(*Continued from first page.*)

that purpose this session. Perhaps they may have some communications with the Imperial Government upon the question, and if so, I would like to know whether there is any probability of anything being done. I do not apprehend any difficulty in obtaining money, even in this Island, if it were required. I believe there is as much as £56,000 now lying in the banks waiting for better investment. The tenants on some townships in the District which I have the honor to represent, have not the privilege to purchase at any price. I allude to those on Lot 33 and a portion of 34, the greater part of Lots 35, 36, 37, 48 and 50. I feel for those settlers, and will not be contented till every tenant on the Island has the privilege of purchasing his farm at a fair valuation. At the present time, the sons of many of those who are settled on those townships have no inducement to remain, and they go to seek a livelihood in other countries; but if they had the privilege of purchasing the fee-simple of their farms they would probably take encouragement and remain at home. I want to see an end put to this state of things, and therefore ask the present Government if they are prepared to bring forward a measure to settle this question?

Hon. Mr. Lord: As a member of the Government my answer is that we are not prepared to bring forward any compulsory measure; at least I am not prepared to support the Government in bringing forward a measure of that kind this year, whatever I may do at a future time. I must say I was astonished, as well as amused at the remarks of his honor who has just spoken. He first asks if the Government have done anything, and then, if they intended to bring forward a measure to compel the proprietors to sell their estates. It struck me that his remarks had a strong resemblance to the "Tenant League" movement. As regards a further issue of Treasury notes, I differ from his honor on my right, (Mr. Palmer). We have quite enough of paper in circulation which is not redeemable in specie. If those notes would be made redeemable in specie, on demand, I would not object to a further issue, but without that, they would be an injury to the trade of the country rather than a benefit. We want something with which we can purchase sterling bills—we should be in a position to call upon the banks either for sterling exchange or for specie—and if we had a further issue of treasury notes tomorrow, I do not think it would be any benefit to the people. There is a large amount of money in the banks, but it would be just the same with this paper, for you cannot get money without giving value for it. I will not say anything further respecting the paragraph in the address, as his honor the Leader of the Government in this branch of the Legislature has already fully explained it.

Hon. Mr. Haythorne: I must say that I also sympathize with those tenants, and I regret that no greater progress has been made towards the settlement of this long-agitated land question; but I hope to show that it is not for want of interest taken in the subject, nor from indolence on the part of the Government, that so little has been done. I think the views of his honor from Prince County, (Mr. Lord), have undergone a change since last session, for, on referring to the debates, I find that he used the following expression in reference to the compulsory resolution introduced by my hon. colleague: "There is only one part of it that I agree with, and that is the part which says that the proprietors should be compelled to sell at a fair price." How far that coincides with his present views, I leave his honor to judge. I suppose this is the question upon which the policy of the Government is to be reviewed; but what we have done has already been explained by his honor from Georgetown (Mr. MacDonald), and your honors can understand that it requires considerable time to accomplish all the objects with which the Attorney General was charged while on his mission to England. In the first place, as has already been explained, considerable apprehension existed in monetary circles, and how we were to meet the payments becoming due on the Cunard Estate, without further crippling the trade of the Colony, was a cause of anxiety to the Government. However, we had a tolerably abundant harvest, and the prices of produce rose, so that by these circumstances we were placed in a better position than we would otherwise have been. A considerable amount of responsibility hung over the counsels of the Government, and if circumstances had been more unfavorable, it would have been necessary to make considerable sacrifices to meet these instalments without embarrassing the trade of the Island. Another reason why the loan bill was passed was to enable us to meet the proprietors with an open countenance, for it would be absurd to ask a proprietor to accept payment for his estate in the treasury notes of this Island. I would like to know with what countenance we could send to London and offer a proprietor payment in treasury notes. When an individual seeks to deal in a foreign country he must have something convertible into specie in that country, and it is just the same with a Government. You may buy estates of proprietors resident here with the paper currency of the Colony, but in Britain you must be prepared to make payments in British sterling. It was in view of this that the Attorney General was sent to London last summer, and it was in consequence of the proprietors not consenting to sell that we could not proceed with the negotiations for loan. At the time Mr. Hensley was in London, there was a considerable depression in the money market, but towards the autumn circumstances were more favorable, so that we could have effected a loan at a small discount. I see by some London papers that Colonial security is mentioned as the most desirable kind of investment; and these circumstances are conclusive evidence, to my mind, that a great opportunity was lost in placing our loan upon the market and purchasing the rights of the proprietors. I do not wish to say anything to hurt the feelings of the proprietors, for I believe they have been as much sinned against as sinning, and I am desirous of having this question settled. I think the present Government, which has been termed a "Tenant League Government," has made the most straightforward offers to settle this question which have yet been made, though I will abstain at present from mentioning any particular proprietors, as the papers are not before us. It is a matter of regret, however, that they have not accepted the offers which have been made. The motion made last year by his honor on my left (Mr. Beer) was made, I believe, in good faith, and it was withdrawn upon a representation which I made; I therefore feel that it is incumbent upon me to give him all the explanation I can, and if I cannot give him all the explanations he may desire, it is because negotiations are still in an unfinished state. Of this I can assure him, however, that the subject has not been lost sight of, nor will it be; but still, after twelve months labor, it is hard that so little has been done. I observe that the attention of distinguished men in the House of Commons has been turned to our Island, and they should be compelled to know the particulars of this question. When that is done we may expect to obtain justice. The great bane is, that we are so completely under the control of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and that officer is so frequently changed, that it cannot be supposed he would be conversant with the details of a question of this kind in this Colony. The British House of Commons, whose mouthpiece the Colonial Secretary is, are very indifferent as to enquiring about anything beyond the immediate sphere of Imperial interests, but I think it is incumbent upon them to know more than they do about the affairs of their Colonial possessions. Many members of the House of Commons have no knowledge of the existence of such a place as Prince Edward Island. But I hope that a better state of things is about to supervene, and the analogy between our land question and that of Ireland may conduce to that object. I observe that Mr. Maguire, a prominent member of the House of Commons, refers to this Island—he says:—

