

Confederation on this ground. They would prefer remaining as they are, with the officials nominated from Downing Street, rather than from Ottawa. It is often asserted that this Colony is not ready. How long are we to wait? Canada was told the same story when she had a population of 600,000. All the other Provinces were told the same thing. Must we wait for such an increase, or must we fight as did Canada? Throw us on our own resources as a Colony, and we will soon learn valuable lessons in the science of Government. There were gentlemen of good families and of good education who came here in early days, who had never suffered privations of any sort before they came here; sent out to make fortunes, or, at all events, homes for themselves; their roughing it was rough indeed. Bad news had come from the mines; the avenues of trade were closed; there were no agricultural pursuits for them to turn to; the consequence was they had to lie round hotels; after failing to get Government employment,—for which, as a matter of course, they applied,—some kept bars whilst waiting for remittances. The reason was that they never had been taught self-reliance. We shall be in the same position if we are constantly to have rulers from England, or Canada; but throw us on our resources and we shall succeed. Self-reliance is the best means of education in politics as in anything else. If our rulers are sent us from England or Ottawa we will always lack self-reliance. Self-reliance is written on every line of the British North America Act. Rely upon yourselves, is the cry of the people of England. It is better to grapple with the difficulties now when the issues are small and comparatively unimportant; and should we make blunders they will not be so serious when our interests are small; and for what errors we do commit, the consequences will fall upon ourselves. We will, no doubt, blunder at first, and there may be chaff blown here. If Responsible Government will bring the scum to the top, dross will go to the bottom. The scum will be ladled off—the chaff will be blown away by the breath of public opinion. The Governor's promise of a majority will not satisfy the people, and we should, therefore, urge upon His Excellency to give us Responsible Government. I am not in favour, however, of making that condition a *sine qua non* of Confederation. I would accept Confederation with good terms, even without Responsible Government. There may be a few arguments against it, but there are many in its favour. Under no circumstances would I like Confederation and Responsible Government to go to the polls together. I hope the people will sever the two. Let us have Confederation and we shall get Responsible Government.

Hon. Mr. WOOD—In rising to address myself to the motion now before this Committee, I do so with a double object: I feel myself challenged to uphold my opinion on the subject of Responsible Government, as applied to this Colony, and I am desirous to add a few words on the bearing of the subject, in the matter of Confederation, now before the Council. First, with respect to the subject of Responsible Government. As to this, Sir, my views have been for a long time settled, and I shall endeavour to express them as clearly as I can. The result of them is expressed in a few words. I am in favour of the extension of representative institutions little by little, to the utmost verge of safety; but I am opposed, in this community at least, to the establishment of what is called Responsible Government. These are my views shortly. I believe them to be the settled convictions of most moderate and experienced men not bound to flatter popular constituencies. And I believe I am doing a service to society in upholding such moderate views against the popular error and the popular bias in favour of the rash application of Responsible Government in such communities. I will start, Sir, at once from an historical point of view. The Hon. Member for New Westminster has, as I understand him, asserted that Responsible Government is the immemorial birthright of Englishmen, and that the principle of Cabinet Ministers going in and out with votes of a majority of the House of Commons is a principle of ancient date. My understanding of the history of my country leads to a different conclusion; and however much it may be clear and obvious that representative institutions are our natural and inalienable birthright; however much it may be established that the power of self-taxation resides and has always resided in the representatives of the country, in the Commons of England, carrying with it the overwhelming power of the purse—it is, I believe, clearly admitted that the principle of Responsible Government, as now understood, has existed for little more than 100 years,—say from the accession of George III. and the termination of Lord Bute's administration,—so that I admit the Hon. gentleman's proposition only so far as this. Representative institutions are the birthright of the British nations—representative institutions and the privilege of taxing ourselves. Now, Sir, I believe the whole scope of representative institutions to be greatly misrepresented. It