

Hon. Mr. BARNARD—And turn people out of the country.

Hon. Dr. HELMCKEN—You keep them in. You send out \$100,000 a quarter for goods, which ought to be spent here. That \$100,000 ought to be invested in mines and in building up the country. Now, you want this country to be a garden and a manufactory. The people must do it, and it is the only way in which they can do it. Put your productions into competition with the whole world and you will ruin the producers throughout the whole Colony.

Hon. CHIEF COMMISSIONER—Another question is, up to what point are you to protect? What is the use of protecting produce if you protect colonists out of the country? I put this as an abstract proposition. There is no more moot point than the difference between free trade and protection. I see the Canadian tariff protects these things, and I don't feel inclined to ask for more. Under the Canadian tariff agricultural products are almost free, but manufactures are protected. I don't intend to assume that the tariff will be taken off—that protection is to be taken away from manufacturers, for, if so, it will be against the arguments of the members from British Columbia.

Hon. Mr. ROBSON—Some members are growing protection mad. They want to build a wall around the Colony and keep out the entire world. You must come down to first principles. When honourable members talk about protection, I suppose we intend to protect that which we can produce. Are we to protect so as to force people into branches of industry unthought of before? Some honourable members have run to the extent of protecting population out of the Colony; another favours protection in order to keep prices low, and thus to secure our population. I maintain that protection has run too far, and the agriculturists have not benefited by it. ["No, no"—Mr. DeCosmos.] They tell me that the demand is so small that prices are less. I am not in favour of withdrawing protection from farmers, but let us see that it does not go too far.

Hon. Mr. WOOD—Might I not turn the tables by judging some honourable members are free trade mad. No one ever dreamt of such high taxation. So far from sweeping off population we secure it; and in England free trade is intended to benefit the manufacturer, and it does so. It struck a blow at agriculture, and if they had not gone into raising and spending more money it would have been an utter failure. High price for corn is now unknown, but free trade by way of dogma is absurd.

Hon. Mr. DECOSMOS—There is a distinction between a tariff for protection and a prohibitory tariff. The Hon. Collector of Customs will set me right, if I am mistaken, but I believe the importation of arms from foreign countries into a Colony is prohibited.

Hon. COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS—Prohibited, I believe, altogether.

Hon. Mr. DECOSMOS—Precisely so; that the defence of the Colony may never depend on foreign aid. The Hon. Chief Commissioner asked the extent of the protection. I say during the infancy of the Colony. When we are able to run alone, protection will be necessary. With regard to farmers wanting free trade, I deny it emphatically.

Hon. Dr. HELMCKEN—No doubt the Canadian Government will like this amendment of the tariff.

Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I shall vote against it because it says it is expedient to arrange it in the terms. If the Hon. Member alters the wording it would then become on the same footing as the last recommendation.

Hon. Mr. DECOSMOS altered the wording accordingly, and on vote the motion was lost. The motion of Hon. Dr. Helmcken was put and carried.

THURSDAY, 24TH MARCH, 1870.

On the House going into Committee of the Whole on the Confederation Resolution,

Mr. DECOSMOS moved the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this Council it is expedient, in order to foster commerce, to admit, duty free, into this Colony or some portions thereof, certain articles of foreign merchandise not produced in the Dominion or this Colony, and that provision for the admission of the same be made in the terms of Union with Canada." In reply to a question the Hon. mover said it would be impossible to name all the articles; but a few of them might be instanced, such as tropical fruits, silks, and English dry