

resident Magistrate to administer and carry out the laws. I believe that some Hon. Members of this House have mistaken the feelings of the country on this matter. Any dissatisfaction that exists is not with the present system of government but with the expense of carrying the system out. We all feel that, and we all know that, it cannot be avoided, for reasons which have been given over and over again in this House, namely, the smallness of population; scattered as it is over so vast an area. I have not heard during the debate any arguments that will prove to me or to this House that under Responsible Government we could have a cheaper form of government. I for one could not be convinced that we should. I believe that the public moneys would be wasted, speculation and dishonesty would be the order of the day. We are told by the Hon. Member for Yale we must have a beginning. I am aware of that fact, and for one shall assist to put off the evil day. I prefer for a time—until our population increases—to live under the present form of Government, one under which, I am proud to say, I have lived for eleven years without seeing the faults of maladministration and other evil accusations that have been hurled at it by the Hon. Member for Lillooet. I am aware that that Hon. gentleman was himself in some subordinate position under the Government; he may of his own personal knowledge, while in that capacity, be aware of some malpractice, but I defy him to point out a single instance brought before the notice of the Government that did not receive the strictest investigation and in which the individual complained of, if the charges were proved, was not discharged. In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I shall take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the officers generally that have carried on the Government of this Colony during the eleven years that I have lived here; and I challenge any Hon. gentleman to prove by the records of Her Majesty's Colonies, that in any Colony or Dependency of the British Crown laws have been more justly administered, life and property better protected, or the affairs of the Colony carried on with greater rectitude than in the one in which we are now living. Holding these views, I must decline to support either of the recommendations before the Committee.

Hon. Mr. ALSTON—Sir, I am in favour of Responsible Government, but not the form that has been discussed in this House at so great a length. I believe all representative Governments are responsible. The Hon. and learned Member for Victoria District has quoted John Stuart Mill. I believe, Sir, that the words Responsible Government do not occur in his book; he shows that the form applicable to one country will not do for another. We have heard enough in this Council to make me believe that the people do not want Responsible Government; I believe that a representative form of Government is the only form that will suit this Colony. It has been well shown by the Hon. Mr. Wood, that from the difficulty of getting districts represented, this Colony is not adapted for purely representative institutions. I think it most desirable that Executive Members should have seats in this Council, and I think that a partially elective House would best represent the interests of the entire community. The American form of Government is in a certain sense responsible, executive officers being elected for a term of four years. England possesses a different form, and Canada differs again from England. The Colony from which Governor Musgrave came is the last that has received Responsible Government; thus we may fairly trust to His Excellency to judge for us as to the probability of its working well here. The smallest Colony possessing Responsible Government is Prince Edward's Island; and we who do not possess a population one-twelfth the size of that of Newfoundland, are asking for Responsible Government. The Hon. and learned Member for Victoria City (Mr. Drake), who seems to uphold Responsible Government against his own convictions, admits that all power would be held in Victoria; and he says that there would be no harm in such centralization. I think, Sir, that he has read John Stuart Mill to little purpose if such be his conviction.

Hon. Mr. HUMPHREYS—Sir, I am more impressed than ever with the absolute need of Responsible Government. I think the Hon. Chief Commissioner particularly, and the Hon. Member for Victoria City, have proved conclusively that two-thirds of the people representing property are determined to have Responsible Government. The Hon. Member for the City told us the people were not in favour of Responsible Government, and in the same sentence he tells us that if Confederation were set before the people with Responsible Government mixed up with it, the people would take Responsible Government to the exclusion of material interests. I have said, and say again, I am in favour of Confederation, and I earnestly hope that it will be for the benefit of the Colony. I sometimes think that some Hon. Members at the other end