

BRITISH  
COLUMBIA  
AND  
VANCOUVER  
ISLAND.

chance. He would say a few words in order to put the question off for a short period, that the people might be enabled to gain more time to consider the matter. He was not disposed to jest in the matter. He would confess that he was unable to see the great advantages to be gained, that other hon. gentlemen saw. Doubts are expressed that the free port had not tended to the building up of this city, but he was convinced that without free trade up to this time, the place would be comparatively small. Mr. Burnaby alluded to the enterprise of our neighbours, who would take advantage to build up a rival city on the opposite coast, and he brought to the notice of the House the petition of the Chamber of Commerce, which represented the views of a portion of the community which paid a very large share of the taxes and who developed the resources of the country to a great extent. That body naturally, he said, felt the deepest interest in the matter. In regard to the question of union, they foresaw that without it unconditional, there was no chance of the free port being given up. They did not touch on union because they felt that it would be dealing with a political matter. Mr. B. expressed his astonishment that hon. gentlemen who sat around that table and pledged themselves to their constituents 18 months ago to support the free port could now scatter those principles to the wind. By reason of the pledges extracted from them they now sat in that House. How they could reconcile their conduct with their conscience now he could not see. Union was desirable, but he could not see what there was in the position of the Colony now, as compared with it 18 months ago, which should make hon. members change their views. He would now ask hon. gentlemen, especially in deference to the petition of the Chamber of Commerce which he laid before them, to postpone the further discussion of the question for three weeks.

Mr. Franklin supported the motion of Mr. Burnaby, and would like also to treat the matter seriously. They had arrived at a crisis in the history of the Colony. For the first time in the House it is proposed to abolish the free port. [No, no, from Mr. De Cosmos.] He (Mr. F.) would accept the no, no, but he questioned the sincerity of those no, noes. The hon. gentleman stated that he saw members before him for whom he voted, and helped to gain a seat in the House, because they advocated free port principles, and he had a right in his place to demand consistency from them. (Hear, hear.) He thought that as guardians of the public they had no right to place the interests of the people in the hands of the Secretary of State to do as he thought fit, and could they for a moment say we will do as we please? Mr. Franklin touched on the subject of the claims made out by the Committee on Crown Lands against the Hudson's Bay Company, and reminded hon. members if all these were to be swept away in a moment, and with one dash of the pen, he urged hon. gentleman to maintain the rights of the people, and not to abandon them from selfish ambition. Were they to throw out Americans, Frenchmen, Germans, Chinese, by substituting a restrictive policy? The hon. gentleman here mentioned, as an instance of the many chances of fostering the free port, the recent order for issuing passports by the American Government to people leaving the Colony. He would say with the hon. gentleman who had just spoken (Mr. Burnaby), that they should think seriously before they abandon the advantages of a free port. Remember the question which is taken up by gentlemen who do not enter into politics at all, and who say that if the free port is given up, they will leave the country; and he was assured that several were about to establish themselves in the neighbouring territory. Once destroy the free port, and the supremacy of Vancouver Island will go with it. Mr. F. wanted no political advancement; he would accept no office. British Columbia, with its revenue for this year of \$400,000, in comparison with ours of \$230,000, would, from the nature of things, control our revenue, and it would be expended for their interests. Selfishness governs public men. The dreams of those who imagine that they are going to become *prime ministers*, if reflected upon, cannot be realized. Again, if after nearly seven years' existence, are three days going to change the entire policy of the country without giving the people a chance to express their opinion? He would say that to change the system would be a political wrong, and a crime which should not be countenanced, and should disable any public man from ever entering the House again. The delay asked by Mr. Burnaby should be granted.

Mr. Young offered a few further observations.

Mr. Tolmie was agreeable to postpone the question for one week. It would give ample time.

Mr. Burnaby accepted the amendment.

Mr. De Cosmos would accept nothing less than the bare resolutions passed by the Committee. He replied with respect to the pledges given; he pledged himself to support a union of the two Colonies. He was of opinion that if the country went against free port principles and remained a separate Colony, that they would be committing political suicide. Mr. De Cosmos next spoke in relation to the views of the Chamber of Commerce which so much stress had been laid upon, and he stated that the views of some of the members were in favour of union. In relation to placing the interests of the Colony in the hands of the Imperial Secretary of State, he was satisfied that the interests of the Colony would be fairly dealt with; but if not, they (the House) could soon rectify it, as is to be seen in the case of the appointing of the two Governors on the representation of the people of British Columbia. Any motion to postpone would gain nothing, but would to a certain extent endanger their interests.

The Speaker then put the amendment to postpone the question for one week, but it was lost by the following vote: Ayes—Burnaby, Tolmie, Franklin, Young, Southgate; (5.) Noes—Dickson, Powell, Dennes, Duncan, Carswell, De Cosmos, Bayley; (7.)

The original resolution was then put, and clause 1 was passed, when Mr. Franklin moved an amendment to come in after the word "grant" in clause 2, as follows: "with the exception of abandoning the free trade of the Colony."

Mr. De Cosmos said that the amendment was designed to clog the resolutions.

Messrs. Tolmie and Dickson took much the same view of the matter; Dr. Dickson stating that it did not necessarily follow that if there was a union of the Colonies, the free port would be done away with.

Mr. Franklin did not mean the amendment as a "clog," but as a means to test the sincerity of hon. members.

The amendment was lost.

Mr. Young moved another amendment, to the effect that the resolutions be transmitted to the Governor of British Columbia. Lost: 7 to 5.