nent population. 2 Established diversified interests; wealth, whether capital or regular income, the well-being of professions, businesses and industries, agriculture, substantial industrial staples. Population herein we are deficient—6500 adult white men—sparsely, scattered and temporary. How many care to wide, how many are long. Established interests have also are deficient; position our drawback; studies we have, but they are undeveloped or unlucky; gold mining is depressed; agriculture under a disadvantage and no good market; coal not much sought after and minerals a speculation; lumber unfortunately fisheries not established and one more in the way of export will lay the foundation of the free port, or interest from the absence of a large home demand. Then are all our material elements of wealth and we have them in no great abundance. Now whence then is what have we? A sparse community in which the only thriving interest is agriculture, and that only because supply is not equal to demand; or in other words small in numbers and imperfectly and unwealthy classes all. Can self government be trusted to such a population? I say emphatically no! Now I am not greatly in favor of a high qualification for representatives for members of the Council, it is sufficient for me that they represent substantial interests; but when we have no substantial representatives representing insubstantial and small constituencies I can hardly understand anything more dangerous, and I might add, more ridiculous or more extravagant. That representatives should be substantial people is desirable, but that they should represent substantial interests is indispensable. If representatives are unfaithful to their trust the remedy is possible; but where the class of electors is nearly an insubstantial, it seems impossible to conceive anything more disastrous. Taxation, as before has been observed, is the crown of legislation; and taxation at the hands of insubstantial men, or men forced to advocate the interests of insubstantial constituencies, will be nothing but tyranny. Opinions may be divided in many other matters, the votes of a party may be split on many points; but in the hands of the insubstantials taxation will be levied and unmeasurable taxed to suit the views of those who have nothing to lose and all to gain by any contemplated movement.

Take the example of Victoria, in old days, as an example a small and a large community; as a high qualification in Victoria, in Victoria, where legislation is effected by the enormous majority of the advocates of the interests of a sentimental element on a low qualification, manhood suffrage. I cannot but understand that if the Government is in the hands of the representatives of the people, and a working majority of them—in some representative government, if not equal to, in effect, equal to responsible Government in the hands of the representatives of the people, supplied would an be vested necessary conditions were not at hand favorable to the popular will. And, sir, having treated on representative and responsible Government as applied to this colony let me see its bearing on the subject of confederation, and here I follow in the footsteps of the honorable member for New Westminster, his reasoning is mine, but not his conclusion. Without responsible Government, or its equivalent, or its approximate Government by a representative majority, we have no analogous ground for a Government of Canadian officials, British Columbia will be a colony of Canada, a dependency of a dominion, and Canadian interests will prevail. Dependence on England is bearable, they have no interests apart from ours, but dependence on Canada would be insurmountable, their interests are different from ours. That is the conclusion that is inevitable, it is but a logical conclusion. Confederation without responsible Government, or Government by a working majority of representative members, is out of the question. Such a Government cannot be had; therefore Confederation is out of the question. I have this, sir, given my opinion on a point which is sure to meet with popular disfavor, but I am proud to support the Executive when I think it is right; and I would share the responsibility of a measure which would make that Executive obnoxious to blame. I have no choice, no feeling of opposition to Government. I have no objection to individuals, nor do I impute to them sordid motives, but in the matter of Confederation the Executive of this colony is in a false position, they are primarily, not for the good of the colony, but for the good, or supposed good of Great Britain, and they exercise the power of Government in a matter in which the interests of the colony are not by at stake to carry out, and of certain organic changes of great importance to local interests. It is scarcely in order for me to say I impute motives to the Executive. I only quarrel with them when they place themselves in a false position, as in the question of Confederation, and in this question I say they oppose their own views to the views of the will and wishes of a vast majority of all classes of the community; and how they carry through a scheme of Confederation, they start the stone, and it is hard to say how or where it will roll. I sincerely feel for their position. The colony will demand representative institutions, and they will be forced to yield. Those are some of the positions they have undertaken. The answer of the Executive Government to this is as given by the Hon. Attorney General. The Attorney General says that after Confederation we are bound to have what we require—responsible Government. This is taking the matter for granted. It may be attained, but with a struggle. It is impossible to doubt that the Executive of the new province will oppose representative Government or any diminution of their own rights and their own power. He says he is inopportune and beside the question. The honorable member for Cariboo (Dr. Carroll) says: "If the people of British Columbia want responsible Government no power on earth can prevent the having it." This is but a promise for the future. The Hon. Chief Commissioner says the community is not fit for responsible Government, but the matter is to be left to the new Council. Responsible Government will assuredly come with Confederation. The honorable member for Victoria (Dr. Helmcken) says: "Take the argument of the Government. But something must counterbalance Canada, otherwise with a working majority in the House the Dominion Government will keep things as they are when we are a province of Canada.

TUESDAY, 21 March.

