are going into a partnership, we should not arrange the best terms we can and I think that the difference could be altered in favor of this colony, and in favor of Confederation generally. We have no power on selves, that is the reason I question it not brought in the terms. We must see what effect union will have on this colony first—we must see how the tariff works before we decide finally. At the same time we must take care that we protect such important interests as agriculture and commerce from haste or injurious delay. I will, the above, as soon as the terms are settled propose a resolution which will meet the difficulty and give time to see what change, if any, the country may require. In sending our resolutions to the Canadian Government we must not suppose that we have exhausted the subject. Many points must be when the Canadian commissioners come here, or come to them—if the matter take that turn—but we should be careful not to overload the terms lest we should endanger the cause of Confederation altogether. We must have some action by the Dominion Government—Canada and Canadian Statesmen. We must not forget that their own interests would be most. I say nothing with regard to the latter part of the resolution of the hon member for Victoria City except that it does not accord with his usual statesmanlike views. I shall offer no opposition to the latter part of the resolution of the hon member but I cannot support it as a whole. If anyone will move an amendment to leave out the latter part, I will support it.

Hon Mr DeCosmos—We have three propositions now before the House; my own, and those of the hon members for Victoria and New Westminster; the former divides the subject. I think they would both act judiciously if they withdrew the question of free port.

Hon Dr Carrall moved an amendment to strike out the latter part of the resolution of hon member for Victoria.

Hon Mr Ring suggested that the amendment should be deferred. These amendments so quality the general principles that I must decline voting for any one of them.

Hon Mr Wood—Sir, I do not intend to express my opinion on free trade or protection but I intend to vote; and I think my hon friend (Mr Ring) might consider that he is not pledged to any particular course by his vote. I give my vote in order that the question may be brought before the Canadian Government, and ultimately before the people of this colony.

Hon Mr Ring—I have not requested for the opinion of the hon and learned gentleman, but the resolution of the hon member for New Westminster pledges us to the Organic Act, which I decline to endorse. We are entitled to our own free port and to the regulation of our own tariff.

Hon Mr Robson—I hope the hon member will remain while I set him right. My resolution only asks that a Representative Council here, after due deliberation, shall have power to decide upon this question. I consider that the name of free port is attractive; this, under the resolution of the hon member for Victoria District, we should lose. We must not regard the Canadian tariff as entirely unprotective. It is wrong in intention in stating that the Canadian tariff is such a great evil, and I maintain that it would not be an evil, but an actual good, but that is no reason we should not seek to make it a greater good.

The Clerk read the resolution of hon DeCosmos, the amendment of hon Robson, the amendment of hon Helmcken, and the amendment of hon Carrall.

By the leave of the Committee the amendment of the hon Mr Robson was withdrawn, in order that it might be brought up as a substitutive motion.

On a division the motion of hon Dr Carrall was carried, and the original resolution of Mr DeCosmos was lost.

The hon Mr Robson then moved a resolution, to which the hon Mr Humphreys moved an amendment.

Amendment and resolution were lost.

Hon Mr Drake—Sir, I rise to move this resolution on Excise:

"That in the opinion of this Council the duties of excise levied upon malt and hops under the excise laws of Canada would be detrimental if made applicable to British Columbia and that His Excellency be requested to take such steps as he may deem advisable for the interest of this colony, and further to take care that no export duties shall be charged on spars exported from British Columbia."

And I would remark to do so that excise as levied under the Canadian system is very heavy indeed; there is duty, license and excise. The result would be to the great injury of all probability total cut action; for on an increasing trade the duty would be so high as to check trade in that direction. The other part of the resolution is in respect to logs, the duty on which is $1 per 1000 on sawn logs. One whether a spar or a mast it is re-sawed with a log. Thus the Canadian tariff would seriously interfere with our industry and therefore will get rid of masts and spars.

Hon Dr Carrall—I think the hon and learned member for Victoria City is under a misapprehension when he thinks spars with logs. I doubt he is simply to saw-logs, I cannot see that the saw business would be affected.

Hon Attorney General—I must confess, sir, that I do not see the object of this excise. I don't think there is any need for alarm. I have lived for some years in Canada, and when it is of the Canadian statesmen who will look at British Columbia with not regard to party politics, such men, for instance, as Sir J A Macdonald, Sir Francis Hincks, Sir A T Galt, Mr Howe, Mr Brown and the various statesmen account mail to deal with these things. I feel confident that we are safe in their hands; therefore I hope that the hon and learned member will not imagine that in voting against this motion we are voting against the interests he so properly wishes to protect.

Hon Mr Ring—The hon Attorney General seems to think that these honorable men may live forever. He forgets that in the process of time other men will take the lead in public affairs.

Hon Dr Helmcken—It is a most important question. The Canadian Government ought to know what we think of it. The brewing interest would disappear, and it is large in proportion to our population, and to retain it would be doing an injury. I hope the hon Attorney General will withdraw his opposition and let this resolution go with the others to the Governor that he may forward it with them to the Canadian Government. At the time the Organic Act was made it relied to contingent Revenues. The hon Attorney General says they may not put it in force here for ten, twenty or thirty years. Granted, but it may also be put in force immediately. I say, then, let the Canadian Government be made aware that the application of the excise laws to this colony will be detrimental to its interests.

