

For instance, there is Washington Territory, with a population of 27,000, sends a Delegate to Congress, who has no vote. Dakota, another Territory, has been refused admission as a State until it has a population larger than it now possesses. I am just reminded about Alaska, which is not even a Territory yet. General Thomas reported against giving it any other than a military form of Government. How can we, then, expect Responsible Government with our population? I know that there are Honourable Members wavering; their interests tell them to vote one way, their conscience points to another. I say, vote according to your conscience. I say that a village can never have Responsible Government. I maintain that it would prove a curse, through the agitation that would follow, instead of a blessing. I coincide with the Honourable Member for New Westminster as to what he says as to callous hands. I believe there are men with tattered garments in the upper country quite capable of giving a sensible vote upon all questions likely to come before a Council in this Colony; but we find that they have too much to do; they have no time for politics; they have to earn their own bread. I believe that the Honourable Member for Cariboo has uttered the true sentiments of the great majority of the district. I do not believe that Cariboo is favourable to Responsible Government. Those gentlemen with the patched garments and callous hands have the same opportunity that the Member for New Westminster has had of coming into the House. He has told us with pride of his hard work as a pioneer on the Fraser River; and to-day we hear him advocating, with most eloquent language, his views upon this great question. His voice has had much to do with shaping the councils of this House, and, I ask, are these doors shut to any man in the Colony of equal talent with the Honourable gentleman, who can be found willing to devote their time to the service of their country? I do not feel in the servile position of being obliged to vote one way or the other. I am as free to vote as the Honourable Member himself. I shall give my vote to the best of my ability. I believe that no compulsion has been brought to bear upon any Member of this House, official or otherwise. The latter part of the speech of the Honourable gentleman (Mr. Robson) is hardly worthy of the former. It contains language which I am very sorry he has used; language which makes me believe that it is not from conviction, but that it is intended to go forth to the world to stir up the people; excellent stump oratory, if, without intending the slightest disrespect, I may use the term. I believe it is not the wish of the property owners of Victoria to have Responsible Government. Do you suppose, Sir, that property owners are going, willingly, to entrust their interests to persons of whom they know nothing? I do not dread professional politicians; I believe they are as useful as any other professional men in their way; but I say, as a fact, there are no politicians here with the exception of those who have devoted their time to politics. Why, I ask, is there so great an antipathy to leaving this question for the people to decide at the polls? "Give us," says the other side, "an opportunity of educating ourselves, so that our mistakes, when made, may be remedied." I say that there is no better education than this Council, in which Hon. Members have education before they come to Responsible Government; for under the scheme foreshadowed by the Governor, the position will be very little inferior to Responsible Government. Depend upon it, if the Canadian Government think we can manage Responsible Government they will give it to us—they will be glad to get rid of the question. I say, however, this question is being agitated at an inopportune time. I, for one, would not consent to trust my interests to any such change. I do not believe in the present form of Government, but if the form foreshadowed by the Governor be carried out, it will give the people a system very little inferior, as I have said, to Responsible Government, and infinitely more workable. I trust that Hon. Members will give due weight to the remarks of other speakers who have preceded me upon the question, and will well consider their votes.

Hon. Mr. DRAKE—Mr. Chairman, I have a strong objection to this clause being inserted; it never ought to have been in the terms. It presumes that this Colony is willing to go into Confederation with the form of Government that we have at present. It seems to have been put in as a sop to Canada; it ought to have been left out. I cannot see why it is inserted, or what advantage it can possibly be to us. If we go into Confederation bound hand and foot with the same form of Government as now, we shall have no power to change the form. We shall then have Canada as a Queen Regnant. We shall then have an Executive who will, if so directed, vote against Responsible Government. This Colony would be a preserve for Canadian statesmen and Canadian patronage; we shall be no more advanced than now. Without going into argument I may be pardoned, I trust, if I quote three propositions of John