

this burden, Confederation will relieve us; a benefit so apparent needs not a single word. Hon. Members are aware that this debt is a heavy tax upon the country, and prevents the undertaking of public works. The assumption of this debt by Canada, on fair terms, will not only relieve us of this burden, but will save us a large balance of cash, which will be available for public works to open up the country. I will now proceed to the next item.

Hon. Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works (Mr. TRUTCH)—I would suggest that each clause should be discussed and passed separately.

Hon. Member for Victoria District (Mr. DECOSMOS)—No, no. Let us hear the Attorney-General on the whole Resolution.

Hon. Member for Yale (Mr. BARNARD)—We shall not carry the matter so well in our minds if we take the whole together.

Hon. Chief Commissioner—I think that the clauses are so distinct that it will be better to take them separately.

Hon. Member for Victoria District—I would suggest, as one who has scarcely had an opportunity to read these Resolutions, I would rather hear the Government on the whole scheme.

Hon. Chairman—I think it better to put it to the House, whether these clauses should be discussed one by one.

On the question being put, it was carried in the affirmative.

Hon. Member for Victoria City (Dr. HELMCKEN)—I presume clause 1 will be agreed to.

Chairman—Has any Hon. Member anything to say upon this clause?

Hon. Member for Victoria District—What is the meaning of liabilities in clause 1, is it intended to mean financial liabilities?

Hon. Attorney-General—Financial liabilities.

Hon. Chief Commissioner—There may be liabilities which are not debts; there may be some liabilities which will become debts, liabilities which are not matured.

Hon. Member for Victoria District—Unmatured contracts, is that the meaning?

Hon. Attorney-General—Yes.

Hon. Member for Victoria City—I move that the word "public" be inserted before "debts."

Hon. Member for Victoria District—That would imply private debts.

Hon. Member for New Westminster—I don't think so, Mr. Chairman, there can be no misunderstanding, it would make the clause no plainer.

Hon. Attorney-General—It is as well that I should add that these terms come down complete in themselves; as far as the Government is concerned they are incapable of amendment, but the greatest attention will be paid to suggestions. I think it better to state this, to avoid misapprehension.

Clause 1 was passed as read.

Hon. Member for Victoria District—I suggest that Clauses 2 and 3 be taken together.

Clauses 2 and 3 were then read by the Chairman:—

"2. The population of British Columbia shall, for the purpose of financial arrangements, be estimated at 120,000. British Columbia not having incurred debts equal to those of other Provinces now constituting the Dominion, shall be entitled to receive, by half-yearly payments in advance from the General Government, interest at the rate of 5 per centum per annum on the difference between the actual amount of its indebtedness at the date of Union and the proportion of the Public Debt of Canada for 120,000 of the population of Canada at the time of Union."

"3. The following sums shall be annually paid by Canada to British Columbia, for the support of the Local Government and Legislature, to wit:—

"An annual grant of \$35,000, and a further sum equal to 80 cents a head per annum of the population; both payable half-yearly in advance, the population of British Columbia being estimated as aforesaid at 120,000. Such grant, equal to 80 cents a head, to be augmented in proportion to the increase of population, when such may be shewn, until the population amounts to 400,000, at which rate such grant shall thereafter remain."

The Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL, in moving the adoption of these clauses said:—I would observe that this estimated population of 120,000 is nominal, and has been arrived at by comparison of the revenue and population, because in the absence of actual census, and to facilitate financial arrangements, it has been deemed best to calculate according to the revenue producing powers of British Columbia compared with Canada. Thus we have it officially