

as I think, probably, have said—His Excellency had acted unwisely? This question has been before the people; they would have been justified in jumping at the gilded bait of Responsible Government if the Government had not proposed a new system; but as he has done so, the people will do well to consider before they swallowed the barbed hook that lies under the bait. I desire to disclaim speaking in the interest of officials; their position would, so far as I believe, not be injured in any way by the introduction of Responsible Government. Those among them who were commissioned in England (I mean the heads of departments) will be rendered so independent that they will be above fighting after their own interests. I think it unlikely that they will remain here. As to the balance of officials, if Canada is as liberal now as of old, or as liberal as Australia, they will be well provided for, whether we have Responsible Government or not. Probably they will be "utilized," since that is the term we are to use. I claim for the system which His Excellency has foreshadowed, that it is more suitable to the present circumstances of this Colony than any other system which can be given us. Responsible Government has acted well in large communities, but in small ones I doubt its efficiency. It is like a painted ship on a painted ocean. If it were obtained in a small Colony like this, there would be a constant game of battledore and shuttlecock going on—in to-day and out to-morrow. Fancy the Honourable Member for Victoria City presiding at the Lands and Works Department one day, and I, having paid him all the compliments I could, come over another day to have an interview with the Chief, and find that there has been a change of Ministry, there is another man in. My ideas may be wrong; if so, they can be corrected at the polls. If I were a man of property, with a large stake in the Colony, I should decidedly object to Responsible Government. I have given my opinion candidly and honestly. I may never sit at this Council Board again. I have given my advice to His Excellency, to this Board, and to my constituents, conscientiously. If I am wrong, the people will correct me. I speak from conviction. No doubt there is talent in British Columbia; no doubt there is plenty of administrative ability; there are many better men than myself, I am very sure, and that is one reason that I oppose Responsible Government. [Laughter.] But the main difficulty is that the best men won't come here; the chaff is blown here, the wheat remains behind.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Drake, the debate was adjourned to Monday.

---

MONDAY, MARCH 21ST, 1870.

Hon. MR. RING rose to assume the debate, and said:—Mr. Chairman, I feel assured that the House will accord me leave to say a few words. There have been submitted for the consideration of this House two amendments, and in the observations of the movers, two points of argument have been adduced,—the first founded on supposed reasoning, and the second in the way of threats and military argument, grounded on the possibility of the Government refusing to insert this condition. I desire to disengage myself from this latter argument. When I hear anything tantamount to a threat from the people against the Executive, I desire to repudiate it. Hon. Members who put such a picture of warfare before us talk bunkum. I address my humble petition to His Excellency, but if his judgment is against us I say to him, stand to your point and do not give way to threats; listen to no arguments as to what may happen in the nature of threats; stand to your points. I say to Executive Members, don't yield to threats; don't be moved by them. I support the principle of Responsible Government, but I do so constitutionally. I say to Executive Members, I trust you will yield to reason and argument, but not to threats. I say we can ask for Responsible Government without the leave of the Organic Act; but I say let us repudiate all connection with Canada until we have secured Responsible Government; let us not wait till we are surrounded by Canadians. With regard to the railway, I say that in the life of the youngest amongst us we shall not get it; but we must make this the main Resolution: without Responsible Government let us have no Confederation. Better bear the ills we have than fly to others that we know not of. Let us not run the risk of having to ask Canada for Responsible Government. Make it the emphatic *sine qua non* that we must have Responsible Government or no Confederation.