

Yes, the Honourable gentleman said that the issue would be raised at the next election, between going to Canada and going somewhere else.

[Dr. Helmcken—"I said that I thought it very probable if mean terms were proposed by Canada, the people would raise other issues."]

O! "the people," those much abused words. I believe in the people when they are right. But the Honourable gentleman *did* threaten to raise the issue of going somewhere else. Now, Sir, where else except to Canada could we go? The Honourable Member talks of the agricultural interests. Why, Sir, by going somewhere else, these interests from Comox to Sooke, and from Soda Creek and Kamloops to the Lower Fraser would be destroyed. The country would be flooded by produce from the United States. From Comox to Sooke, from the delta of the Fraser to Cariboo, the farming interests would be destroyed by going somewhere else. If that question came up, Sir, the farmers would quickly put it down. The Honourable Member for Victoria City says that the question comes here by desire of Her Majesty's Government. Sir, I say, again, that it comes here by desire of the people, a large proportion of whom have asked Her Majesty's Government and the Government at Ottawa to bring it here. I am thankful that the question of Confederation is here. The Honourable gentleman says it is a Government measure, and that the terms must be passed. I say, again, that I hope terms will be passed of such a character as will contribute to the prosperity and happiness of this Colony. The Honourable Executive Councillor says that this is a Government measure, and that it ought to be an open question. Why does he not retire from his seat then? I would not be a candidate for his place.

[Dr. Helmcken—"There are no candidates. The Executive Council are appointed."]

Then I am sorry for the choice that has been made. Why, Sir, the programme settled by Government would leave it virtually an open question by referring the terms to a popular vote. I may have something to say upon that hereafter. How patriotic will the Honourable gentleman be when he goes outside, and says that this nominative Council, presided over by a paid Colonial Secretary, have done this! How very easy it is for an Honourable gentleman to talk about the autocracy of Government, when it suits him to do so. Look at his conduct in voting supplies. When my Honourable friend on my left (the Member for Lillooet) tried to bring in a Bill to repeal the Crown Salaries Acts, was he not choked off by the Honourable Member for Victoria City objecting first? But I am only delaying the House. [Hear, hear.] The Honourable Magisterial Member for Victoria City says "hear, hear." Now, Sir, as far as I am concerned, the Honourable Member has my full permission to withdraw. [Laughter.] I have always been ready to take a British subject vote on this question; but the Honourable Member for Victoria has always dissented from that proposal.

The Honourable Member for Victoria City has a remarkable way of putting things. But a few days ago he stated in this House, that if the people will only support the Government in getting the terms proposed, all will be right. I quote from the *Colonist* newspaper of 20th February, 1870, in which the Honourable gentleman is made to say, "I hope the people will support the Government in trying to get terms." He now comes down here and opposes them. [Dr. Helmcken—"I don't oppose the terms, I oppose Confederation."] A distinction without a difference. The Honourable Executive Councillor says the time is inopportune. I say, Sir, that now is the time. If the new gold discoveries, which have been mentioned in the course of this debate, really exist, now is the time to confederate, and to take means to attract and retain population. I, Sir, have spent five years of my life in the mining districts of California, and have helped to build up town after town; but how are they now? Many of those towns which had their 5,000 inhabitants have almost none now. It will be the same with our gold-mining towns. I fear the Honourable gentleman will always say the time is inopportune, not only before the population arrives, but when it is here, and after it goes. If we can make a good bargain with Canada, by all means let us make it, and make it now. I like the word bargain, it sounds like business. What did the Honourable Member for Victoria say at the last election?—"Don't let us have Confederation, for we shall have a surplus revenue of \$100,000 in 1869, and we will do better without Confederation." Confederation was inopportune then. There was a large deficit or falling off in the revenue for 1869, and yet he says it is inopportune now. He said, yesterday, we shall have a reduction of the public debt in 1873 of about \$36,000, and by funding the floating debt make another saving of \$15,000 per year. So that for a paltry saving of \$50,000 three years hence, the Confederation question is now inopportune. I am surprised at