

will be left undone to advance the prosperity and well-being of every portion of their vast Dominion. We may safely repose full confidence in them. England has done so, or she would never have committed the well-being of four millions of her subjects to their care.

They can steer the good ship "Dominion" and hold her on her way. She will receive many a shock, "but 'twill be of the waves, and not the rock."

The Hon. Mr. HUMPHREYS, Member for Lillooet, said:—Mr. President, It is not my intention to occupy the attention of the House at any great length. I shall pass in review rapidly the arguments for and against Confederation, as they have been used by Hon. Members who have spoken during the progress of this debate.

It seems to me, Sir, that the people and their interests have been entirely ignored throughout the discussion of this question, and perhaps intentionally. I refer to the subject of Responsible Government ["Hear, hear," from Mr. DeCosmos], which has up to this stage been all but lost sight of. I, Sir, am one of those men who believe in the people.

I remember that in opening this debate, the Hon. Attorney-General invoked the Divine blessing upon the work upon which we were then entering. This was high-sounding, and a very nice picture to look at, but it does not wear well without that strict attention to the divine rights of the people, which is inalienable from true political economy.

I have a distinct recollection of most Hon. Members now occupying an official position at this Council Board, and of the positions which they occupied when first they came to this Colony. I have often asked myself what entitles these Hon. Members to govern this Colony; but I have never been able to answer myself satisfactorily. I am perfectly ready to admit the ability of Executive Members as individuals. The learned eloquence of the Hon. Attorney-General has always, since I have had the honour to sit at this Council Board, impressed me with a deep sense of the advantage of thorough forensic training; and the power and force of the reply of the Hon. the Chief Commissioner has ever and again made me feel with especial force the utter hopelessness of combating stern official reticence with even the most brilliant powers of oratory. Yet, Sir, whatever our admiration for individual excellence, however great our estimation of personal worth, the question has still remained unanswered, and, in my opinion, unanswerable. What is there in the collective wisdom of these Honourable Official Members that entitles them to arrogate to themselves the right to rule? Are they, I ask, the dominant race, and are the people serfs?

We have heard a great deal about absorption, and the danger of the larger body swallowing up the smaller. I think about as much of that danger as I do of the other evil threatened in such earnest and thrilling language by the Hon. Member for Victoria, namely, that our salmon would be under Confederation, and the protection from salmon nets that would be extended to them, increase and multiply to such an extent that they would absorb all the smaller fish. I, however, to speak seriously, doubt very much if the Hon. Member can cite a single example in history of the larger absorbing the lesser, unless the larger possessed better qualifications, as in the case of the absorption by British Columbia of Vancouver Island. Sir, we must give up all personal prejudices, and we must bend our minds to the establishment of a great British Empire upon this Pacific Coast.

Lord Macaulay says that "Governments are made for the people, and not the people for the Governments." Yet, Sir, how different seems to be the course of reasoning in this Colony. Here we have a strange compound of sickly representation and unpoular officialdom. The want of Responsible Government has become intolerable; the people have ceased to respect the Government, and the Government seem to be doing their best to educate the people up to hating the officials. There is to my mind, Sir, no necessity for the continuance of such a state of things; only let the people's voice be heard, and there will be a change. The overwhelming preponderance of the official element in this Council, and the presence in the Legislative body of officials who are paid by the people, and yet are not responsible to them, is the real cause of the alienation of the hearts of the people from the Government. The votes of these Hon. gentlemen must always oscillate between their own interests and what their own consciences dictate to them as for the good of the country. It is our duty, Sir, to bring back the hearts of the people. We must have a Government by and for the people. This is what I believe the people really require, and this and more, if necessary, the Government must be prepared to give them. The people of this Colony will consent to no arrangement which has not for its