communication, the establishment of a police force, and it might be of a military force also to act against the Indian tribes. The statement of the Minister of Militia that half a million would be sufficient for the eight hundred miles of road was utterly absurd and preposterous. The communication, to be in the least effective, should be by railroad or steamboat, for what immigrant, who had, perhaps, expended all his resources in travelling to this country, would undertake to travel with his family this distance by a wagon road? Seven or eight millions would not be too high an estimate of the cost of establishing a police force and of opening this road, which, like the Intercolonial Road, would prove of political, if not of commercial, necessity. If the young Dominion was not satisfied to confine itself to consolidation, but was to set about planting a new colony, it would in future years come back as a reproach to us that we had undertaken what we had been unable to fulfil. Unless we were to grant licenses to trade and protect these licenses by police, he did not understand what greater advantage would accrue to ourselves than to Americans from our occupation. We were in fact pledging the country to an unknown expense; he thought of, perhaps, twenty millions—the Ministry thought of less—but it still remained an indefinite matter of opinion. The slightest spark might kindle an Indian war, one year of which, as the experience of the neighbouring Republic might teach us, would almost reduce us to bankruptcy. It had been said the mineral wealth of the country was abundant, but without coal it would be entirely unavailable. He differed so far from the Ministry that, if he were prepared to accept the resolutions, he would not hesitate to go in and take possession against the Hudson's Bay Company on the broad principles of the right of a settler's spade, and axe, against the Company's charters and royal arms. Upon the broad principle of the double right of man to cultivate the earth, and the earth to be cultivated by man, any charter forbidding which, we held worthless and invalid. We had expelled the Indian whose right was a thousand times that of the Company, and were we to treat the white savage with more considera-