Hon Holbrooke—Mr Chairman, I rise with some diffidence to give my opinion as to whether we are fitter for Responsible Government or not, after the able speeches that have been delivered by hon members on this subject. The hon and learned member for Victoria City (Mr Drake) has affirmed that Responsible Government would give the real government of the Colony to Victoria. This I believe is true, and if such were the case what injury it would inflict on New Westminster and the Mainland generally. I feel that we are not yet fit for responsible government; but nevertheless, I think that the extent of the population is very much under estimated. It has been stated that after the most careful calculations that can be made the white population cannot be calculated at over 5000 adult, but I think this is wrong and no doubt it has been taken from the move recent accounts which do not include Kootenay, Big Bend, or the settlements around New Westminster, and I would make the adult white population to be 10,000, besides 40,000 Indians, and these Indians ought not to be ignored. If they are not represented will it not be difficult to make them contented with the change from the Imperial Government to Canada? And it is for this reason that I have gone in a notice of motion this House to show them that they are not forgotten, and that they may go on with their settlements and improvements in safety. But if we are to have responsible government I will not be answerable or the consequences. We are told the question is to be submitted to the people. I say let us wait for their decision. I have confidence in Canada and am content to take my chance of being well governed by the Dominion Government, rather than try some thing of the working of which we know nothing. I have no doubt that great agitation on the subject of responsible government will be got up by the press and that many members will gain their elections by creating the questions of Confederation and responsible government. I entirely concur with the hon Mr Good in believing that more liberal representation will do much more for the good of the Colony than responsible government. I believe in a good franchise being given as foreshadowed by the Governor's speech, and I think twelve elected and eight nominated members would give satisfaction and work well, although report make the change more liberal than this. We are now on the eve of prosperity. Our Quartz mining is still to be commenced and we only want good roads to Kootenay by way of Eagle Pass to open our resources in this respect. I do not intend to enter upon the question of responsible government. I believe it would be bad for us and is not required by the people. I shall support the Government in the clause now under discussion.

Hon Mr Dennison—Mr Chairman, I had not expected to say anything more on this subject; but in more mature reflection I am satisfied that it is my duty to do so. For more the matter is brought before the House the more the members of Government members are heard, the more I believe we are here asked to take a leap in the dark; for all I can learn is that the new House is to be partly nominative and partly elective—and not responsible; the property qualifications are not stated. It has also cropped out that there will be a qualification for members and also for electors. If the Government refer this matter to the people to know whether such a Constitution will suit them, I believe the people to almost a unit will reject it. The issue are opposed to Confederation altogether unless they can get a more liberal representation than that proposed by the Government. At the outset I proposed a committee of all parties to consider and report upon the whole matter; but the majority judged as I think, adversely to the proposition. Now, sir, I think if the committee had met and suggested for the protection of the property element that one-third of the members of the Council should be elected for a longer period and hold property qualifications, the country would have been satisfied. I can conceive, on some such proposition as that being laid before the House, it would have been eminently successful; as it now stands it is matter of doubt. I think the Governor has been led into error if the intimation that occasionally drop from members of the House mean anything. I cannot conceive that the people will accept such a Constitution. I should prefer that we should go into Confederation as a unit. I have made the same remarks not my mind at rest on the question, and I have myself table with my consideration if I should offer myself as a candidate again. I say that I believe the Government will jeopardize consideration on this point.

Hon Mr Dewdney—Sir, the question now under consideration has been so fully gone into by hon members of this council, that I feel it will be useless for me to take up the time of this House to any great length. At the commencement of this debate I had several arguments which I proposed to bring before your notice against responsible government, but I find these have been ably handled by other honorable gentlemen far more ably than I could have hoped to do, and should I not have been convinced at the earlier stages of this debate, other arguments have been adduced which now completely set my mind at rest on the subject. I am opposed to the resolutions of both the hon members for New Westminster and Lillooet, particularly the latter, and in opposing them I do not feel I am injuring the cause of confederation but which I feel, Mr Chairman, that it is necessary for me to enter into the question of responsible government, I think I should not be doing my duty where I to remain silent upon one matter connected with this debate—one most which I consider I am capable of giving an opinion as any hon member of this council, namely, the feeling of the inhabitants of the mainland generally with regard to responsible government. I have resided through this country as much as any hon member of this council, and I have been brought in contact with all classes, and have conversed with all classes, and I have yet to meet the first individual one has expressed to me his desire for responsible government. Now, Mr Chairman, do you believe, does this council believe that the country throughout this colony is, down with the present form of government—let us have responsible government. Hon members of this House are aware, I presume, that my avocation for some years past, in fact as long as I have been in this Colony, have necessarily brought me in contact with all classes, and should this have been the city do you think I should not have heard it? I say distinctly again I have yet to meet the first individual who has expressed to me his desire for responsible government. The feeling of my constituents is not in favor of responsible government; on the contrary it was distinctly expressed to me that they do not desire any change in the present form of government, all they wa t is money to keep their roads in order and a resident magistrate to administer justice and carry out the laws. I believe that some hon members of this House have mistaken the feelings of the country on this matter. Any dissatisfaction that exists is not with the present system of government but with the expense of carrying the system out. We all feel that, and we all know that it cannot be avoided for reasons which have been given over and over again in this house, namely, the smallness of population, scattered as it is over so vast an area. I have not heard during the debate any arguments that will prove to me or to this house that under responsible government we could have a cheaper form of government. I for one could not be convinced that we should. I believe that the public monies would be wasted, corruption and dishonesty would be the order of the day. We are told by the hon member for Yale we must have a beginning, I am aware of that fact, and for one shall assist to put off the evil day. I prefer for a time, until our population increases, to live under the present form of government, one under which, I am proud to say, I have lived for eleven years without seeing the faults of maladministration and other evil consations that have been buried at it by the hon member for Lillooet. I am aware that that hon gentleman was himself in some subordinate position under the government, he may of his own personal knowledge, while in