

with the produce and manufactures of British Columbia." I don't care how it is put in, our manufactures would come into competition with goods from Canada. That is a natural evil which we cannot avoid. There will be other advantages arising out of Confederation which will counterbalance this.

Hon. DR. HELMCKEN—I have nothing to do with the honourable gentleman's newspaper articles. I can only say that differential duties are contrary to the views of Her Majesty's Government.

Hon. MR. DRAKE—The honourable member's explanation is different from the clause itself. I suppose from the explanation that it is intended to apply to all foreign produce and manufactures imported. I think it will be better that I should move my motion as an amendment to his, so as to confine the protection to agricultural produce.

Hon. MR. DECOSMOS—I don't expect any resolution of mine to pass. If it should pass I shall be quite surprised; but as I hold this to be the very keystone, and of more consequence than Responsible Government, I deem it my duty to bring it forward. But to confine the protection to agricultural produce will not reach the issue. It would not touch our rude manufactures.

Hon. DR. HELMCKEN—This is left an open question by the Government. I wish it to be distinctly understood that this question of the agriculture of the country is an open question. I think I shall be found on the side of these honourable gentlemen. I think with the honourable member for Victoria District that this is the most important question comprised in these resolutions. If the terms do not contain a clause giving protection to agricultural interests, I will answer for it there will be no Confederation.

Hon. CHIEF COMMISSIONER—I would ask the honourable member to define how far this is left an open question?

Hon. DR. HELMCKEN—I mean that every member of the Government is free to vote as he pleases upon this question of encouragement to the agricultural interests of the Colony.

Hon. MR. WOOD—Then it is free for official members to vote these recommendations?

Hon. DR. HELMCKEN—Certainly it is, and it is right that it should be so; for I consider, Sir, that we have come to a most important question, one that concerns our own country. Confederation must not come like an eclipse, it must not produce a darkness and then leave us to recover. I say that if these terms are left to pass as they are, and return from Canada, and are passed by the people, they will produce great ills. I say that the agricultural interests are most important; when we come to manufacturing interests it is different, they have made but little progress. Manufacturers will meet with competition from Canada, and the Dominion would not stand it; we cannot have protection for manufactures, but with regard to farm produce it is different. I say that the farmers could not exist without protection; you will depopulate the country by bringing Confederation without protection. I have stated that this Colony affords more inducement to people to settle than any other Colony I know of; yet we do not raise sufficient stock for ourselves. Look at the statistics: \$111,447 is the value of agricultural produce—barley, flour, malt, wheat, and oats—imported. Of barley, there is nearly one million pounds imported, and this would take about 450 acres to grow in; of malt, about 4,500 bushels, which would require ninety acres to grow in; of flour and wheat about 87,000 bushels, which would require about 2,500 acres to grow in; of oats, about 2,364 bushels, which would require about sixty acres to grow in; altogether about 3,080 acres. More land must be in cultivation to produce the quantity of cereals which I have enumerated as being imported annually, and this number of acres, supposing a man to cultivate fifty acres, would give employment to 123 men; so that 123 men will save the Colony \$111,447, or \$900 each, besides growing what they want for their own consumption. In relation to this it must be recollected that mills would be at work to grind, machinery would be required, and labour of other kinds would be required, such, for instance, as brewers. In addition to this comes in pigs. There were 568 of these animals imported last year; less by 28 than in the preceding year. This is an improvement, when we consider that the amount of bacon and hams imported is 61,740 pounds less than last year. To make this bacon about 500 hogs are required; so you will see that nearly the whole amount of bacon is made by and from foreign hogs. Take butter—\$2,000 pounds, or forty tons, were imported last year. It will take 400 more cows, yielding 200 pounds each per annum, to produce this amount, and it would save the Colony \$31,538 per annum. One thousand seven hundred head of beef cattle would save annually \$96,949, but it presupposes 6,800 more cows at least. Now, then, to supply ourselves with beef and mutton, and cheese, 3,000 more cows are required; but it takes four years to produce beef. We import 7,000 sheep. Surely no one will tell us that we have no room for 7,000 sheep or