say that I think it totally inapplicable at present to the circumstances of British Columbia, where population is so sparse, and lies at the circumference of a circle which contains an area of 300,000 square miles, and where representation is so difficult that the form suggested would be the most expensive that could be adopted, and instead of preventing agitation will be likely to increase it. Much of the population is alien, and in any case this Council is not the proper body to pass upon it. If, however, the country is of a different opinion, I can say so in the polls, and there the power can prevent their getting responsible Government. But I would ask what makes the system so particularly attractive to honorable members who advocate it? We are told that it is so fitting, because it will be good for the colony. That is a conceit to predict the proposition that has been set up. Another thing strikes me coming with a very bad grace from those who support this recommendation. It presupposes a distrust of Canada, and assumes that men of the large experience in Canadian Statesmen, and so reliable as they are, are not to be trusted to yield to a general cry from the country for enlarged representative institutions. I don't think that this is the time to go into the question. I say, then, that whenever responsible Government is wanted it can be had. I need hardly refer to the position of official members in this matter. The terms already passed by the House so far as this question is in any way connected with Confederation, leave the officials free to express their opinions. I must, myself, vote against this recommendation, and I press upon the honorable members to do the same in order to prevent the complication of the terms with any such irrelevant question.

Hon Chief Commissioner—I must endeavor in as few words as possible to state the position of the Government members upon the subject now before the House. I fully understand that it was imperative upon some hon members to bring forward this question of responsibility at some period of the present session. Having advocated it by speech and pen as the specific remedy for the ills that the colony was labouring under, Consistency demanded that the question should be brought up by them for discussion; it was a logical necessity. Honorable late. I say, implied that the hon members to advocate responsible government I but, however, I hoped that the hon members who advocated it would have received it for separate consideration, instead of bringing it up as an amendment to this (now under consideration Mr Robson has not an amendment) virtually it is an amendment. If this clause that prescribed that any future alteration in the constitution should have been dependent on Canada, those I could see the desirability of hon members on the other side of the House taking exception to it; but as it is I confess I am at a loss to comprehend the position. Although, as I said, look at the late compelled hon members to bring the subject forward, it is a mistake to bring it up in a Council constituted as this is, especially when the Governor has so distinctly expressed his views in opposition to the inauguration of responsible government at the present time. It would surely have been much more to the advantage of the cause they advocate for hon members to have postponed the consideration of the question for the more representative House I had set forth in His Excellency's speech. I say shadowed forth, for on reflection it must be plain to all hon members that the Excellency was not in a position to tell what the constitution of that House will be. He does not know. He has recommended certain changes for Imperial sanction; they may or may not be favorably considered. He Excell nay does, however, tell you that the representative element will be larger, and I think, therefore, that it would have been wiser on the part of the representative members who advocate responsible government to have left it to the next Council instead of bringing it forward while the present resolutions are under discussion. The subject, if not positively irrelevant, is not connected with the resolution, which simply provides, as a matter of form, power to change the constitution, in accordance with the Organic Act, when the people desire it. In common with the hon Attorney General, I am surprised that hon members who cordially support Confederation should be afraid to trust the Dominion Government upon this question. I am surprised at the inconsistency of those who tell you that the people could not get responsible government under Confederation, and that the wishes of the people would not be allowed to prevail. I am surprised particularly at the hon member for New Westminster expressing any doubt upon this subject. I, as an individual member of this community, would willingly leave the interests of the colony to the guardianship of the Canadian Government. If I did not think that that Government would exercise whatever power it might have for the benefit of the people, instead of, as suggested by hon members, for its own aggrandisement, I would have no Confederation. If under Confederation there would be no chance of responsible government, how can the hon member expect to get it from a Council constituted as this is? However, as the subject has been brought forward for discussion, I believe it is to consider it upon its merits. There were two propositions before the House. The hon member for Lillooet has withdrawn his, which was in reality but a vague expression of an abstract opinion in favor of responsible government, a recommendation in general terms. We have now to confine our attention to the amendment of the hon member for New Westminster; the preamble of which states that Confederation will not be satisfactory to the people without responsible government. The resolution itself although embodying the same principle as the one which has been withdrawn, contemplates a practical step towards obtaining the object recommended, by addressing the Governor. The hon member for New Westminster was careful to express his own opinion, but he was very positive that Confederation without responsible government would not be acceptable to the people. Coming now to the subject and matter of the speeches of the two hon members, I find that the argument of the hon member for Lillooet are simply unreflective, his entire logic is abuse of the Government and the persons composing it. I have always understood that assertion is not fact, and that invective is not argument. It may be that my inability to appreciate the force of his remarks arises from my not possessing the qualification which he told me was essential to a proper understanding of the people and the people's affairs. It may be that I have not eaten and drunk and slept with the people, and cannot, therefore, rightly estimate the strength of denunciation which general and indiscriminate abuse of government officials may convey to some minds. As to the hon member's earnestness of belief in his case, his conscientiousness in the discharge of his duty to his constituents and to the colony, had we ever had any doubt of it, his positive and repeated assurances of the honesty of his intentions in this matter, of his unfaltering determination to do his duty to those he represents, must have forced conviction upon us. But, while giving him full credit for singleness of purpose, I must take leave to remark on his singular mode of recommending the subject to the favorable consideration of this Council, since his argument in its favor is to keep general accusation and vituperation on the official members of this Council, whom he invites to join with him by voting in favor of his views, to confirm his view of their utter baseness and worthlessness. I shall not place myself in opposition to such a line of argument. But, sir, the argument of the hon member for New Westminster is of a very different character. I congratulate him and I congratulate the House on the manner in which the matter was treated by him, and especially as regards the officials. I acknowledge the courteous manner in which he touched on those points in his arguments which affected the members at this end of the table. It is inseparable from the discussion of this question in this House that it must to some extent partake of a personal character, it must almost mean a vote of want of confidence in Government officials. The smallness of the community reduces it almost to a question amongst individuals, and as the Government members have been placed, unnecessarily and inexpediently, as I think, to some extent upon their defence, I must speak plainly on some points, but in doing so I must deprecate any idea of giving offence. I say, then, that responsible government is not desirable, and is not applicable to this colony at present, is practically unworkable. And here I would deprecate the impression which is being so industriously fostered into the people of this colony concerning what has been said of the unfitness of the colony for responsible government. His Excellency the Governor has never said, nor has any member of the Government ever said that the people are unfit, individually, to govern themselves. I say that, man for man, this community will compare favorably with any people on this coast. (hear, hear, from the Attorney General.) Nor is it even the smallness of the population that I consider to be the great objection, although I admit that this is a drawback; but it is the scattered character of that population. It would be practically impossible to organise electoral districts so that they should properly represent the interests of the separate parts, and of the whole colony. As Victoria is the centre of wealth, and intelligence also if you will, under present circumstances the government would be centralized in the hands of Victorians, who would thus rule the colony, and this would be objectionable (hear, hear, from Mr Holbrook.) and I say also that there would be a great difficulty in getting proper representatives to represent the respective districts. I do not agree with the hon member who has stated that only the chaff of the people is blown into this House. for I say, sir, that this Council, constituted as it is, has proved that men fit to represent the people do come here. Responsible government will come as a matter of course when the community is fit for it, but that form of government is not fitted for communities in their infancy. It has never been so considered. Look abroad into the world and you will find large populations without responsible government. There is no one easily to look for old to see whether the Anglo-Saxon race must necessarily have responsible government. Look across the strait, where there is a population of, I suppose, 30,000 people, and there they have neither responsible government nor representative institutions. Look at Oregon, also with no representation until the population exceeded 45,000. Look at the Red River settlement, also with a population larger than ours, they do not apply for responsible government. It does not follow according to the rule of Anglo-Saxon minds that this form of government must prevail. I do not think the sort of responsibility which is advocated would be suitable to this colony at present, or would promote its true interests. If I did think it desirable I should be found amongst its most cordial advocates, as this is a matter open for discussion without Government direction. But I think, sir, that our present form of Government is practically a more real responsibility to the people than that proposed by the hon member for New Westminster, this form which the hon member for Lillooet desires to see so unmercifully upon. For we are in reality if not directly responsible to the people. We, as servants of the crown, are directly and immediately responsible to the Governor, and the Governor is responsible to the Queen, who is the guardian of the people's rights. This is no mere idea, for the fact of responsibility has been, over and over again, proved. If you have any good grounds of complaint you know where to lay them and get redress. This responsibility which we owe is more real, less fluctuating, less open to doubtful influences, and under it the rights of the whole country are secured and protected, and not those of the majority to the prejudice of the minority as would be the case if responsible government, which really means party government, advocated so warmly by the hon member for New Westminster. Why, sir, the hon member has admitted to you that under that system the government of the day might come down to pass measures by unfair means.

