

Hon. Mr. HOLBROOK—I have very great pleasure in bringing this resolution forward with reference to the Indian tribes.

Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I ask the indulgence of the Hon. Member whilst I interpose a few words. On a former occasion a very evil impression was introduced in the Indian mind on the occasion of Sir James Douglas' retirement. I ask the Hon. gentleman to be cautious, for Indians do get information of what is going on.

Hon. Mr. HOLBROOK—My motion is to ask for protection for them under the change of Government. The Indians number four to one white man, and they ought to be considered. They should receive protection.

Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL—These are the words that do harm. I would ask the Hon. Magisterial Member for New Westminster to consider.

Hon. Mr. HOLBROOK—I say they shall be protected. I speak of Indians of my own neighbourhood on the Lower Fraser.

Hon. Mr. ROBSON—I rise to a point of privilege. I think that the warning of the Hon. Attorney-General is necessary. This is the sort of discussion which does harm.

Hon. Mr. DECOSMOS—Don't report it.

Hon. Mr. HOLBROOK—I do not view it in that way. I say that the Indians of the Lower Fraser are intelligent, good settlers. I ask that they receive the same protection under Confederation as now.

Hon. Mr. HUMPHREYS—I would ask what protection they have now?

Hon. Mr. HOLBROOK—They have protection in being allowed to occupy land, and they enjoy equally with white people the protection of the law, and I ask the House to keep them in the same position.

Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL—If the Indians had no better protectors than the Hon. Magistrate from New Westminster, I should not envy them their protection. The Hon. gentleman must have forgotten the directions of the Imperial Government to His Excellency the Governor, in Lord Granville's despatch.

Hon. Mr. ROBSON—The Hon. Mr. Holbrook has told you that he speaks in behalf of 40,000 Indians. I speak in the name of 65,000. I am inclined to think we should not pass this matter over entirely; we ought to point out our desire that the Indians should be cared for. Now, the Canadian Indian policy has been characterized as good, even by American statesmen. Our own policy is not worth the name. I consider it to be a blot on the Government. I will, therefore, propose as an amendment the following:—

“That the Indian policy of Canada shall be extended to this Colony immediately upon its admission into the Dominion, and that the necessary agencies and appliances for an efficient administration of Indian affairs may be at once established.”

The Canadian Government occupies the position of guardians to Indians. They are treated as minors. There is a perfect network of Indian Agents in Canada, and through them the Indians are made presents of agricultural implements, seeds, and stock. Now, if we let it go forth to the Indians that their interests are being considered, and that this will be greatly to their advantage, I say, by making the Indians feel all this, there will be less danger of exciting any unpleasant feeling among them. We should set the Indian mind at rest and let them feel that Confederation will be a greater boon to them than to the white population.

Hon. Dr. CARRALL—I rise to state my intention of voting against the resolution and the amendment. We have the full assurance in Lord Granville's despatch that the Indians must be protected. I do think the Hon. gentlemen are only heaping up resolutions trusting to overload the whole system. The Hon. Member for New Westminster has affirmed how good the Canadian system is. The goodness of that system is in itself sufficient to render the resolution needless. I shall, therefore, vote against it and the amendment.

Hon. Mr. HOLBROOK—I must vote against the amendment.

Hon. Mr. HUMPHREYS—I disapprove of what both the Hon. Members stated. These gentlemen know nothing of the question. I will show you why. Take away the Indians from New Westminster, Lillooet, Lytton, Clinton, and these towns would be nowhere. I say the Indians are not treated fairly by us, and all they want is fair dealing from the white population. At Lillooet I was told there were upwards of 16,000; and \$17,000 gold dust was purchased from Indians. Take away this trade and the towns must sink. I say, send them out to reservations and you destroy trade; and if the Indians are driven out we had all best go too.