

Hon. Mr. WOOD—I understood the Hon. Member to say that Government did not consider it essential. I fear that it is delusive to hope that the Imperial Government would give a guarantee for this Railway. They could only do so on military grounds; but I am convinced they would never guarantee three thousand miles of an exposed line of Railway within a few miles of the territorial boundary, a thing which courts assault and would be so perilous to maintain, seeing that it could be cut in two in a hundred places by hostile forces from the United States. It requires little reflection to see that Colonial undertakings are seldom guaranteed now. Canada's interest in the Railway, on the other hand, is purely commercial. For such a Railway to pay, it must pass through populous districts—places like Omaha and the United States' towns. It is monstrous to suppose that England would supply the capital for such a scheme. No capitalists in the world would advance their money for such an undertaking. The matter has been talked threadbare in the public prints. It is out of the question to suppose that there would be any material trade in bulky goods this way. [Hear, hear, hear, hear.] Canada, finding the thing difficult, will refuse the terms. ["No, no," from Dr. Carrall.] I say the money will not be spent. I back my knowledge of the world and experience of men and things against the "No, no" of the Hon. Member, and I believe the result will be that the Canadian Government will refuse this item; and in refusing will say, "We do the best we can; it is our interest to do the thing, but it is impossible to get the guarantee through Parliament." I believe the Canadian statesmen who have the conduct of this matter will say to our Delegates, or to His Excellency, "Don't you think you can do without this Railway? You must take our desire to do it for the deed itself. By and bye, perhaps, it can be accomplished, and by no means so effectually as by becoming a part of our Dominion." And so a quiet go-by will be given to the Railway, and the terms will come back again shorn of this item. If, as the Hon. Chief Commissioner says, these terms are to come before the people—mind I say the people alone—I believe there is a feeling that Confederation is a movement which promises something, and this feeling will lead to these terms being passed. So weak are commercial and agricultural interests in this Colony at the present time, so small is the population, and the mass of the people are doing so badly and are so dissatisfied that, in my opinion, they will vote for anything that will give change and a chance of bettering themselves. I intend, Sir, to move an amendment, with the view of making this Railway a test question:—"That without a substantial guarantee for an Overland Railway, Confederation should be rejected by the Delegates from this Colony." It is obvious that this motion will be defeated, but I am desirous to test the opinions of the representative members of this Council on so material a point as this. The Hon. Chief Commissioner says that these terms are to be decided, eventually, by the representative members alone,—of course, without the official vote. And here I may ask, are the official members, in the event of its ultimate discussion, to retire from the Council, and leave the question to the representative members alone? If we are fit for representative institutions, why not give them to us now? Having promised the Colony terms, I think the Executive are bound to present terms which are good, in the sense of being productive of permanent good and quiet enjoyment. I cannot forbear to say that in place of terms simply providing for pecuniary benefit, I should have preferred to have seen inserted constitutional powers, and powers of self-government. ["Hear, hear," from Hons. DeCosmos, Robson, and Humphreys.] I should have desired to embody these in the conditions; and, in particular, I should have desired to retain full power over the Tariff.

Hon. Dr. HELMCKEN—The Tariff is an open question.

Hon. Mr. WOOD—Give us reasonable powers of self-government, and I will accept Confederation to-morrow. If we cannot settle our local matters, there will be trouble. If the Tariff is left an open question, it is at least one step in the right direction.

Hon. Mr. HELMCKEN—It is an open question on agricultural matters.

Hon. Mr. CARRALL—I shall not attempt to answer the discursive remarks of the Hon. Mr. Wood. It would require an *ignis fatuus* to do so, for he is here, there, and everywhere in no time; but I cannot suffer some of his remarks to pass unnoticed. I have sat in this Council for two sessions, and have endeavoured to conduct myself with propriety; but I find certain Hon. gentlemen in this Council who, by innuendo and implication, directly and indirectly, have endeavoured to cast slurs upon Canada, and to slander and belittle the statesmen of that country, which I am proud to call my own. I have, hitherto, refrained from answering, because I thought my country occupied too high a place in the roll of England's Colonies to