

a most intelligent individual, and one most competent to give an opinion upon the question, was in London. The Attorney-General of the colony, too, a person well acquainted with the subject, was also in London. The Colonial Secretary, the Ex-Colonial Secretary, and some other persons connected with the colony, were also in England. I ask, therefore, if his Majesty's Government were anxious to obtain information—whether they had not ample means of getting it? If the Committee which I moved for last year had been granted, I could have obtained, in a very short time, a sufficient body of competent witnesses to have given all the evidence and all the information that could be desired. I should have no difficulty, indeed, in doing so at the present time, for the Chief Justice of Newfoundland is now in Scotland; one of the late Judges is in London; and the Colonial Secretary is in Scotland. I would ask, therefore, if the Government really be anxious, as it purposes to be, to institute some inquiry into this subject,—what there is to prevent it from doing so now? In the course of a few days, I could furnish the House with such a body of evidence as would enable them,—if not this Session, at least in the course of the next,—to legislate with advantage upon this subject. Notwithstanding, therefore, the recommendation of the Honourable Member for Rochester, I shall press this question to a division, unless I get an assurance from Government that they will take this subject up early next Session.

Question put—"That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the state of the Island of Newfoundland;" House divided—

Ayes	29
Noes	82
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Majority	.	.	.		53