

revert to us, so that it might be applied for local purposes. If the inequalities foretold should arise, then with such representation as we shall have, we shall have the means of securing a due proportion of the surplus. If the Canadian Government do not give us a fair share, we will force it from them. We shall be strong enough even with the number of Representatives proposed by these Resolutions. If the population really increases, as it is said it will, we shall have a vast representation. As regards the Indian population, it is roughly estimated by the Vicar-General at 60,000.

The Hon. Mr. DRAKE, Junior Member for Victoria City, said:—Sir, I do not think that the advantages to Canada have been fairly put; it has been said that the sum of \$35,000 is an arbitrary sum similar to the subsidy allowed to Newfoundland. From the expenses of carrying on the Government of this Colony in proportion to the expense of the Government of Newfoundland, in comparison to the population, I say that the sum is out of proportion and too small for the requirements of this Colony. I would put it up to \$70,000. Canada will receive, after paying subsidies and expenses, \$125,000. Canada will no doubt fund the debt at a smaller rate of interest.

Hon. CHIEF COMMISSIONER—Canada cannot fund it at less.

Hon. Mr. DRAKE—It is a matter of assertion, but I am of opinion that she will, and with the payment of debts in five years, Canada will pay out about \$53,000 only a year, therefore I move a recommendation to the Governor that “\$70,000” be inserted in the conditions, instead of “\$35,000.”

The Hon. CHIEF COMMISSIONER, said:—Mr. Chairman, I shall be glad, speaking for myself as an individual member of this House, to accept any reasonable suggestion, and shall not oppose the recommendation of the Hon. Member for New Westminster. With reference to the amount of our debt, the Government scheme gives the Colony the full benefit of the debts to come in. I say that the debt of British Columbia, after Confederation, cannot be funded, or the greater part of it cannot, for this reason, the debt is payable in Debentures which fall due at certain dates. After Confederation the price of Debentures will go up, and Canada can get no further benefit by funding, except as regards the Floating Debt. With regard to the remark of the Hon. Mr. Wood, who says the Resolution is framed with reference to present gain and future loss, I say we may wait and the horse may starve while the grass is growing. When we enter Confederation we must do so in the expectation that we shall participate in all the advantages of Confederation; any increase of revenue or population will bring its share to us; we must believe that Canada will deal fairly with us. Now, Sir, I followed the Hon. Member for Victoria District through his figures when he propounded his new scheme, and I must say that I am better pleased with the Government measure than I was before; ours comes out on a stronger basis than before, in contradistinction to his. By his scheme he proposes to ask a clear gift; we ask much the same amount, but show the grounds. The Hon. Member has based his argument on assumption more than the Government have. It is wrong to look upon the estimate of population as a fiction, it is not so, it is based upon calculation. Call it an expediency if you will, but it is no fiction. He seems to treat British Columbia as if it were an estate to be parted with for a *quid pro quo*, which is not a fair way of treating the subject. If Canada sends us goods she will derive greater advantages from doing so than we shall, but nevertheless we shall participate. When our population increases rates of taxation will be reduced; a lower tariff, cheaper manufactured goods, and lower rents, are amongst the advantages that I look for out of Confederation. With regard to the Road Tolls, I look upon it as essential that they should be kept up to meet the expenses of maintaining the roads and keeping them in repair. It has been a question, and perhaps it is still open for debate, whether the care and maintenance of the Main Trunk Road should not be thrown upon the Dominion Government; if we regard the road as military work necessary for the defence of the country, its maintenance may fairly be a charge upon the federal revenue. I think we shall be in a better position to uphold the terms after this discussion. I believe that our future will be speedily prosperous, and I am quite satisfied that the Dominion Government should share in our prosperity. It will not do for us to depreciate our own future prospects.

Hon. Mr. HELMCKEN—I have not much to say in favour of Canada, but this much I will say: if British Columbia prospers by reason of Canada's works and capital, surely Canada has a right to an ample share of the increased Customs Revenue which will be so produced.