

Hon. Mr. BARNARD—It was fully impressed on my mind that this question should not be mixed up with the terms. I am astonished at the charge against Representative Members of trying to force this question upon the House at an inopportune time. I will leave it to the Government to say whether it shall be left for another day or go on.

Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I say, again, now the debate has begun, now the gauntlet is down, the debate must go on.

Hon. Mr. ROBSON—Sir, this course is most unfair on the part of the Government Members. Let the House decide whether it will go on with this question now or postpone it. It seems to me that the Hon. Attorney-General is resorting to a parliamentary manoeuvre in forcing this matter on. It is a matter that Representative Members only ought to vote on. We shall have a large majority of Representative Members on this question, and that is all we want. I say that the Attorney-General did not fairly answer my question as to whether, by passing this resolution, we should shut the door to further discussion of the question during the present session.

Hon. CHIEF COMMISSIONER—I should now object to the resolution being withdrawn. As the question has been discussed, let us take a decision upon it; it would be unwise to postpone the question.

Hon. Mr. HUMPHREYS—I think, Sir, the matter cannot now be postponed; let us fight it out and have done with it.

Hon. Mr. ROBSON—I say, Sir, that this debate may be postponed, and if the Government vote is given against the postponement we shall know the reason.

Hon. Mr. BARNARD—The Hon. Chief Commissioner said that he should take an adverse vote on this resolution as a vote of want of confidence. I don't want that. Won't Hon. Government Members help us?

Hon. Dr. CARRALL—The opposition say that the Government ought not to have put such a resolution on the terms. Let us take that issue.

Hon. Mr. BARNARD—It was not my desire to hamper the Government; I desired to give a hearty support to the Government, and, at the same time, to do my duty to my constituents. I have never felt the weight of responsibility as I feel it to-day. I feel that I am about casting a vote which will affect, for weal or woe, the destiny of this fine Province. I am convinced that if a majority of the elected Members of this Council vote "aye" to-day on this question, Responsible Government will be inaugurated conjointly with Confederation. It is beyond a question that the intelligent portion of the community are in favour of Responsible Government, but there is a grave question in regard to its adaptation to the Colony. The words coming from His Excellency are worthy of careful consideration; they contain strong reasons against the introduction of Responsible Government. Public opinion is not settled on the Island. The Hon. senior Member for Victoria City has shown in his remarks that there is a great want of settled principle in the Colony. The principal men of Victoria are averse to taking upon themselves the duties and labour of legislating for the country. Men of standing and wealth stand aloof. The merchants, manufacturers, and professional men take no interest in the matter of legislation. There is a great difficulty in getting good representative men. There are, I admit, many good reasons which might be urged against the measure, and I have no doubt that dissatisfaction, to some extent, may ensue. I agree with the Commissioner of Lands and Works, in his remarks about the press influencing the public unfavourably to the Government; but the blame is not in the press, but in that system of Government which keeps the rulers silent. The members of the Government ought to be in a position to defend themselves, both by pen and speech. I have glanced at a few reasons against the admission of Responsible Government, but I will now look at the other side. Look at the fact of all the larger subjects, under Union, being dealt with by the Federal power. This fact, of itself, is as strong an argument as we need. What Hon. Member can go to his constituents and tell them that he thinks the local business of this Colony could be managed better at Ottawa than it can be by ourselves? The Official Members of this Government will, no doubt, avail themselves of the retiring pension, and appointees from Ottawa will take their places. Will those latter officials have to be pensioned off by this Colony when we adopt Responsible Government? This is a strong objection to entering the Union under a system like the present. This Colony may be asked to pension another set of officials. Will the people be satisfied with this sort of Government if we are to have appointees from Ottawa? There are a class of men who oppose