

this capacity, he aware of some multiplicity, but I defer him to another branch in turn brought before the notice of the government that did not receive the attack in a direct and in which the individual complained of, if the charges were proved, was not charged. To conclude, I have no objection to the bill, but I do not like it. I do not like the bill, because it does not give me a right to call upon the government of the Colony, during the eleven years that I have lived here, and I challenge my own gentleman to prove by the records of Her Majesty's colonies that, in any colony, or in any part of any colony, there has ever been a more fully administered, lie and property better protected, or the estates of the colony carried on with greater rectitude than those in which we are now living. Holding these views, I must decline to support either of the recommendations before the committee.

Hon Mr Atkinson.—I am in favor of responsible government, but not the form that has been described in this House at so great a length. I believe that the best form of responsible government is that which Governor Mifflin had in mind. In Victoria city he quoted John Stuart Mill, "Sir, that the word responsible government does not occur in my book; it shows that too far applied, it would be dangerous." I do not think that the people of this Colony in mass believe that the people do not want responsible government. I believe that a representative form of government is the only form that will suit this Colony. It has been well said that the only safe form of government is one which is difficult to control, and which represents the largest number of people. I am in favor of responsible institutions. I think it is most desirable that executive authority should be given to a single person, but that it should be partially exercised by a council. I think that the executive authority should be sold, because the interests of the entire community are not the same as those of a single man.

How do we implement?—Sir, I am more impressed than ever with the absolute need of responsible government. I think the hon. member for Cobey has got it right. The people's representatives have profited considerably to that extent if the people's representatives are determined to have responsible government, the hon. member for the city told us the people were not in favor of responsible government. I think the people are right, that if the Constitution were set before the people with responsible government to them it would be much more popular. I think that if the Constitution were set before the people with responsible government to them it would be much more popular.

I desire to see the people having a share in the government, instead of being under a despotism, or what is equivalent to it. I have been in the Colony nearly eleven years, and can appreciate the difficulties of the Colony. I think there may be many different kinds of responsible government; I admit it, I am not sure that it would be advisable to have every colony have a responsible government. I, with Justice Lord Macaulay, say, "Government like a good coat, fits the body for which it is made." I say if we cannot live on responsible government, we cannot live on anything else. I am not sure that it would be well founded forth. His Excellency's speech, I confess I cannot understand it. The Governor in his promise a two-thirds election, with heads at the participation of sitting. I gave information without any consideration of the Governor's speech, and I still do not understand it. If they can't agree to fill up no members by appointment, then they will have to have a general election. If you appointed members, you are tampering with the government. You are tampering with the

Hon. Mr. BROWNE: Our Chairman, in reading his speech, to what has fallen from him, goes, gentlemen, in opposition to responsible government, I crave the indulgence of this House, and should I, in the course of my remarks, appear unusually lavish or unkind, I beg you to bear in mind that it is congenital to me to be generous, and come, rather than to a desire to wound the feelings of the Executive. The hon. member for Cariboo, who is also a member of the Executive, made, very recently, yet, to my mind, singularly indequate observations on the subject of responsible government, and with considerable force and cogency, pointed out the difficulties that might naturally be presumed to go in the way of obtaining responsible government under the new constitution proposed by the Government of Canada. In doing so, he said, "The Organic Act makes the necessary proviso." I was in such a stroke as that; but no attempt has been made to meet the difficulties he has mentioned. The hon. member for Cariboo, in his speech, is really wise, when he says that it is extremely difficult, practically, to point out the inadequacies of responsible government in this colony. Under it, he told us, Cabinets would be very responsible. In this case, he described the conduct of special committees as a sort of "cabinet government." I think that, in this case, we may not do well. In such quick succession would the charges be rung, the Chief Commissioner would, it appears from his description, be said to like Lucifer's celebrated line, "Now, sir, where did the Devil get that?" I am not quite clear about the responsibility of the government. Was it not in Canada? What do we find in the experience of that country? Certainly it does not in any way warrant the statement arrived at by my good friend, on the coast, that the colonies are not fit to govern themselves. The present Premier of Canada has, with one important exception, been at the head of the government for some 12 or 14 years. As I stated on a former occasion, the people of British Columbia have not had the benefit of a change of government. They are not in any particular country. Given a colony with a large majority, they are more conservative and royal people than ours. The hon. gentleman opposite, in his speech, has given us a lesson, which, although I have not pleasure in giving it, is a lesson to that gentleman's oratory and humor. I could not but experience a feeling of regret to find him on the wrong side of a great question;