

the House of Commons will give us, as has been suggested, almost the balance of power between parties: eight, standing firmly together, will have great influence; but what would be our influence with two?

After a few words from Hon. Mr. Humphreys in support of the basis of population, as disclosed in the scheme of the Hon. Mr. DeCosmos,

The several recommendations of the Hon. Messrs. DeCosmos, Drake, and Robson were read by the Clerk.

Some discussion ensued as to how the vote was to be taken, and the Chairman decided to put the recommendations of Hon. Mr. DeCosmos first, by itself, and then the recommendation of Hon. Mr. Drake, which was an amendment on the recommendation of Hon. Mr. Robson.

The recommendation of the Hon. Mr. DeCosmos, on a division, was lost. Ayes 5, Noes 14.

The recommendation of the Hon. Mr. Drake, as an amendment to that of the Hon. Mr. Robson, on a division, was carried.

Clauses 2 and 3 were then passed as read.

On motion, the Committee rose, and asked leave to sit again.

Hon. Mr. DeCosmos voted against the Report of the Committee being adopted.

House adjourned at 6 p.m. until 1 o'clock on Wednesday.

### WEDNESDAY, 16TH MARCH, 1870.

Committee sat at a quarter-past one.

The Hon. ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the adoption of Clause 4:—

"4. The Dominion shall guarantee Interest at the rate of 5 per centum per annum on such sum, not exceeding £100,000, as may be required for the construction of a first-class "Graving Dock at Esquimalt."

He said:—It is pretty generally known that a company was started for the construction of a Graving Dock at Esquimalt, and that negotiations with that object in view had taken place under a former administration; but although both the Admirals and Governor Seymour had reported in favour of it, the thing had fallen through, owing to the inability of the company to obtain the necessary funds. They were only able to get a small loan in aid from the Admiralty. The Dominion guarantee of 5 per cent. on £100,000 sterling, with a prospect of ultimate profits from the undertaking itself, will, it is believed, secure the whole amount of capital required, which has been variously estimated; but from preliminary surveys and investigations which have been made, the sum of £100,000 is deemed sufficient, and there is little doubt that if a company can get a guarantee for that amount, they can carry out the undertaking on the largest practicable scale. I am aware that some opposition has been expressed to the locality; but it is to be supported on general grounds. It will be general to the whole Colony. £100,000 cannot be spent in any part of the Colony without benefiting the rest of it. The Navy are at Esquimalt. Esquimalt is the first port which ocean ships reach when they want repair, and the last point they leave when they receive sailing orders. Captain Richards, and all the Admirals from first to last, have reported in favour of Esquimalt for a dock. Without Admiralty patronage and aid, the thing could not succeed. Another advantage in a dock would be, that it would enable us to utilize our great white elephant, the dredger. As to any opposition to the locality for Burrard Inlet and New Westminster, though as much interested as any Hon. Member round this Board in those places, I must say that they already have the larger share of benefit from the terms; for in my opinion the Overland Railway must follow down the main artery of the Colony, Fraser River, and have its terminus either at New Westminster or Burrard Inlet. Therefore, on public grounds, and because I believe that it will be a public benefit, I support the establishment of a Graving Dock at Esquimalt.

The Hon. Mr. HOLBROOK—Sir, I rise to oppose this clause, because I deem it too sectional; all sectional views should be set aside. I think the locality should certainly be left out, and the question decided hereafter. I have no objection to getting all the money we can from Canada, but I am not sure that there is any present necessity for a dock. I believe that for some time to come it will be cheaper to send ships to San Francisco. What is wanted is