

had; therefore Confederation is out of the question. I have thus, Sir, given my opinion on a point which is sure to meet with popular disfavour, but I am proud to support the Executive when I think it is right; and I would share the responsibility of a measure which would make that Executive obnoxious to blame. I have no chronic feeling of opposition to Government. I have no objection to individuals, nor do I impute to them sordid motives, but in the matter of Confederation the Executive of this Colony are in a false position; they act primarily, not for the good of the Colony, but for the good, or supposed good, of Great Britain; and they exercise the power of Government in a matter in which the interests of the Colony are mainly at stake to carry out, and effect an organic change of great importance to local interests. It is somewhat unfair to me to say I impute motives to the Executive. I only quarrel with them when they place themselves in a false position, as in the question of education; and in this, as in education, I say they oppose their own views to the views of the well understood wishes of all classes of the community; and here they carry through a scheme of Confederation; they start the stone, and it is hard to see how or where it will roll. I sincerely feel for their position. The Colony will demand representative institutions, and they will be forced to yield them or back out of the position they have undertaken. The answer of the Executive Government to this is as given by the Hon. Attorney-General. The Attorney-General says that after Confederation we are bound to have what we require—Responsible Government. This is taking the matter for granted. It may be attained, but with a struggle. It is impossible to doubt that the Executive of the new Province will oppose representative Government or any diminution of their own rights or their own power. He says it is inopportune and beside the question. The Hon. Member for Cariboo (Dr. Carrall) says: "If the people of British Columbia want Responsible Government no power on earth can prevent their having it." This is but a promise for the future. The Hon. Chief Commissioner says the community is not fit for Responsible Government, but the matter is to be left to the new Council. Responsible Government will assuredly come with Confederation. The Hon. Member for Victoria (Dr. Helmcken) says: "This is the argument of the Government. But something must counterbalance Canada, otherwise with a working majority in the House the Dominion Government will keep things as they are when we are a Province of Canada."

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TUESDAY, MARCH 22ND, 1870.

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Hon. Mr. HOLBROOK—Mr. Chairman, I rise with some diffidence to give my opinion as to whether we are fitted for Responsible Government or not, after the able speeches that have been delivered by Hon. Members on the subject. The Hon. and learned Member for Victoria City (Mr. Drake) has affirmed that Responsible Government would give the real government of the Colony to Victoria. This I believe is true, and if such were the case what injury it would inflict on New Westminster and the Mainland generally. I feel that we are not yet fit for Responsible Government; but nevertheless, I think that the extent of the population is very much under-estimated. It has been stated that after the most careful calculation that can be made the white population cannot be calculated at over 5,000 adults; but I think this is wrong, and no doubt it has been taken from the Government Accounts, which do not include Kootenay, Big Bend, or the settlements around New Westminster; and I would make the adult white population to be 10,000, besides 40,000 Indians; and these Indians ought not to be ignored. If they are not represented will it not be difficult to make them contented with the change from the Imperial Government to Canada? And it is for this reason that I have given a notice of motion in this House to show them that they are not forgotten, and that they may go on with their settlements and improvements in safety. But if we are to have Responsible Government I will not be answerable for the consequences. We are told the question is to be submitted to the people. I say let us wait for their decision. I have confidence in Canada, and am content to take my chance of being well governed by the Dominion Government, rather than try something of the working of which we know nothing. I have no doubt that great agitation on the subject of Responsible Government will be got up by the press, and that many members will gain their elections by confusing the questions of Confederation and