

that assistance is offered by the Imperial Government, it will not be difficult to discern that there was reason on our side. I could give you good commercial reasons, but it is sufficient to say that the Government named Esquimalt especially with a view to the retention of the Fleet. Both the late Admiral and the late Governor agreed in reporting in favour of Esquimalt. We should, therefore, have been remiss in not pointing it out. I think it hard that the Government should be twitted with the intention of catching votes. ["Hear, hear," from Mr. DeCosmos.] I scout the idea. There is an Imperial Act, which only allows the Admiralty to lend a limited sum to Colonial Docks—the Act, of 28 and 29 Victoria, Cap. 206. This Act allows a loan of £20,000 from the Admiralty upon certain terms; it is a loan of so much money that is contemplated, and not a guarantee of interest. Last year I stated to this Council that the Admiralty had offered to lend £20,000, at 4 per cent. The Company did not think it sufficient inducement. We hope to get Imperial assistance still; that is one reason for the locality being named. I stand here to say that Esquimalt is the place. I am surprised that a Member from the Mainland should bring an accusation of sectional proclivities against the Government in this matter, for the Railway will specially benefit the Mainland. I believe and hope it will follow down the Valley of the Fraser, and immediately benefit the district from which the Hon. Member comes. Fraser River is the main artery and the probable course of the Railway. I did not, therefore, expect to hear of any sectional prejudice in the Resolutions from any Member from the Mainland, when, if there is any immediate benefit to any special locality, it will be to the Mainland of British Columbia.

Hon. Mr. RING, Member for Nanaimo, said:—Sir, I am prepared to support the Government upon this clause. Why should we set ourselves up in opposition to the opinion of the successive Admirals who have been upon this station, and who can have no prejudices? I think it is a waste of public time to impute motives. Esquimalt has been pronounced by engineers to be the proper place. I am not one of those who, like certain Hon. Members here, would constantly "pin their conscience on their sleeves for daws to peck at." Such motives as are suggested could never have entered into the minds of the Executive. They have been repelled by the Hon. Chief Commissioner, and why should we be accused of giving personal votes?

Hon. Mr. WOOD—No personal motives are imputed.

Hon. Mr. ROBSON—It seems like such an imputation. I think the Hon. Member should withdraw his motion. Consider how such a principle as that suggested by the Hon. Mr. Wood would work. It in effect amounts to this: "Because you have a local interest, you must refrain from supporting by your vote what you conscientiously approve of as beneficial to the community."

Hon. Mr. WOOD—I must correct my Hon. friend (Mr. Ring). I do not attribute personal motives in any improper sense; but I say, is there a butcher, or baker, or any other man, who will, in these days of pressure, fail to vote as his pocket will be influenced? The material benefit to the individual is an influence at all elections, and rightly so. I can see, in my mind's eye, banners floating at the next general election, and can imagine placards posted with the inscription in the largest type: "Vote for DeCosmos and the Esquimalt Dock." This object may not be intentional, but yet can it be otherwise? What is it? Intending without intending? I deny that I impute any dishonest motive in the Executive, but it is clear that the Dock at Esquimalt will influence many votes, and I confess I gave them credit for foreseeing so obvious a consequence.

Hon. CHIEF COMMISSIONER—I say this, Sir, that if any such motives had guided the Executive Council; if any considerations, such as have been suggested, had swayed them; if the object had been a different one, we could have prepared a much more palatable dish; we could have shown you pecuniary advantages. If we had had the intention to get votes, we could have framed the Resolutions very differently. But they were framed with no such views. It was the intention of the Government to prepare terms on a fair and proper basis to be submitted to the people.

Hon. Dr. HELMCKEN—As a Member of the Executive Council, Sir, I confess that I was pleased to see Esquimalt mentioned as the site for the Docks. I will meet the Hon. Mr. Wood on this issue, and say that supposing this is put in for the sake of gaining the vote of the Victoria people, what is Confederation? Confederation means union to benefit every part of the Colony. To follow out the Hon. Member's reasoning, there should have been no public