

foundation—Responsible Government. We must be prepared to pull down and demolish the old structure, in order to rear up one that shall endure—as a Government secure in the affections of the people only can endure. I warn Hon. gentlemen that they must endeavour to recover the wills of the people; then, and not till then, will return that prosperity which we all desire to see.

I hope, Sir, that the Executive will not attempt to make any arrangement with the Dominion Government which does not include popular self-government. The people will never accept Confederation without Responsible Government.

We must first get the tree—Responsible Government—and we may afterwards, with some reason, hope to get the fruit. I say, Sir, that it is a gross libel upon the intelligence of the people of this Colony, to say that we are not fitted for self-government. In no country can you find men better capable of governing themselves, and of managing their own affairs, than in this Colony. I hold, Sir, that the greatest enemies of the people are those who always endeavour to blazon forth their learning. I am proud to say that I am of the people. My education, if not of so high a culture as that of some Hon. Members of this House, has at least enabled me, up to this time, to make my own way in the world, unaided by official pay and without the assistance of official favour or influence. And when I hear Hon. Members speaking of the people as a class unfit for self-government, I find it difficult to believe that such a set of men are the same as have been speaking before, in this House and outside, on Confederation.

In conclusion, Sir, I say fearlessly that Responsible Government is a *sine qua non* in the terms of Confederation. Place what conditions you will before the people, without the condition of Responsible Government, and Confederation is killed.

Confederation means to Official Members a pension; to the people it means self-government; and I say, Sir, that above all things, we must keep in view the absolute necessity of keeping control of our own local affairs, otherwise Confederation would be useless to the country; and I warn Hon. Members at the other side of the House, that to exclude Responsible Government from the terms is to ensure defeat for the whole Confederation scheme when it comes before the people at the polls.

The Hon. Mr. CARRALL, Member for Cariboo, said:—Mr. President, I did not intend to open my lips during this debate; indeed, I am left with very little to say by the Honourable gentlemen who have preceded me. I have taken notes with a view, if those assertions which were put forth were not answered, of replying to them.

For three days I have sat at this Board and heard discussions *pro* and *con*. I have heard nearly every word; certainly every argument which Honourable Members on both sides have adduced; especially have I listened to every argument of those who are in opposition, and I believe that nothing remains unanswered—in fact, but a few crumbs are left for me. Another reason why I did not desire to make a speech is that my principles are pretty thoroughly known, and I deem it almost a work of supererogation to reiterate my sentiments.

But as this debate as to whether we should go into Committee or not has taken such a serious turn, I think it right and proper to say a few words. Whoever knows me through this Colony, or through British North America, knows that my principles have never changed on this great Confederation question. I have always maintained that the fragments of empire lying loose, so to speak, in British North America, east and west of the Rocky Mountains, should be united and consolidated under one Government. The question of the confederation of the whole Colonial Empire of Great Britain is one that has always appeared to me to be replete with the greatest interest, and I trust that I may be spared to see this consolidation consummated.

With regard to the advantages that Confederation will bring to British Columbia, it is almost forbidden ground, for the advantages are in reality part of the Resolutions. If I allude to them I am forestalling the debate on terms; and as I should not be in a position to prove anything which is in futurity, I had perhaps better abstain from touching upon the subject. However, this much I will say, that, after sentiment and loyalty are disposed of, it becomes a question of advantage.

The terms sent down to this House, in my opinion, warrant our acceptance of them in their entirety; but if the House think otherwise, I may, I am sure, go so far as to say that