be very considerable. I was gratified in reading a leading article in the *Ottawa Times*, the organ of the Dominion Government, in which the theory of a free port for the Dominion on the Pacific is strongly and ably advocated, and this article forms a complete answer to those who allege that the Canadian statesmen would never listen to any such proposition. If it should be decided that a free port would conduce to the interest of the Province and, consequently, to the interest of the Dominion, why should not we have it? Why should we object? What more glorious idea can there be than that of a British Empire extending across the Continent, with its back to the Pacific Pole, with its face looking Southward. I will not venture to say how far; with one foot planted on the Atlantic and the other on the Pacific, stretching out one hand to Europe and the other to Asia, and inviting commerce of both hemispheres to enter its wide open portals, free as the wind that fills the canvas. Depend upon it, Sir, if this is to be the true north-west passage, the gates must be thrown open. Let us not repel commerce, but woo it. I venture to think that the resolution which I have the honor to offer proposes to deal with the matter in the most statesman-like way; and I trust it will commend itself to the judgment, and receive the support of all parties in the House.

Hon Mr Holbrook—Whilst believing that the establishment of a free port at Victoria might be beneficial to the interests of the lower Fraser; I did not think it would be for the general good of the Colony. In his opinion the agricultural interests would be injured, for the present he must vote against the hon member for New Westminster. He thought that such questions ought to be left to the Dominion Government.

Hon Mr Dewdney—At the hour of my rising, I will not say unusual, but unexpected remarks in reference to my self, I must crave the indulgence of this House while I say a few words to set matters right. Sir, I had something to do with the Yale Convention, and I am not ashamed of my connection with it; my position stands as it was further than it is to-day. When I first entered upon politics in this country I established a high political standard, which would take the measure of a political traitor as well as that of a statesman. There is nothing in the conduct of the hon member of New Westminster either here or at Yale to entitle him to the name of statesman. I say, or, that I am as free as I was at any time for that cause, and I trust he get into the cause I will vote for it. I brought the question up at Yale because I knew that there was a party in Victoria have able to free port, and I wished to see the question fought out after Confederation not before. The hon gentleman was elected, he could not get the Yale convention to endorse the resolution of the assay office at New Westminster, and he took his defeat very much to heart. (Hon Mr Humphreys—Untrue, untrue) then in my earlier Yale come to me and said: "You concede this point as to the Assay Office and I will join the free port. We don't want Mr Robson to leave." That's how it came to be in the Yale resolution. Once to the Convention I came I have never swerved from my position. In the first article I wrote for a newspaper in this Colony the word "protection" occurs. I want to see the Canadian revenue laws extended here, I want to see power in the local Government to protect the industrial interests of the colony. I would like to know who has changed the hon gentleman's opinions. I spent my time and money in getting protection. I shall regard as the man who the House to repeal and I did repeal, I hoisted the flag of protection and was.

Hon Mr Barnard—I wish to state that what the hon gentleman said was true, except that he mistook the Hon Mr Robson for hon Mr Holbrook.

Hon Mr Helmcken—We are here to remedy evils likely to occur from Confederation, evils which are admitted by every member of the Council that's relies on evil even the hon member for New Westminster has admitted. (Hon Mr Humphreys—No) The hon gentleman makes his use so wide that he slips the ring, but he will to effect that the difficulty was I recommended that out of the proposed not general free trade but free trade in certain special articles. If the Canadian Government agree to confirm can to the other. I believe we have considered fairly; we have received that our agriculture will be injured. Now, I see the question as to commerce: we want articles of commerce as cheap as possible; our trade is entirely retail, never the less it is important and should be fostered. I think the revenue we can do to increase the population of this country is of importance, I therefore oppose this resolution.

Is that in the opinion of this council it is advisable that a resolution for an immediate and articles in which trade can be carried on with neighbor countries shall be limited into the colony at a low nominal rate of duty, and generally the tariff should be made to suit the commercial condition of the colony?

I think free trade in Vancouver Island would have special with protection to agricultural interests, but I do not think it did also except in a limited way. Does anyone imagine that if free port was restored to Victoria her prosperity would return? In more early days, when she enjoyed free port there were not the obstructions to free trade with the neighboring country that there are at present. Now there are in town House officers to prevent smuggling and a great deal of illicit trade is checked. With regard to free trade in former days we were far more advanced than the people in the north; I say, on the contrary, free trade so far north as to be almost equal to a good and told you can buy goods almost as cheaply as in Victoria, so I do not believe free port would restore our trade prosperity. Under free trade it is supposed that large goods would come by Panama or by Isthmus route. He look at the altered condition of things resulting from the Pacific railway and the railway to Columbia river, and probably on to Quebec. Do you imagine anyone will send large stocks of goods to the Pacific and will not prefer to go to where they may require, and bring them across the continent by railway? I say that the same property and trade that we enjoyed would not come back. We are told that when the railway is made existing trade will come across but I doubt the railway being made in our time, and if it is, stops will go wherever the railway terminus is and that will not be here. It would be an advantage to have some articles free, silks, tea, teas, &c. **Make Victoria the Paris of the coast and we may do something. And this brings me to the observation of my hon friend on my right, that more frequent steam communication with the Sound would be productive of much good to trade. What I want to say is that the persons going to negotiate these terms ought to be able to see that this colony requires restrictions in the tariff. I do not intend to be factious, but I do intend to show to the Canadian Government that we consider best for this country, and that without certain terms we believe Confederation will be bad. What use is it to attempt to deceive Canada? She knows what we bring down, and if not there are those here who would tell her. It is certainly to show the Canadian Government that there are things we desire. Of what use is the country to Canada unless it is populated. She wants people not terms. We must show what will be the advantage of the Canadian tariff. The tariff of the Dominion must come forward it will be unavailable to us—an admitted evil. If the Council be term dead consideration is likely to be put off for years. I merely mean to elicit the feeling of the House on the subject of whether we can take off a tariff or not.** If commerce can be protected in the way we desire, as we shall see when the persons who go to negotiate the terms come back, then it will be no use to oppose Confederation; if the evils we fear, then there will be opposition.

