

sum up the maximum of population entitled to a *per capita* subsidy in the four Maritime Provinces, it will amount to 1,600,000. Now, if we rank our population with our extent of territory, we who possess three times as much territory as the Maritime Provinces, and equal capacity to support population, ought, at least, to be entitled to fix our maximum number of inhabitants entitled to the *per capita* subsidy at one million. [Hear, hear.] Now, Sir, neither of these two subsidies, nor both, would meet the current expenditure of the Government,—keep the necessary offices and services of the Colony moving. Both only amount to \$112,000 per annum, and we require at least \$162,000 to meet current expenditure, on the basis of the Estimates of 1870. But, as it accidentally happens, if we add the proposed fixed subsidy, \$80,000, and the *per capita* subsidy, \$32,000, to the reserved revenue, which I have previously shown ought not to be estimated higher than \$50,000, we shall have \$162,000 and nothing over,—no surplus to enable the Local Government to do anything to develop or settle up the country. If we were to receive nothing more than these two subsidies and reserved revenue, we would gain nothing by joining the Dominion. It would be simply jumping out of the frying-pan into the fire,—a change without financial improvement. Under such circumstances, I would oppose Confederation. Now, Sir, in addition to the fixed and *per capita* subsidies, I ask for a temporary subsidy of \$150,000. [Hear, hear.]

Hon. Dr. HELMCKEN—For how long?

Hon. Mr. DECOSMOS—I ask for a temporary subsidy of \$150,000 per annum, to be diminished annually in amount, in proportion as our population shall exceed 40,000. New Brunswick has a temporary subsidy of \$63,000 for ten years. Nova Scotia a temporary subsidy of \$82,000 for ten years. The grounds on which I ask a temporary subsidy for British Columbia are: firstly, that the cost of living here is greater than in the Eastern Provinces, and, consequently, public officers must be paid higher salaries, and necessary services cost more in this country than there; secondly, our country is very large, and our population is small and widely scattered, and, consequently, requiring a larger staff of officials than a more compact and more populous community might require elsewhere; lastly, we require the additional temporary subsidy on the highest of all grounds—expediency, that has governed politics in all times and countries. Without a surplus of at least \$150,000 per annum, the Local Government will be able to do nothing to advance the interests and settlement of the country. Confederation would soon prove itself a source of disappointment, if there were no money spent annually for public works, immigration, education, &c. A change, without financial improvement, would destroy all hope of any such thing as the loyal and cordial co-operation of our people with the Government of the Dominion. Expediency, therefore, demands the subsidy, and expediency justifies the demand. In concluding my remarks, Sir, on this subject, I will briefly contrast the terms proposed by the Government and the terms suggested by myself. The Government scheme, as I have shown, calls for only \$248,567, instead of \$364,050 as alleged. Of the former sum it can draw in subsidies \$198,567, in lieu of \$213,000 as intimated. Now, by the terms which I have proposed the three subsidies, viz.:—fixed subsidy, \$80,000 per annum, *per capita* subsidy, \$32,000, temporary subsidy, \$150,000, would yield \$262,000 per annum, and adding thereto the reserved revenue (the details of which have been explained) \$50,000, the Colony on and after Union would have a Revenue amounting to \$312,000 per annum. If we deduct \$162,000, the sum required by the Estimates of 1870, to keep up and pay for our Provincial officers and services, and make the necessary repairs to certain roads and buildings, we will have a clear surplus of \$150,000 per annum to be devoted to Education, Charity, Public Works and Immigration. Besides which the equalization of taxation for Provincial purposes would reduce taxation at least \$100,000 more. If we deduct the current expenditure of the Government, viz.: \$162,000 from \$248,567, the actual total amount of Revenue to be received under the terms submitted by Government to the Council, the surplus Revenue will be \$86,567, as against \$150,000 in that which I have proposed, making a difference between them of \$63,433. ["Hear, hear."] I shall hereafter move a Resolution suggesting the adoption of the terms that I have explained, and as an amendment to the Resolutions now under discussion. ["Hear, hear."]

The Hon. Mr. HELMCKEN, Member for Victoria City, said:—The Hon. gentleman says in fact, we should go to Canada and say we want \$250,000. I say we don't want to be Confederated. Canada wants Confederation. We don't ask Canada, Canada asks us to be Confederated. I agree that we ought to have \$250,000 from Canada at least. The Hon. Member