"Leaving the shores of Ireland, where the land question is the one that most stirs the heart of the people, I cross the Atlantic, and reach a small Island, of which not many in the old country have heard, and, to my amazement, I find this irrepressible land question *the question* of the Colony."

In another place he says:—

"If the claim to be released from the obligation to pay rent could, in any case, be regarded as fair and equitable, it would be so when urged by the cultivators of Prince Edward Island, as it was they, and they only, who, by their labor, changed the whole face of the country, redeeming it from the forest, which, at no distant time, covered it."

Now, these opinions have found their way into print, and they show that, at least, one member of the House of Commons is well posted up in the affairs of the Colonies. Mr. Bright also speaks of our affairs, and I hope that the united efforts of those gentlemen will have the effect of bringing our concerns into greater notice. Speaking of precedents, Mr. Maguire refers to Wolfe Island. He says:—

"Wolfe Island was held partly on lease for 21 years, a description of tenure altogether exceptional in a country in which fee-simple, that is, absolute ownership, is almost universal. In other countries a lease for 21 years might be regarded with favor, and considered good security for *mere outlay in cultivation*—it is so in Scotland—but in America, where absolute and undisputed ownership is the rule, a tenure of this limited nature is rather a discouragement than a stimulus to exertion—the genius of the people—their very instinct is in favor of entire and unrestricted ownership, through which alone forests have been turned into fields of grain and pasture, and America has been civilized and peopled."

Now, one of the great distinctions has been overlooked. It is not that we want long leases, but we want perfect security that the labor of our lives shall not be invested for nothing, for I consider that a man entering upon a wilderness farm has before him the labor of his whole working years in clearing his farm and putting it in a state fit for cultivation. A lease, therefore, is not sufficient for his security. Difficulties and dangers must be encountered—sickness may come—crops may fail—and if the man is not able to pay his rent the whole may be swept away from him. It is not so with a freehold. When a man holds his farm by lease, his energies are cramped. The men we find so industriously employed upon the ice now, taking up mud to enrich their farms, are our very best freeholders: very few leaseholders are to be found among them. But by making them freeholders, things will assume a different aspect. His honor on my left (Mr Beer) referred to the Cunard Estate, and I thought it was a great step towards the settlement of the land question when that Estate was purchased, for it comprised different qualities of land; it extended over a great part of the Island, and was so intermixed with other estates that it afforded a just criterion by which to judge of what should be paid for other Townships. But the other Proprietors do not agree to sell at the same price. I am sorry that they do not, and I think they would have made a very good speculation if they had accepted the offers of the Government. However they have declined. His honor from the City referred to an issue of Treasury notes, but I think his honor from Prince County (Mr. Lord), gave him a very conclusive answer. It seems to me that it would be a very insufficient remedy for the evil complained of to issue a large amount of irredeemable paper. Before it could reach beyond the colony it would have to be converted, into something else, and that would be as difficult as his honor thinks it is easy. The purchase of land from an absentee proprietor is different from a commercial transaction. As regards the question of his honor on my left, (Mr. Beer,) I may say that the great proprietors have been conferred with, and efforts have also been made to effect a loan, and though the loan was not obtained it was not on account of any difficulty that was in the case, but because it was not required, as the proprietors would not consent to sell. Whenever they do consent to sell, we will have the means of going into the London market, and I think our loan could be obtained at a small discount.

