

The Hon. COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS—Notwithstanding that the Local Legislature after Confederation may not have a right to frame its own tariff, what we hope is, that the Canadian Parliament will deem it desirable, for their own interests, that a special tariff should be framed for this part of the Dominion. There is no law against this. It would not be a differential duty; it cannot be objected to on this ground. Differential duties are where the same articles from two different countries are charged differently. If the Canadian tariff was applied here taxation would be lessened. We must not lose sight of that fact. It would probably be lessened to the extent of \$100,000 a year. I have estimated the difference upon one quarter's revenue, and I believe the difference to be at least \$20,000 for the quarter. For all that, I think the tariff should be changed. A special tariff is required. I mentioned yesterday horses and cattle. I think the \$15 on a horse and \$10 on cattle would be a great hardship on this Colony; it would amount to a prohibition. Last year 1,700 head of cattle were imported into this city; are we prepared for the difference that the Canadian tariff would make in this item? I think this large duty would be most objectionable. With a tariff made especially to protect the farmers, over 40,000 pounds of butter were last year imported. If the Canadian tariff of four cents a pound were applied, I do not know that much more could come in. I think that the farmers must have sold all they had. I think that advocates of protection do not apply the principles of protection to farmers of the upper country, but those of Vancouver Island. The farmers will feel the weight of the protecting tariff without receiving any of its benefits. They will not feel the difference in the duty upon butter. I think that there will be a Treaty of Reciprocity between the United States and Canada, and I hope this Colony will participate in it. It would be a great advantage. [Hear, hear.] I think the opening of the United States' markets to our lumber would more than counterbalance the loss of protection on produce. I don't care for coal; they take as much as we can supply. I would suggest that this Council should send forward to Government a recommendation that we believe a special tariff desirable, nay, almost imperative. I do not believe that our eight members in the House of Commons, and four in the Senate, of Ottawa, will have no weight; if so, they had better come back. What in God's name good will they do? I think the question may be safely left to the Canadian Government and our representatives at Ottawa.

Hon. Dr. HELMCKEN—With a view of bringing this to a vote, I will propose this recommendation: "That, in the opinion of this Council, it is highly desirable that the agricultural, horticultural, and dairy interests of British Columbia be protected." And I do this in order to divide the question into two parts. One Hon. Member wants the power of suiting the tariff to our convenience; and more than one Hon. Member has said that Confederation must come. I deny it. There is no necessity that it should come now. If the people vote against Confederation when the terms come before them, His Excellency will inform Her Majesty's Government that the people don't want it.

Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL—We have always said so.

Hon. CHIEF COMMISSIONER—I have so stated fifty times already.

Hon. Dr. HELMCKEN—I am glad it is so understood. The Hon. gentlemen must be very careful to make the terms suit; for if the terms don't suit the people we shall not have Confederation. I say that the people have been seriously told that Confederation was to be the destiny of this Colony. ["No, no," from Messrs. DeCosmos and Barnard.] Efforts have been made to impress on the Colony that we must have Confederation on any terms. I do not consider that it is necessary for us to go in under the Organic Act. We did not expect to do it. To the Hon. Collector of Customs I would say, that much stress is laid upon the fact that under the Canadian tariff the people will save \$100,000; that is, because the customs lose, the people save. I say this does not follow. Canadian goods don't come here now because they cannot compete. The only reason they will be used is, they will come in free, whilst others pay tariff. Possibly then the difference in price between Canadian goods and our goods may be very little; the Government may lose, but the people won't gain. Do you understand that? ["No, no," from Hamley and others.] People may have to pay as much for Canadian goods as for American goods now.

Hon. COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS—American goods would come in less the duty now paid. Don't you see?

Hon. Mr. WOOD—The difference of transport would prevent Canadian manufactures from coming here cheaper.