

time comes we shall, I say, as a matter of course, have Responsible Government; and that time will arrive sooner under Confederation than without it. I trust the Dominion Government; I do not think they will go against the will of the people. I believe that in this, as in other matters, if they exercise influence at all, it will be for the good of the country. A Government of liberal institutions cannot be expected to oppose the wishes of the people in proper and reasonable matters. Responsible Government ought not to be a condition of Confederation; and I say that in these Resolutions it is very properly left to be settled in a new and more fully representative Council, which the Governor has told us he is going to obtain Imperial sanction to establish. But if Confederation is to depend on this question of Responsible Government, then I say let it be the test also of the reality of the supporters of Confederation.

Hon. MR. ROBSON—I expect the privilege of a general reply, but I desire to explain, now, that the Hon. Chief Commissioner has made an unfair use of what I said about “horny hands and patched garments.” I disclaim having used it in that connection attributed to me; his remarks are unfair.

Hon. MR. WALKER—I think on an important question of this kind every member should give a reason for his vote. I have given the matter great consideration, and had intended entering somewhat fully into the discussion, but the Hon. Chief Commissioner has anticipated me. I have been utterly astonished as I listened to what fell from him. I entirely coincide with him in his argument and in his views. Indeed, I can hardly help thinking that either he has copied my notes or I his. I must congratulate myself on coming to this conclusion. On the same ground I congratulate the House on the good temper, good taste, intelligence, and ability with which this question has been launched for discussion. The main speech—for the Hon. Member for Victoria District did not deign to express his views—has been that of the Hon. Member for New Westminster. As I listened to that speech, Sir, one of the best ever uttered in this House, I almost felt that for five long years I had been wrong,—he almost made a convert of me; but upon looking a little more closely into it I find that it is based upon false premises; his arguments are fallacious, and his conclusions wrong. The Hon. Member says that Responsible Government is a principle which may be applied either to the Great Eastern, or to a dairy churn, or to a lady's watch; that it is a principle capable of being carried out by three or three hundred. This is utterly incorrect; it is not a principle, but a form, one element of which is responsibility to the people. It is a form adopted by the people, but it does not follow, as a matter of induction, that it can be used or carried out in every place or by every community. In 1837 the rebellion in Canada, for the purpose of acquiring Responsible Government, took place. The rebellion was raised and the question agitated simply for changing the form of Government. What was the population? It was in the neighbourhood of 2,000,000 in 1837, and of 2,500,000 in 1861. Look at the difference of the population of this Colony; after deducting the aliens and females, there is scarcely a voting population through the whole Colony of 3,000. Have the whole country mapped out and show me how much further the Governor can go in usefully extending the representation. We have nine members, and out of these nine, under Responsible Government, we should have to elect a Colonial Secretary, an Attorney-General, a Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, and probably two other Cabinet Ministers; altogether five in office, and four struggling for power. Make the whole number eighteen and you then have a constant struggle for power; a struggle such as we have not had in this Colony before, and such as I hope we shall not see. There are virtually two ends of the Colony which represent all the wealth and property of the community—Victoria and Cariboo. Cariboo would be contending for the repeal of road tolls, and Victoria would be contending that they ought to be paid. It may be said that these general questions of taxation will be left to the Dominion Government, but there are many other subjects which will create differences between the two ends of the Colony. The Hon. Member for New Westminster says if we go in without Responsible Government we shall go in with agitation. Does any one believe that if we had Responsible Government to-morrow, politicians will have no subject on which to agitate. Political agitation will never cease. Let us go further. As the Honourable Chief Commissioner says, we have the United States advocating Responsible Government, and that form of it which is said to be the best in theory, a form in reality democratic; but the people are not educated to the extent of the principle itself. Americans are averse not only to granting small but large territories the freedom which we now ask. They say: “You shall be a Territory until you are properly educated.”