

converts, and one a decided opponent. How can a popular member go to his constituents after voting this money? The people are in earnest in this matter. I stand on the floor of this House a Government contractor, and likely to support the Government, but so long as I gave a straight vote on Confederation my constituents cared not about anything else. On the Mainland we have been firm on Confederation all through, and the Mainland is ignored. The two Hon. gentlemen at the head of this table represent the Island, and the other Hon. Member represents the Island. The Mainland is not going to be satisfied, particularly when the Hon. senior Member for Victoria, who has consistently opposed, and will oppose, Confederation, is to be one of the Delegation. For the first time in twenty years the Hon. gentleman leaves this Island. He knows nothing about the interior of the country.

Hon. Mr. DRAKE—The Hon. Chief Commissioner stated that the whole of the recommendations were carried, except one, by the majority of the popular vote. I instance free port and the telegraph to the contrary.

Hon. CHIEF COMMISSIONER—I must explain that I spoke from recollection. I was not in the House.

Hon. Mr. ROBSON—I claim that the official members who voted against Responsible Government must be struck out. But if we allow them to be counted, there is still a majority of six to three of the representative members in favour of Responsible Government; and I say that this resolution ought to be transmitted with such explanation as is necessary. With regard to Responsible Government being in the hands of the New Council, Members will, we may presume, be elected for four years; consequently, the question will, in all probability, be postponed for four years. And I say that those who keep back Responsible Government will run a great risk of having Confederation defeated at the polls. Some Hon. Members may desire such a result. If so, I can understand the course they are taking. With regard to the individuals going on the Delegation, if we are to take the general rumour, there is not one who will properly represent the Mainland. There are two recent converts, and one open opponent of Confederation, an implacable and politically unprincipled enemy to Confederation, leagued with some power, I won't say with the cloven-footed gentleman, but with some power to defeat Confederation. The people will not be satisfied. It is extraordinary that the Governor should make such a selection, ignoring the whole Confederation party and the whole Mainland as a territory. I could not justify myself if I voted for this resolution, which will virtually be voting for three Island Members, two recent converts and one—[No, no, from Dr. Helmcken]—well, I won't say it again. (Laughter.) I can understand a Government dishonest at heart pursuing this course, but I cannot understand a Government that is true to the cause doing so.

Hon. CHIEF COMMISSIONER—Mr. Chairman, Hon. Members seem to be in position of fighting shadows in the dark. If they are wrong in their suppositions all the words that have been spoken to-day are thrown away. I fully concur in what fell from the Hon. Collector of Customs, that it is not proper that these names should be given. Hon. Members who favour Confederation should be the last to object to the Governor's selecting members.

Hon. Mr. ROBSON—I have faith in the honesty of His Excellency in the matter of Confederation. The only act that shook me and other Confederationists was the appointment of the Hon. Member for Victoria City to the Executive Council. I believe His Excellency to be a Confederate at heart. I will, in order to simplify matters, move to report progress, and ask leave to sit again, so that the Governor may have the opportunity of sending down names, or, at all events, of satisfying the Mainland that their interests, and Responsible Government, are cared for.

The motion to rise and report progress was lost.

Hon. Mr. RING—I think this debate, if it may be so called, is quite uncalled for and unnecessary. It is ridiculous to bring up the names of men who may possibly go to Ottawa and discuss them; it ought not to be allowed; it is waste of time and lungs. I had prepared a resolution that the terms should be sent by post, but I see that it would be vain to put it to the vote. If delegates go they ought to be properly equipped. I shall not, therefore, oppose the vote.

Hon. Mr. DEWDNEY—I agree with the Hon. Member for Nanaimo that this debate is waste of time. I think the Mainland will be represented.

Hon. Mr. DECOSMOS—I think it is not a question whether Island or Mainland is represented. We want the views of different parties represented, leaving out the Mainland and Island.