

May 6, 1872

The hon. gentleman had said, however, that he did not by this resolution intend to blame the Imperial Government. Who then was to be blamed? If no one was to be blamed, if the resolution was to effect nothing, why had it been brought up for discussion at all? In fact, it was neither more nor less than a censure of the Imperial Government. Well, if it would lead to the downfall of the Gladstone government, he (Mr. Harrison) would support it with all his might. (*Hear, hear.*)

It was not pretended, however, that it would have that, or indeed any effect. The House knew that these claims had not been withdrawn except for Government reasons, that it was not from cowardice or from any other unworthy motive. The Imperial Government had failed to press them.

In taking the responsibility of withdrawing them, the Imperial Government admitted the right of Canada to compensation. While then we had a right to look to England for that compensation because she had taken the responsibility of preventing our seeking payment from the United States, it was our duty, remembering the motherly kindness of the people of England, to make the burden lie as lightly upon them as possible.

The mode of settlement proposed by the Government just met this condition. It gave us in Canada a great benefit, and it compensated us for our losses while it cost the Mother Country nothing at all. The mover of the resolution had objected to this settlement, saying England might as well pay the money as endorse paper for Canada. (*Laughter.*) Well, he (Mr. Harrison) would not be above endorsing paper himself for Canada, (*Laughter*) for he believed such an operation would not be only pleasant but entirely safe. It was impossible that the liability England was incurring would ever become an actual liability.

As for Fenian marauders again troubling our country, he had no apprehensions on that score. Entertaining these views, first, that the resolution was more mischievous than useful, and, second that it censured the Imperial Government when censure was out of place, he would move the following amendment:

That this House does not consider that the interests of the Dominion will be promoted or the relations now happily existing between the Mother Country strengthened by an expression of opinion on the subject of the withdrawal of the Fenian claims by the Imperial Government before the Joint High Commission.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** thought that the hon. gentlemen opposite, acting in their capacities as representatives of the people and as the governing bodies of this country, had no hesitation in declaiming on the policy of the Imperial Government, for they had told them to their face that they disapproved of the course taken with regard to the Fenian claims.

It seemed, however, to be considered quite right for the Canadian Government to censure the Imperial Government in the matter, but

quite wrong for the House to give expression to its feeling as bearing hard upon the Imperial policy. He thought anything the Cabinet could do, the House also could by the expressions of individual members, and a clear expression of public opinion, which would be more justifiable than the expression of the Ministry in their individual capacity.

The argument of the hon. member for Lanark North (Hon. Mr. McDougall) was complete, except it begged the premises. He had said that the entire claims for the Fenian raids were consequential. The entire amount was not consequential but real and direct damages, and could be assessed as fairly as the loss of any vessel destroyed by the Alabama.

**Hon. Mr. McDOUGALL (Lanark North):** What are they?

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE:** There is an amount of \$700,000 for goods destroyed and compensation due to the relatives of those who fell.

**Hon. Mr. McDOUGALL (Lanark North):** I referred to those.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE:** Yes, but not as direct damages. It was not, however, a mere question of money. He had always treated that as of much less consequence than the continued irruptions into our country by these marauders, and the condonation of their offences. His hon. friend the member for Toronto West (Mr. Harrison) had said they all knew how our brave volunteers had come to the front when danger threatened: That was quite true; they came in 1866, for he (Hon. Mr. Mackenzie) was there as a volunteer with the rest, but they came back in 1870 and again in 1871, and they may come in 1872 or 1873.

In consequence of the policy adopted towards these marauders, they are led to say—"the United States will not imprison us, and if they do the courts will pardon us. The Government of Great Britain will not insist upon the United States making any apology or reparation; and all that can happen will be that the Canadian Government will demand indemnity of the British government," etc.

This had a direct tendency to lead these people to continued incursions into our country. He was prepared to support a motion to go into Committee on this question. He did not care what shape the resolution took, but as long as the House had to deal with great expenditures of money for irruptions by these marauders, and so long as our Commissioners took so wrong a ground as they seem to have taken, he considered the whole matter was one for discussion of this House.

**Hon. Sir A.T. GALT** did not think the consideration of this subject would be mixed up with that of the Treaty, as had been said by several hon. members. It was, perhaps, unavoidable that one should be connected with the other, although the mover of the