

for Victoria District has not sufficiently considered, it seems to me, how the material for the construction of the Railway would be most easily moved to the line from the sea coast. If the road is to be commenced at Yale, all the vast material and rolling stock would have to be shipped from the port in small steamers up the Fraser River, to a point at which the line, according to the Hon. Member's scheme, would start. The extra expense would be ruinous; and besides, it must be remembered that during a considerable portion of the year the navigation of the river is closed to steamers; and not only is this the case, but these boats cannot take up the engines and cars, but can only carry on the ordinary traffic when the population increases. No; the real, the only proper, course will be to commence to lay the track from the ships to where the material will have to be laid. That alone puts out of the question the commencement of any initial section at Yale, or anywhere else than on the seaboard.

Hon. Mr. DRAKE—Mr. Chairman, I am glad to hear from Hon. Members that this clause is the pivot of the whole scheme. I hope it will now be well understood that the Railway is the condition in Hon. Members' minds upon which Confederation or no Confederation hangs. I hope that this will be remembered hereafter. This Railway is a gigantic undertaking. I look upon it as merely impracticable. I believe this Railway will cost more than the whole debt of Canada. ["Hear, hear," from Hons. DeCosmos and Robson.] The Government tells us that this Railway is to be a *sine qua non*. ["No"—Dr. Helmcken.] Why, my colleague, the Hon. Member for Victoria, who is a Privy Councillor, says no.

Hon. Dr. HELMCKEN—The Government does not say so; I say so.

Hon. Mr. DRAKE—Well, certain Hon. Members say so. Now, this is what will happen: Canada will agree to a Railway to get Confederation, and Confederation takes place, Canadian officials rule here, and Canadian laws prevail. Three years elapse, and Canada may find it inconvenient or impossible to carry out the Railway. I say that we require a guarantee for the making of the Railway. On Confederation how can we enforce this condition? This difficulty underlies the whole scheme. I ask how we are to get out of it, guard against it, or surmount it? Leave the Confederation? That means rebellion, which is not to be thought of by any law-loving persons. We can't float ourselves out when once in; then we are bound hand and foot from now to eternity. There should be a penalty of \$50,000 for every year in which Canada fails to expend the one million.

Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL—How do you propose to secure the \$50,000?

Hon. Mr. DRAKE—By Imperial guarantee.

An Hon. MEMBER—How would the guarantee of the President of the United States do? [Laughter.]

Hon. Mr. DRAKE—I shall be quite satisfied if the President of the United States indorses the bill. [Laughter.] I consider the Railway the primary and essential condition of Confederation, and I think that Canada is too poor to guarantee such a work as this. She had to go to the Imperial Government to guarantee the payment of the £300,000 to buy out Canadian interests in the Red River Settlements, and I maintain that we are on the right course to ask for an Imperial guarantee now. When we get into Confederation we cannot help ourselves. If Canada is unable or unwilling to pay the \$1,000,000 a year, as soon as it appears necessary to her to throw over the conditions, over they will be thrown. One Hon. Member tells us that Canadian statesmen are "men of unbounded ambition." Now, men of unbounded ambition will not scruple at anything to gain their ends; that is all they look to. Until a guarantee is obtained, I shall oppose this Resolution. I don't care whether it is the guarantee of the President of the United States or any other that will do.

Hon. Mr. ROBSON—I have listened with profound astonishment to the remarks of the Hon. Member who has just sat down, upon Canada and Canadian statesmen. I shall not condescend to reply to the aspersions. Canada can support herself against all this kind of thing. She is great enough to do so. Such attacks can only come from those who know nothing about those whom they malign. I am a Canadian, and am proud of being one; but in this matter of making terms of union, I shall be as exacting as any reasonable Member of this Council can be. I would have all the conditions well understood, and would have them put in black and white, but I would ask no endorsement from any other source. When this agreement is completed between British Columbia and Canada, we shall have the best possible of guarantees. We shall have the guarantee of the Imperial Government, and of Her Majesty the Queen, from first to last. We shall have the endorsement of the Queen's Proclamation,