Hon Dr Carvell—I shall vote against the resolution. With regard to free port I do not say I am opposed to it or in favor of it; but I do say that the Canadians will say if we pass this resolution "What kind of people are these that pass a resolution yesterday in favor of protection, and today desire free port?" The hon able member for Victoria city proved forcibly, I will not say conclusive, that free port would not be beneficial. The reasoning is inconsistent, and it is eminently characteristic of the honorable gentleman.

Hon Dr Helmcken—I desire to explain the terms of my resolution—the latter part. If the Canadian tariff rules our farmers are ruined.

Hon Dr Carvell—Vancouver Island can never be an agricultural country.

Hon Dr Helmcken—Bring the Canadian tariff here and you take away protection and let the farmers or all they consume.

Hon Chief Commissioner of Crown—Free port is an impossibility while the English Parliament repeal the Act of Union. This is the case that British Columbia tariff is small power.

Hon Dr Helmcken—I believe a free port could be carried on if you could secure to the colony and the city and to do any injury to manufacturing interests or any other interests. I mean to say that upon that score people might expose their goods—make a large bonded warehouse.

Hon Dr Carvell—We have heard of the pernicious effects in prospective of the Canadian tariff. I may say that it will prejudice the principal, that is the pastoral interests, better than what is proposed by some honorable members. The admission of free trade in a much considered lower tariff would have been a benefit afforded to the farmers' horses and cattle and the cheaper rate for goods.

Hon Attorney General—I we shed to gather the opinion of this House before expressing my opinion on the question. I regret much and am sure that this House will join with me in the feeling of regret that my honorable colleague the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, is, unfortunately, absent from his place on account of his ill health, for I am aware that this is a subject to which he has given much consideration and I would have been glad that the minister should have had the benefit of his opinion on this very serious question for it is impossible to impeach the subject without be illegal and impotent and I think it would ruin our united will and energy to their utmost limits, if we had the power to frame a tariff which would be suitable; therefore I am wary in all the resolutions we do serve obey. Upon this question of tariff we must especially avoid stumbling to come the Dominion Government to any fixed principle. The tariff can't be set of the terms, but it is sufficient rely a matter of consideration to be urged on the Canadian Government. Though we have agreed to the Oregon Act we have not tied our selves out from going to the Dominion Parliament to seek for remedies which they can give us, and to ask them to find a remedy which will make considerations accordingly. Therefore I think, with the honorable Chief Commissioner, that the special resolution upon this subject, a new design with it to serve generate resolutions or abstract principles, may with advantage be passed by this House. I think, also, with that honorable gentleman, Mr. Chairman, that Canadian statesmen who will have to deal with this matter will do so with wisdom. Why, in consideration the term when other questions have entered the consideration, more have spent necessarily difficulties which now come to us for the first time. No doubt many hon members of this House have very great interest in this question yet I think that we should consider well that such has been said on free trade, much for and against. My own feeling, since first I had a seat on this floor, in another assembly, have been in favor of free port. I would for it then, but I feel that I am obliged to vote against it now. The Imperial Government will not sanction anything which is in effect a differential duty in the same tariff, but this is this not from the question of a separate tariff for British Columbia. Other considerations will naturally arise Canada and I think if free port was made a great gain for she would refuse Confederation at once for, as she would not like to run the risk of entering into difficulties and disputes of a fiscal character with her great and powerful neighbor, which might possibly arise out of smuggling. Another difficulty in dealing with this matter that we have to encounter is that we have information that a reconstruction of the Canadian tariff is at present going on, and there is some chance of a reciprocity treaty being arranged, therefore we cannot put forward any fixed principles. The main objections of the Dominion to a separate tariff it strikes me, will be found in the first that they are afraid of infringing a principle; and, second, that a precedent for a special tariff, which might cause Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and other Provinces to ask for special tariffs and their particular circumstances and to avoid the inconvenience of possible hostile tariffs. There are certainly many plausible reasons to be urged in favor of a special tariff for British Columbia such as the difficulty of communication, the want of other means of protection against smuggling and Canada. But the probability is that protection to commerce would be secured by the reconstruction of the Canadian tariff, and I regard the framing of a tariff now which would apply substantially to our interests as circumstances under such a thorough change as Confederation would bring, as a matter of impossibility. Formerly, when there was a free port at Victoria, it was always in danger and the hon second member for Victoria City, then the speaker of the Vancouver Island House of Assembly, was always afraid of every little impost on stock or produce lest it should infringe upon the principle of free trade, and at last it was so loaded with duties and charges that before the union the principle of free port was destroyed. But I see no reason why, when we