

more advanced than the people on the Sound; to-day, on the Sound, trade has so far increased as to be almost equally as good, and I am told you can buy goods almost as cheaply as in Victoria, so I do not believe free port would restore our pristine prosperity. Under free trade it is supposed that large stocks of goods will come by Panama, or by long sea route. But look at the altered condition of things resulting from the Pacific Railway, and the railway to Columbia River, and probably on to Puget Sound. Do you imagine anyone will send large stocks of goods to lie here? and will not people telegraph for whatever they may require, and bring them across the continent by railway? I say that the same prosperity and trade that we enjoyed before would not come back. We are told that when the railway is made Asiatic trade will come across, but I doubt the railway being made in our time, and, if it is, ships will go wherever the railway terminus is, and that will not be here. It would be an advantage to have some articles free, silks, tric tracs, &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 state that this Colony requires restrictions in the tariff. I do not intend to be factions, but I do intend to show to the Canadian Government what 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 is being done, and if not, there are those here who would tell her. It is our duty 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 advantages of Confederation. If the tariff of the Dominion must come here it will be unsuitable to us—an admitted evil. If this cannot be remedied, Confederation is likely to be put off for years. I merely mean to elicit the feeling of this House on the subject of whether we can take off certain duties. If commerce can be protected in the way we desire, as we shall see when the persons who go to arrange the terms come back, then it will be no use to oppose Confederation. If the evil is still to exist, then there will be opposition.

Hon. DR. CARRALL—I shall vote against the Resolution. With regard to free port, I do not say I am opposed to it or in favour of it; but I do say that the Canadians will say if we pass this Resolution, "What kind of people are these that passed a Resolution yesterday in favour of protection, and to-day desire free port?" The Hon. Member for Victoria City proved forcibly, I will not say conclusively, that free port would not be beneficial. His reasoning is consistent; and it is eminently characteristic of the honourable 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. CARRALL—Vancouver Island can never be an agricultural country.

Hon. DR. HELMCKEN—Bring the Canadian tariff here and you take away protection and tax the farmers for all they consume.

Hon. COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS—A free port is an impossibility, unless the English Parliament repeal the Act of Union. This Act enacts that British Columbia tariff laws shall prevail.

Hon. DR. HELMCKEN—I believe a free port could be carried on if you could wall in an acre or two of this city, and not do any injury to manufacturing interests, or any other interests. I mean to say that upon that acre people might expose their goods—make it one large bonded warehouse.

Hon. DR. CARRALL—We have heard of the pernicious effects in prospective of the Canadian tariff. I maintain that it will protect the principal, that is the pastoral, interests better than what is proposed by some honourable members. The admission of cereals free will be counter-balanced by the additional protection afforded to the farmers' horses and cattle, and the cheaper rate for goods.

Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I wished to gather the opinion of the House before expressing my opinion on this question. I regret much, and am sure that this House will join me in a feeling of regret, that my honourable colleague, the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, is, unfortunately, absent from his place on account of indisposition, for I am aware that this is a subject to which he has given much consideration, and I would have been glad that the House should have had the benefit of his opinion on this very serious question, for it is