

"applicable to and only affect one, and not the whole, of the Provinces now comprising the Dominion, and except so far as the same may be varied by this resolution) be applicable to British Columbia in the same way, and to the like extent, as they apply to the other Provinces of the Dominion, and as if the Colony of British Columbia had been one of the Provinces originally united by the said Act."

Honourable Dr. Helmcken and Honourable Mr. Drake objected to this clause on the ground that its passing would kill the notices already on the paper.

The Honourable ATTORNEY-GENERAL gave an assurance that the resolutions of which notice had been given should be discharged, and the opposition was withdrawn.

Clause sixteen passed as read.

"With reference to defences:—

"A That it shall be an understanding with the Dominion that their influence will be used to the fullest extent to procure the continued maintenance of the Naval Station at Esquimalt.

"B. Encouragement to be given to develop the efficiency and organization of the Volunteer force in British Columbia."

On clause A being read by the Chairman, Honourable Mr. Holbrook objected to Esquimalt being named, on the ground that it was only fair to New Westminster that one gunboat should be stationed there.

Honourable ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I should have been very sorry to have this clause inserted if I thought it would give us only two or three gunboats.

Honourable COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. Hankin)—Because the Naval Station is at Esquimalt it does not follow that every ship will remain there. The commanding officer can send ships where he pleases.

Clause A passed as read.

Hon. Mr. HUMPHREYS asked what 'encouragement' meant in clause B.

Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL—At present there is no means of ascertaining what encouragement can be given; I suppose arms and money.

Clause B passed as read.

Hon. Mr. DECOSMOS—Mr. Chairman, I gave notice of my intention to bring up a clause with regard to provision being made to protect the agricultural produce of this Colony. It has been said by the honourable Executive Member for Victoria City that this differential tariff is quite a new thing to me. If he will take the trouble to refer to the *Colonist* of the 15th May, 1868, he will find that in an article written by myself I touched on this matter; it is not new to me. I am thoroughly persuaded that the district which I represent will be a unit against Confederation without a provision to keep up protection. From Comox to Sooke the opinion on this point is as that of one man, and I believe I may say that it is the same thing as regards the whole of the agricultural districts on the Mainland, from Soda Creek to Kamloops. I hold, with respect to protection, that when farmers shall be able to produce farm produce in sufficient quantity to enable them to reduce their prices as low as the prices obtained by the farmers of Oregon and Washington Territory; then protection is not essential, for this great and sufficient reason that if we can produce as good an article at home as we can get abroad, which we can put down at the same price, the cost of transport will be a sufficient protection. Our farmers will have a natural protection. With regard to manufactures, I am one of those who believe that our manufactures ought to be protected. If we go into public works we must have waggons and machinery, and the waggon-builders should have protection; then, again, farming implements should be made in the Colony, and encouragement should be given to the manufacturer of these things. Again, there are the bootmaker and tailor, and the soapmaker and others, even the brewer, for whom we require protection. I ask from the Executive the insertion of this principle: "That British Columbia shall be entitled to levy and collect any tax, or taxes, on the sales of foreign produce and manufactures entered for home consumption equal in amount to the duties of Customs now levied and collected on the same under the 'Customs Ordinance, 1867,' provided, always, that British Columbia shall not be entitled to levy and collect any such tax, or taxes, as aforesaid, if the duties of Customs of Canada extended and applied to British Columbia at the time of and after Union on such foreign produce and manufactures shall be as high as the duties of Customs now levied and collected on the same under the 'Customs Ordinance, 1867,' and provided always, that such foreign produce and manufactures shall be construed to mean no more and none other than such foreign produce and manufactures as may enter into competition