

City, except that it does not accord with his usual statesmanlike views. I shall offer no opposition to the latter part of the resolution of the Hon. Member, but I cannot support the whole. If anyone will move an amendment to leave out the latter part, I will support it.

Hon. Mr. DECOSMOS—We have three propositions now before the House—my own, and those of the Hon. Members for Victoria and New Westminster. The former divides the subject. I think they would both act judiciously if they withdrew the question of free port.

Hon. DR. CARRALL moved an amendment to strike out the latter part of the resolution of the Hon. Member for Victoria.

Hon. Mr. RING suggested that the amendment should be deferred. These amendments so qualify the general principles that I must decline voting for any one of them.

Hon. Mr. WOOD—Sir, I do not intend to express my opinion on free trade or protection, but I intend to vote; and I think my Hon. friend (Mr. Ring) might consider that he is not pledged to any particular course by his vote. I give my vote in order that the question may be brought before the Canadian Government, and ultimately before the people of this Colony.

Hon. Mr. RING—I have great respect for the opinion of the Hon. and learned gentleman; but the resolution of the Hon. Member for New Westminster pledges us to the Organic Act, which I decline to endorse. We are entitled to our own free port and to the regulation of our own tariff.

Hon. Mr. ROBSON—I hope the Hon. Member will remain while I set him right. My resolution only asks that a Representative Council here, after due deliberation, shall have power to decide upon this question. I consider that the name of free port is attractive; this, under the resolution of the Hon. Member for Victoria District, we should lose. We must not regard the Canadian tariff as entirely unprotective. It is wrong, it is untrue, to state that the Canadian tariff is such a great evil, and I maintain that it would not be an evil, but an actual good; but that is no reason we should not seek to make it a greater good.

The Clerk read the resolution of Hon. DeCosmos, the amendment of Hon. Robson, the amendment of Hon. Dr. Helmcken, and the amendment of Hon. Dr. Carrall.

By the leave of the Committee, the amendment of the Hon. Mr. Robson was withdrawn, in order that it might be brought up as a substantive motion.

On a division, the motion of Hon. Dr. Carrall was carried, and the original resolution of Mr. DeCosmos was lost.

The Hon. Mr. Robson then moved his resolution, to which the Hon. Mr. Humphreys moved an amendment.

Amendment and resolution were lost.

Hon. Mr. DRAKE—Sir, I rise to move this resolution on Excise:—

"That in the opinion of this Council, the duties of excise levied upon maltsters and brewers under the Excise Laws of Canada would be detrimental if made applicable to British Columbia, and that His Excellency be requested to take such steps as he may deem advisable for the interest of this Colony, and further to take care that no export duties shall be charged on spars exported from British Columbia."

And I would remark, in doing so, that excise, as levied under the Canadian system, is very heavy indeed; there is duty, licence, and excise. The result would be to the brewing interests, in all probability, total extinction; for on an increasing trade the duty would be so high as to check trade in this direction. The other part of the resolution is in respect to logs, the duty on which is \$1 per thousand on saw-logs; but whether a spar or a mast, it is regarded still as a log. Thus the Canadian tariff would seriously interfere with our industry, and interfere with getting out masts and spars.

Hon. DR. CARRALL—I think the Hon. and learned Member for Victoria City is under a misapprehension when he includes spars with logs. If "logs" refers simply to saw-logs, I cannot see that the spar business would be affected.

Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I must confess, Sir, that I do not see the object of this clause. I don't think there is any need for alarm. I have lived for some years in Canada, and when I think of the Canadian statesmen, who will look at British Columbia without regard to party politics—such men, for instance, as Sir J. A. Macdonald, Sir Francis Hincks, Sir A. T. Galt, Mr. George Brown, and the various statesmen accustomed to deal with these things—I feel confident that we are safe in their hands; therefore, I hope that the Hon. and learned Member will not imagine that, in voting against this motion, we are voting against the interests he so properly wishes to protect.