

antee from the Imperial Government. If the Dominion refuse to keep the terms and repudiate their part of the bargain, we can appeal to the Imperial Government to release us.

[Hon. Mr. Wood:—“Let us have it in black and white.”]

Why, let the Act be repealed and down go the terms. The sovereign power is in the Parliament of England. It made the Act, and if it is violated without redress, it can repeat it, and the power of Canada ceases.

The Honourable and learned Member for Victoria City has referred to the possibility of a Fenian invasion, and said what will become of the Railway in such an event. I believe, Sir, on such an extraordinary occasion, such as invasion, each one in the Colony will be patriotic enough to do without a few miles of Railway, until the invasion may be put down.

It has been asked what is the gain under Confederation.

At present we have no surplus revenue. But with Confederation on equitable terms, there will be a clear gain of \$381,000 annually from subsidies and reduction of tariff; therefore, an \$381,000 is to nothing, so is Confederation to Isolation. There are a great many points to which I could allude were I disposed to trespass longer on the time of the Council; but I reserve them until we go into Committee.

There are, however, some few things to which I will passingly allude. It is important to British Columbia to know what will be the qualification of Members to the Dominion Parliament [hear, hear, from Dr. Helmcken] and the qualification of electors. And with reference to the Local Constitution, it may be necessary for us to know whether our Governors cannot be elected as in the United States, instead of being appointed on the English principle; and whether we may not acquire the right to pass local laws over the veto of the Governor, by a two-third vote of the Legislature. The usury laws, imprisonment for debt, and many other matters will require careful consideration and attention.

With respect to the main principle, I am in favour of Confederation, provided the financial terms are right in amount, and if the other terms will contribute to the advancement and protection of our industry. If we cannot get favourable terms, which I believe we can, it will then be for the people of this Country to say whether we shall remain in isolation or seek some other more favourable union.

The Debate was here adjourned until Friday, at 1 o'clock.

FRIDAY, 11TH MARCH, 1870.

The Debate was resumed by the Hon. Mr. BING, who on his rising was greeted with cries of “Spoke, spoke.”

Hon. Mr. Bing said:—Sir, I have only spoken to the amendment, and have a right to speak to the original motion.

Doubts were expressed as to the Hon. gentleman's right to speak a second time, but the Presiding Member was not called upon to decide, and Mr. Bing proceeded:—

Sir, The Hon. Member for Victoria District commenced by congratulating the Council on having the grand question of Confederation now before them. He congratulated them on the great advantage of being able to grapple with a great question like this. I cannot compliment him on the way in which he introduced his subject. I admire his perseverance, and confess that on many subjects he enlightens Members on both sides of the House.

I lament to find that having alluded to the opening speech of the Attorney General, he thought fit to cast unwarrantable imputations with a great question like this on the members of the Government. He suddenly turned aside and quoted a text, which he applied to the Official Members of this Council. He likened one of them to a woman who forgets her modesty and shame, and goes after lovers for bread; to her who has a harlot's forehead, and refuses to be ashamed. Sir, I deprecate such allusions; they throw no light upon the subject. I think that an Honourable and grave body like this, on hearing such charges, should have at once risen to express their indignation rather than have concluded it by their silence. Nothing is more easy than to take any one act of a man,

or of a body of men, and apply it to a sinister motive, when it is capable of an honourable one. Sir, I was very glad that the Hon. Attorney General had the courage to follow the example of the English House of Commons. He, finding to Chaplain to this House, supplied the defect by invoking the blessing of God, which was met by a sneer. I say I admire his courage in fronting a godless age, by the invocation of the blessing of Him in whom we live and move and have our being. He was not ashamed to acknowledge the controlling power of Heaven over the destinies of this fallen Colony.

Now, Sir, the Attorney General decauted at great length on the advantages of Union. He put that as the basis of the Government proposition. There is nothing like Union he says; this is a noble sentiment which all must join in. Everyone would welcome that comprehensive brotherhood which embraces all civilized Nations. I am sure that when the Hon. Member for Victoria alluded to the possibility of a prospective union with other Powers, he did not do so in the idea of this Colony abandoning its allegiance to the Crown; because he expressed a wish to see the desire of general union spreading, is no reason that he should desire to shake the connection with the Mother Country. Had it been otherwise, I should have deplored the Hon. gentleman's loss of loyalty. Some surprise has existed at the Hon. Member for Victoria offering suggestions as to the possibility of any other union. Why so? The Hon. Attorney General himself gracefully introduced it. Why should not the English-speaking race live in peace, and form one Nation? The people of the United States spring from one common stock with ourselves. I long to see the time when all national sectarianisms shall be swept away.

My position as Member for Nanaimo has been assailed in a cowardly way by what is called the Press. I have been accused of shrinking from my duty to my constituents at Nanaimo, because I echoed their sentiments against Confederation. I ask the indulgence of the House whilst I allude to what occurred at Nanaimo at the last election. At that time the question of Confederation was rife throughout the Colony; peoples' minds were agitated; the people of Nanaimo were almost unanimous against it. In what I said to them during the progress of the election, and also on the hustings, I told them that I agreed with their views against Confederation, but that when it came before the Council I should give it my best attention. It was not made a test question at my election. The people of Nanaimo are still of their original opinion; and, therefore, I express their opinion now, against this measure; and say that their convictions are against Confederation, notwithstanding the “No, noes” of certain Hon. Members. There may be some amongst them, Canadians by birth and principle, who desire Confederation, who, though they are here, can say with the poet:—

“Where one I am, who ever render I soon,
My bent untwisted kindly turns to thee.”

Thus much for Nanaimo.

Now, I say, Sir, that the question of Confederation ought to be fully and amply discussed in this House, and to do this there should be a full House. I deny that it is the desire of the people to have Confederation, but I say let the people have an opportunity of expressing their opinions in this House. Let the disfranchised districts have first restored to them the rights of which they have been defrauded. The Governor has been betrayed into supposing that the people want Confederation, and assuming this to be true, he says I shall now give the people an opportunity to discuss the terms.

But let the Franchise be restored, then let the general question of Confederation come before an enlarged representation; and I say that Confederation should be put alone, aye or no. Shall we have Confederation? and not upon what terms shall we have it. The proper course is to dissolve the House, issue new writs, and let the people say whether they want Confederation; and after they have said yes, then descend into the particulars of it. A Government measure is now proposed, we are bound hand and foot, and handed over to Ottawa. I say, Sir, that being so handed over, we ought to let our masters settle the terms for us.

I therefore, venture again Mr. President, to repeat that if it is to go abroad that the people desire Confederation, then the House should be dissolved, and a fair vote taken.

The Hon. Member for Victoria District puts it as if the voice of the people had been heard. I ask how?