

Hon. MR. WALKEM—Sir, I have made few speeches during this debate, but this is a question on which I must ask leave to say a few words. Session after Session the question has been brought down. We have had always a large Victoria element, and this question has, unfortunately, always taken a Victoria and Mainland issue. I have studied this matter carefully. With regard to the Acts themselves they are very strong; they commence with preambles as to construction, maintenance, and repair. The toll was not mentioned as to continue merely until the debt was extinguished, therefore I think the vote should be taken on another view. The benefits accrue equally to Victoria and the Upper Country; probably the farmer gets the lion's share; I know the Upper Country pretty well; formerly the miner used nothing outside of bacon and flour. This should not be made an Island and Mainland question.

Hon. DR. HELMCKEN—I do not regard the subject as a joke. We have paid \$60,000 for roads on Vancouver Island—roads not one-twentieth the length of those on the Mainland. Victoria gets more kicks than halfpence. Victoria pays the greater part of the tolls. I belong to a company who pay a large proportion. What do they propose in place of a road toll? Some one must pay it. Thirty thousand dollars per annum is required to keep roads in repair. I say Victoria and Vancouver Island are more concerned with what is for the good of the Colony, generally, than any part of the Mainland.

Hon. MR. HUMPHREYS—I rise to bear testimony to the fairness of the Hon. Members for Vancouver Island in whatever concerns the Mainland. I have always seen a desire on the part of Vancouver Island Members to legislate for the whole, and not for a part, of the Colony. I am as tired of this bickering as any Member of the Mainland. I consider it our duty to be more united. If the Hon. Members for New Westminster and Yale would talk less about injustice to the Mainland it would be better. I regret the action of the Hon. Member for Yale; it is factious.

Hon. MR. BARNARD—Vancouver Island has always made practical jokes of any questions from the Mainland.

Hon. MR. DECOSMOS rose to order.

Hon. MR. BARNARD—I referred to the Hon. gentleman for Victoria City. There are no road tolls on Vancouver Island. [Yes, a road tax!—Hon. Dr. Helmcken.] As soon as the roads are paid for the people of the Mainland will, to a man, refuse to pay any more road tolls. Every item has been used as a threat against Confederation. I do not offer any such threat. I believe the Upper Country would accept Confederation on the terms proposed; but if the Government expect that they will be able to collect this \$60,000 from the population of the Upper Country they are mistaken.

Hon. MR. DECOSMOS—The Hon. Member for Yale is unjust to Vancouver Islanders. The whole of this Colony is paying large sums of money for interest on debt on roads.

Hon. MR. BARNARD—I did not say what I did with reference to Vancouver Island Members without consideration.

Hon. MR. ROBSON—I hope that Government Members, in view of the absence of the Hon. Chief Commissioner, will vote so as to allow this resolution to go forward.

Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I must express a contrary hope.

The amendment of Hon. Mr. Barnard was carried.

The Committee rose and reported the resolutions complete.

Council resumed, and the resolutions passed in Committee were adopted, except those with regard to the purchase of Alaska and the State of Maine.

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WEDNESDAY, 6TH APRIL, 1870.

The Hon. Attorney-General, in the absence of the Hon. Colonial Secretary, Presiding Member.

On motion, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, to take into consideration the Message of His Excellency the Governor respecting the provision to be made for the sending of Delegates to Ottawa.

Hon. Mr. Ball in the Chair.