

time, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Read a third time, as engrossed, the Bill intituled *An Act to consolidate and amend the Laws for the relief of Insolvent Debtors.*

Mr. Fraser moved, that the following clause be added to the Bill, and do form part thereof by way of Rider:

Provided always and be it enacted, that this Act shall not affect or be construed to affect any proceedings heretofore had or now pending in the Supreme Court of this Island, or before any Commissioners appointed under the authority of any of the above recited Acts hereby repealed, in relation to any application or Petition for relief under any of the said Acts at the instance of any person or persons confined within any Jail or the Limits thereof in this Island; and in case any such proceedings shall be now pending or any order for relief or a weekly allowance shall have been made, under which the confined person or persons shall be receiving the benefit thereof at the time of the passing of this Act, such Order or other proceedings shall not be abrogated or in any manner affected by this Act; and the same shall stand and be continued and maintained until the final end and determination thereof, in accordance with the provisions of the above recited Acts; and the said confined person or persons as well as the detaining Creditor or Creditors, and the Plaintiff or Plaintiff's generally in all cases in which relief may have been granted under any of the said recited Acts to the respective Defendant or Defendants at any time heretofore confined at his, her or their suit, shall be entitled to the full benefit of all the provisions of the said Acts in all respects as if this Act had not been passed.

And the said Clause being thrice read, was agreed to by the House, and ordered to form part thereof by way of Rider.

The Bill to continue several Acts therein mentioned, was, according to order, read a second time.

Ordered, That the said Bill be committed to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

Mr. Fraser, from the Committee to whom was referred the Petition of the French Acadian Settlers on the Crown Lands on Township No. 15, praying the House, to procure from the Government, an extension of the time limited for the payment of the first installment

of the price of such Lands; to examine the same and report thereon, presented to the House the draught of an Address to Her Majesty the Queen, as prepared by the said Committee; and the same was received and read, and is as followeth—

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN;

WE your Majesty's faithful Subjects, the House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, feel grateful, that in compliance with the Address of the late House of Assembly, dated 28th March 1848, Your Majesty has been graciously pleased to direct the Lieutenant Governor, to reduce the upset prices heretofore demanded for Crown Lands in this Island, to the sum of Twenty-five Pounds Currency, for every One Hundred Acres. The House of Assembly beg to bring under your Majesty's consideration, that in 1763, the year when this Island, together with the Provinces of Canada and Nova Scotia were ceded by France to Great Britain, it was stipulated by Treaty, dated 10th Feb. 1763, that the French, the then inhabitants of those Provinces, should not be disturbed in their possessions. The House of Assembly beg to remark that the French inhabiting this Island, have been the only exception to the stipulations thus made, and while the French people inhabiting the Province of Canada, obtained the full benefits of the foregoing stipulation, the French inhabiting this Island were altogether deprived of the arrangement thus entered into, and so wisely carried out in the former Province. That in the year 1769, the whole of this Island was granted away in Lots of Twenty Thousand Acres, on certain conditions, to private individuals, without any reservation in favor of the French inhabiting the Island at that time, and that in the year 1817, His Excellency the then Lieutenant Governor Smith of this Island, got Escheated two Lots, viz: Nos. 15 and 53, and that at that time, when a number of the French inhabitants were deprived of their possessions by the grantees and their assigns, a deputation of the said French waited upon His Excellency, praying his protection, when His Excellency was pleased to declare unto them, that they might settle on Lot No. 15, and need not fear being thereafter disturbed in their possessions; for that said Lot reverted to the Crown, and that the whole of it would be granted to them in fee simple, for the sum of Four Pounds Ten Shillings Currency, (£4 10s. Cy.) for every One Hundred Acres of land. That notwithstanding the assurance thus given; after His Excellency's departure from the Island, the price of the said lands was raised to the sum of One Hundred Pounds Currency, (£100 Cy.) for every One Hundred Acres, a sum far beyond the valuation of the land, and higher than said French were able to pay; and now that Your Majesty has been graciously pleased to order the reduction of the price of the Crown Lands in this Island. The House of Assembly beg to submit, that said French Inhabitants are so reduced in circumstances, that they are not even able to comply with the modified order thus made, and the House of Assembly conceiving, that that measure of justice has not been extended to them which was stipulated by the Treaty of 1763, when the North American,