Hon Mr Robson—No, I made use of no such words; what were my words?

Hon Mr Trutch—The hon member said, and I took down his words, that and responsible government the government might come down to the House and carry measures by means not excessively fair! I say that this cannot occur under the present system, that no corruption can be carried against this government. I think the House is capable of being remodelled. I would rather see a larger element of representative government in this Council with such a majority that the government would have no opportunity of passing a measure objectionable to the people, as understood by their representatives; such a majority as I advocated in a resolution submitted to this Council. But the hon members for New Westminster, for Victoria District, and for Lillooet, tell you that the people desire responsible government, that they must have it and will have it. I say, sir, that if they do say so, which I very much doubt, it is because the population have been educated up to it by those who have agitated the subject through the Press and through speeches; some no doubt press for it from conviction and some with a view to serving their own ends, but I believe, sir, that what the people really want is such an administration of the government as will tend to bring back prosperity to the country. You are told that the present officials have no sympathy with the people, that they are not of the people, that they move in a different sphere, and constitute a class by themselves. Is this true—or is it not rather the fact that persons who have endeavored to serve have put us in a class by ourselves? The hon member says that the hands of the benefactors of the people must be callous with labor. Who, I ask, are those throughout the world who have laboured most for the people by speech and pen? I say that the great statesmen who have done most to advance the truest interests of the people, have not sprung from the ranks of those whom the hon member classes as the people. The hon member for New Westminster says that the present government officials are well educated, able and honest but that they cannot enjoy the confidence of the people because they are not mere officials, they are not elected by them. And, be as able as we might, and as honest and work