Hon. Mr. Beer: I am pleased with many of the remarks of my honorable friend who has just sit down, and I am satified that he is as desirous as I am that this question should be settled. I felt however that a little cold water was thrown upon it by his honor from Prince County, Mr. Lord, for I thought he coincided with my views last year, and gave us to understand that he would support a compulsory measure. Now, I may say that a measure of that kind is not lost sight of. It has been agitated more or less for the last thirty or forty years, but no government would come up to the mark. If a compulsory measure were passed now it might be some time before it would receive the Royal assent, and we might be in possession of funds. But let us make the experiment—let us pass the bill and send it to the Colonial office—probably it would not be sanctioned the first year, and would require to be re-enacted. We might have to try again and again, but I am confident that we would eventually succeed. I would like to know if the subject will come before us again when the despatches are brought down, if so, I will not offer any resolution at present.

Hon. Mr. Dingwell: I quite agree with some of the remarks of his honor who has just spoken, but it is not to be wondered at that we do not succeed in settling the land question, for every successive government takes a different plan, and as long as that is the case I believe it will not be brought to a successful termination. If we were united it would be in the power of the Legislature to settle the question, but while there are so many contentions among us we will not succeed. When the late Government were in power the Opposition acted very fairly for they did not oppose any measure calculated to benefit the country; and if the present Opposition would act in the same spirit I believe it would be in the power of the Legislature to settle the question. I did not feel dissatisfied with the late Government in many things, but the two parties have not pursued the same course. One passed the "Fifteen Years' Purchase Act," the other the "Loan Act," but neither have had the desired effect thus far. If we were prepared to purchase I think there would be means found to bring the land into the market. I believe the present Government have done what they could, and I also believe that his honor who spoke last, is sincere in desiring to compel the proprietors to sell at a fair price, but we must have the means before any great object can be accomplished. I hope to see every farmer a freeholder before many years. We have broken the ice, and no tenant will be contented while his neighbor has been made a freeholder, partly perhaps, at the expense of the Government. But means must be found, no matter if the Government do lose a little, to purchase the land, and I do not think our case is so hopeless; we only want to be united, and to come upon some feasible scheme, but as long as there is so much opposition to every plan that is proposed, we will not succeed.

Hon. Mr. Beer: I do not think there has ever been a refusal to purchase for want of means, and I presume that the present Government would immediately strike a bargain if any estate were offered to them at a reasonable price. If the late Government were justified in purchasing the Cunard estate, cannot these small estates be purchased if the price can be agreed upon. There are £30,000 in the bank of London to the credit of the two banks here, and there is a considerable quantity of grain to be exported this spring, so that I am confident that there would be no lack of means, but we want something to compel the proprietors to sell their estates, for if they are not forced to sell, they may put the Government to defiance for many years to come. As this question has now been so long agitated, I think it is quite time that the Imperial Government should be requested to pass a measure which should have the effect of giving every tenant the privilege of purchasing the freehold of the farm he cultivates.

Hon. Mr. Lord: Will his honor bring in a bill to compel the proprietors to sell their estates?

Hon. Mr. Beer: Will his honor support it if I do?

Hon. Mr. Lord: Not this year; but perhaps after a trial of other means, I might be induced to support a measure of that kind. The Government would purchase more estates now, but they are not authorized to give more than 7s. 6d. an acre. Now, if your honors are so very anxious that we should purchase more land, you should amend that Act, and not keep our hands tied down to that paltry sum. If you would amend that land purchase act, it might be a benefit to some of the tenants whom you seem so very anxious to have relieved. To that I would agree, but not to the passing of a compulsory measure. The present Government is only in its infancy, and I do not think any charge can be brought against us for not attending to this subject. There will, no doubt, be another opportunity to speak upon this question when the despatches come before us.

Hon. Mr. Beer: His honor asks why we do not amend the "land purchase act." Now, if they bring in such a measure, they shall have my hearty support, for I believe that some of those small estates are worth more than 7s. 6d. an acre.

Hon. Mr. Haythorne: Extending the provisions of the "land purchase act" in that direction would be attended with a little disadvantage, for it would raise the pretensions of the proprietors of some estates. If you raise the *maximum* price, those proprietors will raise accordingly, so that your object will be defeated; but I hope that no member of the Government would refuse to incur the responsibility of purchasing an estate at a higher price, if he were well assured that the circumstances of the case would warrant it.

