

Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL—My conviction is that mileage is now allowed. If I am right, ten cents a mile both ways is allowed.

Hon. Mr. BARNARD—It is the prerogative of the Governor; we had better vote for the repeal of the Organic Act.

Hon. Mr. DECOSMOS—Under the proposed constitution Senators would be chosen by an irresponsible Governor, on the advice of an irresponsible Minister. Those who own this country do not want such a state of things to be.

Hon. Mr. WOOD—It is better to bear in mind that the Organic Act applies to three, or at the most four, Provinces: Canada East, Canada West, and the Maritime Provinces. Here we want exceptional terms.

Hon. Mr. ROBSON—Hon. Members seem to assume that we are going to enter Confederation without Responsible Government. This I repudiate. I say we shall enter with privileges equal to other Provinces. I decline to assume anything else. With regard to the appointment of Senators by the Legislative Council, I would ask by what Council? By this or by the new House? It would not satisfy the people that a Council nominated by the Governor should appoint; and it is yet to be seen that the new House, as shadowed forth by the Governor, would be less objectionable than this one. We are entirely in the dark.

Hon. Mr. HUMPHREYS—As I understand it, these Senators are to be appointed after Confederation, and consequently the recommendation refers to the new Council. His Excellency says that he will give a majority to the popular members, and I have no doubt he means what he says. I believe him to be a most estimable gentleman; but I have a feeling that he has been misled. It is not likely that in a few weeks' travel he could understand the wants and feelings of the people. You must eat, drink, and sleep among them to understand a people. If I were a great Government contractor I would support the Government. I ask some reason of rank. It would be very easy to give us a majority of two or three popular members; but unless we have a large majority of representative members the Government might still get their own way.

Hon. Mr. ROBSON—I desire, Mr. Chairman, to answer two points. I believe we shall fight for and have Responsible Government. In referring to the Governor's speech, the Hon. Member for Lillooet says the new Council will be just similar to this; that it will still be unrepresentative. I cannot see why there should be this doubt about the constitution of the new Council. If there were to be only a majority of two or three the Council would still be unrepresentative; and the people will not be contented with such a form of Government. The argument of the Hon. Member for Lillooet refutes itself in the most conclusive way. The people do not want an unrepresentative House not having their confidence to elect their Senators.

Hon. Mr. RING—What have we to do with the Organic Act? Why should we put ourselves under the iron points of the Organic Act, and be dragged under a harrow all the days of our lives? If the Act is wrong it must be repealed. Now is the time to express our opinion.

The Chairman put the recommendation of Mr. Humphreys, which on division was lost, and of Mr. Robson, which on division was lost.

Clause 14 passed as read.

Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Sir, I rise to move the adoption of clause fifteen, which is as follows:—

"15. The constitution of the Executive authority and of the Legislature of British Columbia, shall, subject to 'The British North America Act, 1867,' continue as existing at the time of union, until altered under the authority of the Act."

And before touching upon the merits of the Resolution itself, I wish to explain that the time which must necessarily elapse before Confederation will allow ample opportunity to procure a change in the Constitution, and I desire to impress upon Hon. Members that this question of alteration in the form of Government is not necessarily connected with the Resolution now before the House. I make these observations in consequence of observing a notice of the Hon. Member for Lillooet, on the subject of Responsible Government, on the Orders of the Day. On behalf of the Government, I desire to say that there is no desire whatever to shirk the full discussion of the question of Responsible Government. I throw the door open and invite the fullest discussion; but, as the question of the change of the Constitution of this Colony is one that lies between this Colony and the Imperial Government, it does not form an item in these Resolutions. Therefore, I would ask Hon. Members to postpone the consideration