

3,000 cows. Why, it only means 20,000 acres, or thirty-six miles of land; six miles will supply the cereals—thirty-six miles in all. Why, the flats at the Fraser would yield it all. The cattle business certainly requires capital, but the capital will produce great results, and recollect the good it would do the country, the amount of labour employed and land cultivated for the purpose; wool, hides, and bones for house use or export. What I wish to impress upon you, Sir, is the profit that might be derived from the introduction of a couple of hundred families. What an immense loss the Colony would sustain if this were thrown open to the Americans. What a magnificent field for immigration, particularly when we consider how much more of agricultural produce will be required when public works are carried on. The market is good now; how much better it would be then. I think it would be doing those farmers who had commenced farming under a protective tariff a great injustice to withdraw protection from them now. We must have an agricultural population. If Confederation comes, and brings the Canadian tariff, we destroy the agricultural interests altogether, and the country will become a wilderness. Confederation without these terms will not, in my opinion, be accepted. Leave them out and Confederation will most assuredly fail. Farmers in the Upper Country have a natural protection from the difficulty of transport. The day will come, and pretty quickly, when they will raise more there than they have a market for. They must find an outlet, which must be where the consumers are. If the duty is not maintained, how can they send their produce down? If the railway should be built, the cost of transporting goods from the interior will be diminished, and farms of the Upper Country will then find the tariff of more consequence to them than to the people of the Lower Country. I say Confederation will not go down without protection. The agricultural interest will prefer living in comfort with protection, and without Confederation, than in a perpetual struggle for livelihood under Confederation. I am in favour of protecting our farming interests; but if we had a lower scale upon some other goods I should think it an advantage. I support protection to the agricultural interest, and the throwing open of our ports to other things. The latter part is, I fear, not an open question.

Hon. COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS—(Mr. Hamley)—It is difficult to tell which resolution the Hon. Member is speaking in favour of. It is quite true that protection may be too little on some things and too much on others; for instance, I consider the duty on horses too high. I will tell Hon. gentlemen that a revision of the tariff was considered last year by a Committee appointed by the late Governor, and a majority of that Committee, who were all business men, reported in favour of lowering the duties on agricultural produce, and there was a special report in favour of making Victoria almost a free port.

Hon. MR. DE COSMOS—That was the bogus Council, I suppose.

Hon. MR. HAMLEY—They were a Committee of gentlemen whom the late Governor thought fit to appoint. I think the tariff must be altered to suit this Colony, but I believe it must be left to the Canadian Parliament to alter. What will our representative members do sitting in the Canadian Parliament, except they look after our interests? There is no obstacle that I know of to there being a different tariff to suit the interests of this or any particular Province of the Dominion.

Hon. MR. HOLBROOK—There is no reason that there should be a similar tariff all over, but I think it must be altered by the Canadian Parliament.

Hon. DR. HELMCKEN—I do not think that it is necessary that one tariff should prevail all over the Dominion.

Hon. MR. HAMLEY—Not at all, not at all.

Hon. DR. HELMCKEN—But there can be no differential duties; that is forbidden by English statutes.

Hon. MR. HAMLEY—No; not by statute; by instructions.

Hon. DR. HELMCKEN—So far from leaving it to the Canadian Parliament, I say we must go in with it altered. How absurd for eight members to attempt to revise the tariff of British Columbia in the Dominion Parliament.

Hon. MR. TRUTCH—I don't see it.

Hon. MR. HAMLEY—Nor do I.

Hon. DR. HELMCKEN—Why, look how ridiculous it is to come to this House to propose any alteration in the tariff. How much more so in the Dominion Parliament, where so many would be on the other side? If at all, it must be done by ourselves. The Canadian Government must agree to it before we go into Confederation. The other interests are subsidiary to it.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Ring, the debate was adjourned to Wednesday, the 23rd.