

"property as shall properly belong to the Dominion under the 'British North America Act,' and "such portions of the Main Trunk Line through British Columbia, or other roads then constructed, as may be necessary to complete a continuous line of coach road from a point at or "below Yale to a point at the foot of the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, and that the "same shall be free of toll of any kind whatever."

Hon. Mr. RING—I agree that some road tolls ought to be kept up.

Hon. Mr. HUMPHREYS—My only object is to bring this matter before the Executive. I cannot agree with the Hon. Member for Yale. I have not opposed any proposition of any man from personal motives.

Hon. Mr. BARNARD—I oppose the motion of the Hon. Member for Lillooet. I think it does not meet the question.

Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The objection to the whole matter in shape of a resolution is that by talking of road tolls we raise expectations we cannot probably fulfil. I had hoped Hon. members would not press the subject. I assure the Hon. gentlemen that the petitions sent up have been the subject of earnest consideration. I attach weight to what the Hon. Member for Yale says in this House, and regret that such a feeling should go abroad.

Hon. Dr. CARRALL—I, as Member for Cariboo, should say something upon this matter. I have some doubt upon it. I would say this much, as a member of the Government, that is, that many of the resolutions brought up here and vetoed will probably form the subject of negotiation with the delegation in settling the terms. They will be a sort of substratum. I regard the taxing of those who use the roads as the proper means for the keeping up the road, and, furthermore, I fear to overload the terms.

Hon. Mr. HOLBROOK—For such roads as were made on the petition of the people tolls are justifiable, but tolls should not be kept up after the debt is defrayed. No doubt when this road comes under the rule of Canada she will construct turnpikes. Our road tolls are too high.

Hon. Mr. ROBSON—I regret the absence of the Hon. Chief Commissioner. I think that he has an impression that some such resolution as this is necessary. I regret that the matter was brought up to-day at all.

Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I proposed that the matter should be left open until Monday.

Hon. Mr. ROBSON—Then let it be left open.

Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I have pointed out the Hon. Chief Commissioner's objections. He says that the road can be better kept up by the Local than the Dominion Government. I regret the absence of the Hon. Chief Commissioner. He did not state to me any certain impression, but I am sure he would have been glad to have joined in the discussion. It has, I have no objection to state, been discussed in Executive Council, and this discussion will do no good. I must oppose such resolutions going up to the Governor, for it may create expectations which, when the terms go to the polls, cannot be fulfilled.

Hon. Mr. DECOSMOS—I have no doubt when the terms come to the polls there will be one howl of discontent at the financial part of them from Cariboo to New Westminster. I wish to see road tolls free, but I do not wish to see the Dominion Government taking charge of our local interests, such as tolls. With regard to terms, I say that the financial terms will kill Confederation when it comes to the polls. The people from Cariboo to New Westminster want these road tolls abolished.

Hon. Mr. ROBSON—The Attorney-General suggests, on behalf of the Hon. Chief Commissioner, that we shall lose the revenue; but this is a gain if we get free from the maintenance of the roads. The Government should consider themselves part of the people, and endeavour to relax taxes. Another objection is, that under this arrangement roads would not be kept in repair so well as at present. I say, under Confederation, the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works would have control of roads. The Dominion Government is less likely to be penurious than a Local Government. The Hon. Chief Commissioner spoke to me after making that objection, and my distinct impression is that the Hon. gentleman would support some such proposition as this. We ask what is in perfect harmony with reason. We may just as well ask Canada to do the whole thing, and to maintain the whole road.

Hon. Mr. RING—It astonishes me that Hon. gentlemen are connecting revenue with these tolls. It can only be justifiable to keep tolls for the repair of roads.

Hon. Dr. HELMCKEN—I am on the horns of a dilemma. If I vote for road tolls being taxable, I shall be told I want to make the terms too heavy; if against them, I should be told I am against Confederation.