Hon. Mr. Palmer: I do not see why the circumstance of the difficulty of purchasing proprietory estates should be allowed to stand in the way of an issue of treasury notes; but, as has been justly observed, the Government could soon obtain the means if they had an offer of land which would justify them in purchasing. The Legislature could be called to devise some way of raising money, or they should be able to enter into the contract and carry a bill through the Legislature afterwards. I do not, therefore, see that an issue of treasury notes should be discouraged on account of the want of success which has attended the efforts which have been made to purchase lands. His honor on my left (Mr. Lord) is adverse to the plan I have proposed; but knowing the great pressure which was the occasion of introducing the "Loan Bill," I wonder how he can consistently oppose an issue of treasury notes. Perhaps he represents a strong interest in some of the banks, and as long as that interest is well represented, the plan I have recommended will not be adopted. But though I admire the straight-forward, independent course taken by his honor from Queen's County, (Mr. Beer), in the view he takes with respect to the tenants, yet I cannot go the length of concurring with him in bringing in a measure to compel the proprietors to sell at such a price as we may arbitrarily fix upon. A proprietor may have little more to live upon than the income he derives from his estate, and it would be very arbitrary to compel him to sell it at such a price as we might fix upon. I have always been adverse to unconstitutional and illiberal measures, and it is gratifying to me to know that those who opposed and abused me have come round to those views. Even the tenant leaguers have done so, and have decided that compulsory measures will not do. As regards what was said by his honor from Queen's County, (Mr. Haythorne), it will be remembered that in the session of 1861, while speaking of our prospect of obtaining redress in the British Parliament, I had occasion to quote from a speech of Lord Palmerston's, showing how antagonistic his views were to any legislative interference with private rights, and the allusions which his honor has just made have confirmed me in the opinion I then expressed, for if the people of this Island are to wait till a settlement of the land question in Ireland is made, I think a good many different governments will come in and go out before it is done. There is no doubt that our only way is to encourage the state of trade and commerce as much as we can, and let our taxes be as low as we can keep them. By these means the people will be gradually able to purchase their lands at such prices as we may be able to fix them at. We know that it is only those proprietors who possess wilderness lands, and that class is becoming fewer, who contribute anything to the revenue of the Colony. Many large proprietors receive their income, and do not contribute six-pence to the revenue. Now, this is a state of matters which should not exist, and it should be, and could be fairly and constitutionally remedied, in such a way, too, as would have a tendency to induce them to sell their estates. The best way is to foster and encourage the agriculturalist, and better his circumstances, so that he will be able to purchase his farm, for while the fee simple never can rise in the estimation of the proprietor, the leasehold will advance as the colony advances. In that way we may make the tenant a freeholder, but I despair of getting the sanction of the Imperial Government to a bill to compel the proprietors to sell at any price. Such a measure would be considered unconstitutional, and would be condemned at once. I am happy to find that my hon. friend on my left (Mr. Lord) is of that opinion. His view is limited to this year, but I hope it will extend to all future time.

Hon. Mr. Balderston: I must say I feel satisfied that the Government did not push the loan forward, seeing that the purchase of proprietory estates could not be attained, though I gave my support to that bill. I do not think there is any necessity to extend the provisions of the Land Purchase Act in the direction indicated by his honor from Prince County, (Mr. Lord.) His honor from the city, (Mr. Palmer,) says it would be unconstitutional to pass a compulsory measure, but my hon. friend on my right, (Mr. Beer) has quoted examples of compulsory legislation which, I think, should be considered conclusive evidence that such a measure would not be unconstitutional. The Fifteen Years' Purchase Act is very little benefit. Many tenants have short leases, and what is to be done with them? I could refer to individuals whose leases have run out. They had the privilege of purchasing at £1, 10s. an acre, but their leases ran out before they were able to purchase, and now they are paying three shillings an acre rent. But though a compulsory measure would not be sanctioned by the Imperial Government the first year, it would show that we were anxious to do something, and why not push it forward?

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Oct. 23, 1867. tf

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Orwell, Oct. 16, 1867. tf

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VOL. IV.

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First Quarter, 2nd day, 0h. 3
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DAY MONTH.	DAY WEEK.	SUN rises	SUN sets
		h m	h m
1	Sunday	6 43	5 43
2	Monday	41	45
3	Tuesday	39	46
4	Wednesday	37	48
5	Thursday	36	49
6	Friday	34	50
7	Saturday	32	51
8	Sunday	31	52
9	Monday	30	53
10	Tuesday	28	54
11	Wednesday	26	55
12	Thursday	23	57
13	Friday	19	58
14	Saturday	17	59
15	Sunday	15	6 1
16	Monday	14	2
17	Tuesday	13	3
18	Wednesday	11	4
19	Thursday	9	5
20	Friday	7	6
21	Saturday	5	7
22	Sunday	3	8
23	Monday	1	9
24	Tuesday	5 59	11
25	Wednesday	58	12
26	Thursday	56	13
27	Friday	54	15
28	Saturday	52	16
29	Sunday	50	17
30	Monday	48	19
31	Tuesday	45	21

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Oatmeal, per 100 lbs..
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Oats per do.,

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Peas, per quart
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