Hon Dr Carrall—I think the hon member lost sight of one fact. He is too big afraid of the Canadian tariff but he loses sight of the fact that barley comes in duty free. I believe the whole system will be carefully revised, and it is absurd to hamper the terms of the resolution for such a petty question.

Hon Mr Drake—In reply, I think our duty in coming here is to protect the interests of the colony. We ask the Dominion Government to consider these things. We do not insist on terms being inserted. I do not ask for this only, I desire to draw the attention of the Canadian Government to these interests that they may not be overlooked—as to the omission being petty and so all, that is much misfortune but let us not lose sight of them for that reason. As for Americans coming here to cut down our logs, I say let them come, if I can alter my resolution to suit the Attorney General I will do it.

Hon Attorney General—If I thought the interest of the colony would suffer I would consent to bring the subject before the Canadian Government, but I think we have nothing to fear.

Hon Dr Helmcken—If you ruin the brewing interest, you inflict much harm in other ways. Brewers consume one million pounds of barley yearly. This is 700 acres of land which must be cultivated. To ruin this will throw out of employment a large number of people and close up our breweries.

Hon Mr DeCosmos—I see no objection to sending this up but not to make it a sine qua non. I believe the Canadian Government will protect all these interests. Brewing is not of sufficient magnitude to kill consideration.

Hon Mr Robson—I am I suppose if logs are left in. I think it may be our duty to protect spars and logs.

Hon Mr Drake—Then I will strike out logs and leave spars.

The Clerk then read hon Mr Drake's motion, as altered. Carried.

Hon Dr Helmcken—There are other things to be considered.

Hon Attorney General—I think it is now competent for me to move the resolution proposed by the hon Chief Commissioner.

Hon Mr Robson—Is it intended that this shall swamp all the others?

Hon Attorney General—No, it relates only to tariff:

"Resolved—that this Council respectfully represent to His Excellency the Governor that in negotiating the terms of union of British Columbia with Canada, it is of the first importance to point out to the Government of the Dominion that the circumstances of this colony are in many respects so different from those of the Eastern provinces that the application of the present Canadian tariff to this colony, which reducing the aggregate burden of taxation, would injuriously affect the agricultural and commercial interests of this colony; and that it be therefore earnestly impressed upon that Government that it is a solemnly accepting to our settlers a merciful consideration that special marks of Customs duties and special customs regulations be arranged for this colony in such manner as may be found practically most advisable, so as to secure, while our requirements in this respect remain as at present an equal measure of protection to our agricultural products and of facility for our mercantile requirements as are provided under the existing British Columbia tariff."

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The original motion of the hon Mr DeCosmos on the Orders of the Day was read and by leave withdrawn.

Hon Mr Cockrell an motion was withdrawn.

Hon Mr Holbrook's motion was put and lost.

Hon Mr Robson's motion was put and lost.

Hon Mr Humphreys moved,

"That in the consideration of the subsidies to be given by Canada to this colony due weight shall be given to the advisability of abolishing the present road tolls on the Yale Cariboo road, and also to make provision for funds to keep the same in repair."

I put this in consequence of the suggestion thrown out by the hon Chief Commissioner. I think it is a good idea more towards making bank institutions stop over trading. We are main trunk roads and I think they ought to be kept up by the Dominion Government.

Hon Attorney General—I am aware that that is the result of an expression of the Chief Commissioner. I am aware of his views, and I have heard his motion as to whether roads can be maintained by the Government out of revenue of Canada.

Hon Mr Barnard—I would suggest that this be laid over till the hon Chief Commissioner be here.

Hon Attorney General—The hon Chief Commissioner would not object to any conclusion of the House on this matter, but I caution hon members not, by the adoption of the resolution, to set up a claim against us to break down the tolls of the road.

Hon Mr Barnard—I move that the Committee rise and report progress, in order that this matter may be laid over until the hon Chief Commissioner is in his place.

Committee rose and reported progress.

Friday, March 25th.

On Mr Humphrey's motion on roads being read the Hon. Attorney General said:

I regret to say that my honorable colleague, the Chief Commissioner of Lands and works is still too unwell to attend to his place in the House. I would, therefore, suggest that the honorable member should postpone this motion until he is present.

Hon Mr Humphreys—I have no object on to defer it on the under standing that it come up on Monday.

Hon Attorney General—On Monday, or this day, if the Committee go through with their other motions on consideration.

Hon Mr Wood—I desire to introduce a motion with regard to free port, but I do not intend to inflict upon the House a speech. I move that it be a petition be respectfully requested to place in the terms a clause to secure to Victoria the system of free port as existed to confederation. The honorable member for New Westminster was Indian at when he was yesterday for not supporting his resolution. I only say that is proposition was by perversion. I ask that we may have free port as it existed before confederation. We were now the right to legislate for ourselves on this point—if not we are shut up at the mercy of the Canadian Parliament at Ottawa. I would make free port one of the conditions of confederation, but first we force free port.

On the Clerk reading the first words of the resolution,—

Hon Dr Carrall—I rise to a point of order. I say that this question has been already decided.

Chairman—I think the honorable member for Nanaimo is not out of order on this point. The question of free port yesterday related to free port after confederation. The resolution of the honorable member for Nanaimo is in reference to free port antecedent to confederation.

Hon Mr DeCosmos—The honorable member is surely out of order, this Committee having met to consider confederate resolutions.

Chairman—I rule that the Hon Mr Ring is in order, as his resolution refers to the terms of confederation now before this