

come forward and give their evidence. Sir, there is another point to which I desire to call attention. The poor tenantry have laboured under great suspense as to the result of the Commission; and now they may become discouraged as the impression has partly gone abroad that because the award is not given in, and the Act is disallowed for the present, that the whole thing has proved a failure. But this is not the case. The reason that the award has not been given in, is solely on account of a press of other business on the part of the Commissioners. Mr. Howe, our own Referee, in whom I believe the country has every confidence, holds a high position in the neighboring Province, and has consequently numerous public matters to occupy his attention, which accounts for the delay. And nothing has yet been shown to prove that the Act to give effect to the award will be finally disallowed. The despatches received have not said so, and I think ultimately all will be right.

Hon. Mr WHELAN.—Mr Chairman; I seldom trouble the House with my remarks, and am therefore entitled to a hearing on the present occasion. But before proceeding to give my views on the question more immediately under consideration, I may refer to some statements made by the hon. member for Tryon. As I was one of those delegates to whom he has referred in such reproachful terms, I feel myself called upon to reply. He states that he came into the meeting by chance.

Mr HOWAT.—I came in by invitation.

Hon. Mr WHELAN.—Let it be by invitation then, it matters little; but we have his statement that he did not like the appearance of the meeting, as the most of those present were discarded officials. If he pleases to so style the ex-Postmaster General, the ex-Queen's Printer and others who once held office under Government, that does not militate against their position in the Colony, nor the business in which they were engaged. They were deliberating on matters, Sir, that ere long may be the means of hurling that hon. member and his friends from their present position. The figure which he cut at the meeting in question was by no means enviable. He whined in the most humble manner, "ah wait, do not proceed with your censure until the result of the Commission be known!" He has also stated that the chairman of the meeting was himself a land proprietor. Well, suppose he was, I defy the hon. member to prove him guilty of one act of oppression. Mr John Lord has never incarcerated any of his tenantry, and allowed them to pine away and rot within the gloomy walls of a prison.

Mr HOWAT.—He has never had the chance to do so, because his tenants have paid up their rents.

Hon. Mr WHELAN.—This shows he is a good landlord. The compassion of the hon. member for the delegates when they came before the Commissioners' Court was certainly astonishing, and ought to have been bestowed upon others more in need of his sympathy. With these few remarks, I shall now direct my attention to His Excellency's Speech. It has been my fortune to read many gubernatorial speeches; it has been my fortune also to listen to many in the Council Chamber of this Colony, most of which reflected credit on those who dictated them; but in all my experience, and in all my reading a more meagre production than this never came under my observation. It is altogether unworthy of one holding the high position of Her Majesty's Representative. I have read it with some attention, and must say that it scarcely contains a single sentence which has not a grammatical blunder. I can well understand that in this House in the hurry of debate, or at any public meeting where papers are generally hastily written, inaccuracies might occur; but that a document prepared as this has been with ample time for reflection, and for weighing every sentence,

should come down from the Government—a government, too, who boast of their learning and intelligence; or that they should allow Her Majesty's Representative to read such a document is truly surprising. Passing over one or two inelegant expressions at the very commencement of the Speech, I come to the sentence wherein we are told that nearly six years have elapsed since a Census of the Island was taken, and we are called upon to *renew that census*. From this, then, all that is required, is to re-enact the law of 1856 relating to this subject. These and other expressions in the Speech, Sir, are equally at variance with the rules of composition and the dictates of common sense; but I pass on to matters of greater importance. We are informed that the unusual expenses of the past year, incurred principally by the purchase of two estates, are not altogether met by the revenue. It is a pretty clearly ascertained fact, however, that though there had not been an acre of land purchased, the whole revenue would not have been sufficient to meet the expenditure. But information respecting this state of our financial affairs has been carefully withheld from the public. The first year the Government were in power they were so ostentatious of the receipts that they published them at the end of every quarter; but this year the columns of the *Islander* and *Royal Gazette* have been silent on the point. All their glorification has been respecting the purchase of the Selkirk estate, on what they consider advantageous terms, and the manner in which the tenants on that property have come forward to purchase their land. But what is the reason that not one allusion has been made to the purchase of Lot 54? Have there been no deposits paid in from that Township? no people rendered happy there by the conversion of their leaseholds into freeholds? Neither is any reference made to Lot 11, nor to the Worrell estate. Have there been no sales on, nor receipts from these properties? No other place where the tenantry have been rendered happy through efforts similar to those put forth by the gallant Colonel on behalf of the Belfast people? We have been told with a flourish of trumpets that upwards of £2000 have been paid in from the Belfast estate; but when the Worrell property was purchased, about as much was received within a similar period of time; yet there was no glorification on the part of the late Government—no boasting declaration that it would never bring ruin upon the Colony. Hon. gentlemen expressed their objection to the Loan Bill on the ground that it would be unjust to benefit the few at the expense of the many; but in the action of the Government with respect to the purchase of the Selkirk estate, we have at least an evidence of their disposition to benefit the few, and leave uncared for the interests of the many. Still, whatever credit they may take to themselves in this transaction, they have only been carrying out the provisions of that Bill which they labored to misrepresent for so many years. His Excellency says the purchase of the estate has been attended with the most satisfactory results, that the tenantry have come forward and paid the first deposit for their land. Now, Sir, let us turn for a moment from this fair statement to its counterpart in the recent famous address signed by some 906 of the settlers of Belfast to the Lieut. Governor, and His Excellency's very remarkable reply. These are the people of whom it was said by Mr Douse in this House last session, that they had not paid any rent for the last 18 years,—a statement fully borne out by the fact that £14,000 of arrears were given up on the estate when it fell into the hands of the Government; and still they come forward and state in their address, "We endeavored to fulfill our honest engagements in the payment of our rents." Further on in the address they say to His Excellency, "We are ready, on any emergency, with our voice and our heart, to sustain your Excellency