

Hon. MR. DECOSMOS—I think we ought to fix a minimum number and keep to it, and a date, because I think that when the distrust wears away, British Columbia may be content with three in the Senate, and six in the House of Commons.

The Chairman put the recommendation of the Hon. Mr. Drake, to fill up the blank with the figures "91." Carried.

The Chairman put the recommendation of the Hon. Mr. Wood—"That the number of members to the Commons should never be less than 8, and to the Senate never less than 4." Carried.

Clause 13 was then passed as read.

The Committee rose, and reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again on Friday at one o'clock.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18TH, 1870.

The Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I rise to move the adoption of clause 14:—

"14. The Union shall take effect on such day as Her Majesty by Order in Council (on 'an Address to that effect, in terms of the 146th Section of 'The British North America Act, 1867,') may direct: and British Columbia may, in such Address, specify the Districts, Counties, or Divisions, if any, for which any of the four Senators to whom the Colony shall be entitled shall be named, the Electoral Districts for which—and the time within which—the first Election of Members to serve in the House of Commons shall take place."

These terms, or rather the terms which come back from Canada, will of necessity come before the new electoral body, whose existence His Excellency has shadowed forth, and the particulars as to the division into districts must be left for the decision of that House. It is impossible at present to specify the time.

Hon. MR. DECOSMOS—Cannot an approximate time be named? Besides there are other things upon which the country will want information; such, for instance, as whether the voting for members will be by ballot, and what is to be the qualification of voters. I think it ought to be fixed. The Dominion law is more liberal than that to which the people of this country have been accustomed. I believe in the ballot, but it will be better to leave it to the constituencies.

Hon. CHIEF COMMISSIONER—This clause has been left general, that it may be settled by the newly-constituted Council.

Hon. DR. HELMCKEN—If there is a qualification for the House of Commons it must be general for the whole Dominion. At present I believe the qualification is that existing in the Provinces before union. Ultimately there must be a qualification for the whole Dominion.

Hon. DR. CARRALL—There is no general law for qualification.

Hon. MR. HUMPHREYS—The clause is indefinite and dangerous. The Dominion qualification will virtually disfranchise half the British settlers in British Columbia. We are legislating in the interests of the people; this ought to be determined at once.

Hon. MR. DECOSMOS—I believe in British subjects, having a fixed residence, and of a certain age, voting in British Columbia. It should be a residential manhood suffrage.

Hon. DR. HELMCKEN—We cannot deal with the subject now. It is impossible to divide the Colony into districts until we know how many Senators we are to have.

Hon. MR. HOLBROOK—Mr. Chairman, I move a recommendation to strike out the words "if any."

Hon. MR. WOOD—I think the words ought to stand. The Organic Act says that Senators shall be selected for districts; but it may be desirable that Senators should be appointed for the whole Colony. They are nominated, and nominated because they are the best men that the Governor can obtain. [No, no, no—Hon. DeCosmos.] I believe the Executive are in the best position to know whether the principle of appointing Senators is best or whether they should go for the whole Colony.

Hon. MR. HUMPHREYS—As this stands it throws the whole power into the hands of the Canadians. The Lieutenant-Governor will be a Canadian and will name Canadians. We ought to know by whom these appointments are to be made.