

I, however, to speak seriously, doubt very much if the Hon. Member can cite a single example in History of the larger absorbing the lesser, unless the larger possessed better qualifications as in the case of the absorption by British Columbia of Vancouver Island. Sir, we must give up all personal prejudices, and we must bend our minds to the establishment of a great British Empire upon the Pacific Coast.

Lord Macaulay says that "Governments are made for the people, and not the people for the Governments." Yet, Sir, how different seems to be the course of reasoning in this Colony. Here we have a strange compound of sickly representation and unpopular officialdom. The want of responsible Government has become intolerable; the people have ceased to respect the Government, and the Government seem to be doing their best to educate the people up to hating the officials. There is to my mind, Sir, no necessity for the continuance of such a state of things, only let the people's voice be heard, and there will be a change. The overwhelming preponderance of the official element in this Council, and the presence in the Legislative body of officials who are paid by the people, and yet are not responsible to them, is the real cause of the alienation of the hearts of the people from the Government. The votes of these Hon. gentlemen must always oscillate between their own interests and what their own conscience dictate to them as for the good of the country. It is our duty, Sir, to bring back the hearts of the people. We must have a Government by and for the people. This is what I believe the people really require, and this and more, if necessary, the Government must be prepared to give them. The people of this Colony will consent to no arrangement which has not for its foundation Responsible Government. We must be prepared to pull down and demolish the old structure, in order to rear up one that shall endure—as a Government secure in the affections of the people only can endure. I warn Hon. gentlemen that they must endeavour to recover the wills of the people; then, and not till then, will return that prosperity which we all desire to see.

I hope, Sir, that the Executive will not attempt to make any arrangement with the Dominion Government which does not include popular self-government. The people will never accept Confederation without Responsible Government.

We must first get the tree—Responsible Government—and we may afterwards, with some reason, hope to get the fruit. I say, Sir, that it is a gross libel upon the intelligence of the people of this Colony, to say that we are not fitted for self-government. In no country can you find men better capable of governing themselves, and of managing their own affairs, than in this Colony. I hold, Sir, that the greatest enemies of the people are those who always endeavour to blazon forth their learning. I am proud to say that I am of the people. My education, if not of so high a culture as that of some Hon. Members of this House, has at least enabled me, up to this time, to make my own way in the world, unaided by official pay and without the assistance of official favour or influence. And when I hear Hon. Members speaking of the people as a class unfit for self-government, I find it difficult to believe that such a set of men are the same as have been speaking before, in this House, and outside on Confederation.

In conclusion, Sir, I say fearlessly that Responsible Government is a *sine qua non* in the terms of Confederation. Place what conditions you will before the people, without the condition of Responsible Government, and Confederation is killed.

Confederation means to give Hon. Members a pension, to the people it means self-government, and I say, Sir, that above all things, we must keep in view the absolute necessity of keeping control of our own local affairs, otherwise Confederation would be useless to the country, and I warn Hon. Members at the other side of the House, that to exclude Responsible Government from the terms, is to ensure defeat for the whole Confederation scheme when it comes before the people at the polls.

The Hon. Mr. CARRALL, Member for Carleton, said—Mr. President, I did not intend to open my lips during this debate; indeed I am left with very little to say by the Honourable gentlemen who have preceded me. I have taken notes with a view, if those assertions which were put forth were not answered, of replying to them.

For three days I have sat at this Board and heard discussions *pro* and *con*. I have heard nearly every word; certainly every argument which Honourable

Members on both sides have adduced; especially have I listened to every argument of those who are in opposition, and I believe that nothing remains unanswered—in fact but a few crumbs are left for me. Another reason why I did not desire to make a speech is that my principles are pretty thoroughly known, and I deem it almost a work of supererogation to reiterate my sentiments.

But as this debate as to whether we should go into Committee or not has taken such a serious turn, I think it right and proper to say a few words. Whatever known me through this Colony, or through British North America, knows that my principles have never changed on this great Confederation question. I have always maintained that the fragments of empire lying loose, so to speak, in British North America, east and west of the Rocky Mountains, should be united and consolidated under one Government. The question of the confederation of the whole Colonial Empire of Great Britain is one that has always appeared to me to be replete with the greatest interest, and I trust that I may be spared to see this consolidation consummated.

With regard to the advantages that Confederation will bring to British Columbia, it is almost forbidden ground, for the advantages are in reality part of the Resolutions. If I allude to them, over the ground the debate on terms, and as I should not be in a position to prove anything which is in the future, I had perhaps better abstain from touching upon the subject. However, this much I will say, that, after sentiment and loyalty are disposed of, it becomes a question of advantage.

The terms sent down to this House, in my opinion, warrant our acceptance of them in their entirety; but if the House think otherwise, I may, I am sure, go so far as to say that the Executive are open to receive suggestions, and that there will be no objection to adopt any suggestions which will not be likely to jeopardize the success of the whole scheme. In this conviction, I do not propose to them over the ground that has already been taken. But I must allude to what I cannot help calling a feeling of over-care and caution which has been displayed throughout this debate.

I believe, Mr. President, that you are an Englishman, and as a nation I think you express too much caution, fear and anxiety with respect to the course which Canada might pursue. I do not speak personally, but such appears to me to be the characteristic quality of Englishmen, and it has especially cropped out during this debate. I say that I believe we are treating with a far-seeing, far-seeing set of men who would never forfeit their word, Statesmen who would be incapable of offering "sneak conditions," even if we of British Columbia would accept them. They will give us terms to make us happy and contented. Another reason for our feeling confidence in the future is that we shall have under these terms, as the Hon. Member for Victoria District says, an enormous proportion of Representatives in Ottawa, and I presume that each of these Representatives will have a voice and the gift of speech.

It is fair to argue that the Dominion Statesmen will give us what will make us contented and prosperous. In touching upon this point, I should like to make an historical allusion, and for example I would refer to the present condition of the Union between Great Britain and Ireland. ["Hear, hear," from Dr. Helmcken.] When Hon. gentlemen say "Hear, hear," they may think I have given an apt illustration. We, however, know that the number of Ireland's representatives, amounting to something over one hundred, have enabled the Irish members of the British House of Commons to hold the balance of power and the bulk of patronage between the great contending political parties, and by swaying between the Gladstones and Disraelis, or other leaders of the day, they have frequently been able to turn the scale so as to obtain what they desired, and to secure a liberal share of patronage to office. I maintain, Sir, in this connection, that if British Columbia found that by reason of her small representation, large in comparison with the representation of the different States in the Congress of America, I say, that if British Columbia Members found that there was any disposition to tyrannise in the Dominion House of Commons, why I do not for one moment fear, they could in no common cause with other small maritime Provinces against Canada proper. To quote the words of the Hon. Chief Commissioner, I believe that British Columbia will be a pet Province of the Confederacy. I try, Sir, to avoid speech-making, the time for that will be in Committee.