

(Continued from first page.)

also till November, but a great deal of effort might be done between that and the meeting of the Legislature. Many amendments could be introduced to it, and the bill as amended might be brought before the House in all parties as we can make it at present.

Hon. Mr. ALEXANDER: I would be sorry to see such a bill as this put into operation without the people having an opportunity to make themselves fully acquainted with it. As the Judges of the Supreme Court are probably more experienced than any Commission which would be appointed, I think it would be well to introduce it clause by clause to the privilege of appealing to them.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: One would suppose from the remarks which have been made, that this bill had been taken up and passed in one day without any opposition. There has been some opposition, but not much more than any Commission which would be appointed, I think it would be well to introduce it clause by clause to the privilege of appealing to them.

thing about this bill till yesterday, and I considered that it was not right to pass such an important measure so hastily. We have so much to do to protect those who are now doing business as those to whom the Act will apply, and therefore, if we are cautious in passing such a bill as this, I do not think we should be hurried for it. There may be some delay, but I would not object to it being delayed, for I think that the matter may be left with them for the present.

Hon. Mr. PALMER: I must confess very much with your honor who has just spoken as to the novelty of the proposition just now offered to this Council. Perhaps some of your honor do not exactly understand the resolution, or view it in the same light as I do, for I consider it as a very hard piece of irony. His honor, I presume, intended to show his want of confidence in the Government. I was in hopes the resolution would pass without opposition till his honor from Georgetown (Mr. McDonald) with his keen perception, drew attention to it, and I would have complimented his honor who introduced it, if he had succeeded in getting such an ingenious piece of iron into the House. The late William Cooper once carried a similar proposition through the House of Assembly, and all the information that could be collected from the first records of the colony down to that time, was re-compiled and printed in a pamphlet. That, he thought, was the only way to get the question before the British Parliament, and he was confident that it would carry conviction to every mind.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE, seconded by the Hon. Mr. McDONALD, the order of the day for the reading of the bill was discharged, and it was again referred to a committee of the whole House, for the purpose of adding an appeal clause to it.

After some time the House was resumed and progress was reported.

Adjourned till four o'clock, p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION. LAND TENURES.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: I think it is desirable that the resolution introduced by his honor from the Second District of Queen's County (Mr. Beer), should be more explicitly; for if the Journals are to be examined from the year 1776 up to the present time, and a history of the land question prepared and printed, a copy sent to each of the 480 members of the House of Commons, as well as to each member of the House of Lords, and others who would be entitled to receive information upon the subject, I rather think we would incur greater expenses than perhaps his honor is aware of. It would be a small task to the persons who would undertake it, for we know some part of the history of the land question is contained in almost every Journal since the first Legislature was convened on the island. As an individual, I have no particular objection to the course his honor proposes; but for this House to appoint such a committee, and have a history of the land question published in such form as they think advisable, without reference to the Government, is something I would not consent to. If his honor had proposed to appoint a committee to search the Journals and report to the Government, I should not have any objection to it. If I think the course proposed could have any great effect, for the members of the House of Commons have every facility for obtaining information upon our land question in the office of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and in the Blue Books; but if his honor thinks it would advance the views of those who have the settlement of this question at heart, I would not object to the appointment of a committee to take up the matter and report to the Government.

Hon. Mr. BEER: In reference to the resolution I introduced, I presume it could not be carried without the assistance of the members of the Government, and I am quite willing to modify it so as to meet the views of his honor who has just spoken. I am quite satisfied that the information which we should be able to obtain from the British Parliament, for I believe they are totally ignorant of our grievances, and to assume that the British Government cannot do wrong in what I am sure some of your honors are prepared to do. We need not go further than last year to show that they can do wrong. Look at the way they treated the Sister Province of Nova Scotia, by depriving it of its constitution, without the consent of the people, and without paying attention to the petition of 40,000 or 50,000 of the inhabitants! They did it upon the representations, or misrepresentations of six or eight persons; but if the real state of the case had been known, do your honors suppose that the law for uniting the Provinces would have been passed? No, the British Government, as a whole, did not know the real state of the case, neither was they acquainted with our grievances. It is highly necessary that they should be more acquainted with the state of our Land Question, and it was for that reason I introduced the resolution, but I am willing to withdraw it if his honor, the leader of the Government, in this House, will bring forward anything to show that steps are to be taken with a view of settling this difficult and long agitated question.

Hon. Mr. BEER: We are all willing to assist the Government when they bring forward measures to settle this question; but the resolution now before the committee is a very singular one. I think the Government would have to appoint a committee for the purpose, for I would like them to take the whole question to do what his honor proposes, but if the Government think proper to do so, I would not object to it; otherwise I do not see any use in his honor taking up the measure. I dare say his honor

who introduced the resolution is anxious to have the question settled. Indeed I would almost think he had taken a seat in the Government, and had taken the lead upon this question. As the Government have this matter under consideration, and as we, to-day, strengthened the bill by passing a bill to place £10,000 on the disposal, I think the matter may be left with them for the present.

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE: I must say I give your honor who introduced this measure great credit for his public spirit, and straight-forward conduct on the Land Question. I remember that last year he asked us what our policy was to be, and he asked him to wait, and he would see. I suggested that it would be better to wait till we would see whether we would get the means to purchase the land, and I think we had to ascertain whether they were willing to sell them or not, and they having refused to do so, we next applied to the Secretary of State for the Colonies to see whether the action of the Secretary of State would be given to a coercive measure. Some fault has been found with the bill, but I think it would be better to wait till we would see whether we would get the means to purchase the land, and I think we had to ascertain whether they were willing to sell them or not, and they having refused to do so, we next applied to the Secretary of State for the Colonies to see whether the action of the Secretary of State would be given to a coercive measure.

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I do not view it as an attempt to deal a blow upon the Government, or to get a bill passed by a side wind. But for his honor we would hardly know the minds of the Government, neither would the home Government know the views of the island. His honor, no doubt, saw that the session was likely to close without any particular expression of opinion by this House upon the despatch, and therefore, he introduced the resolution. I give his honor credit for sincerity and zeal in reference to this question, and I have no doubt but he would go heart and hand in any fair and honest manner for the settlement of this question. Were it not for the confidence I have in the present Government, I would support his resolution, but when we have a Government which I believe are doing all they can, and are capable of placing matters in their true light, I feel satisfied to leave it in their hands. I think his honor's intention was simply to get an expression of the opinion of the House upon the matter, and it is just what we might expect, or the Colonial Minister asks for the information, and he very properly wants to know that information or not. I trust the Government will break up the influence of the proprietors both here and at home, and I hope soon to see this difficult question settled, and the people proprietors who are not content in the country, and when some of the tenants have been made free by the Government, and others are still paying rent, and in addition to that, paying taxes to assist in carrying out the provisions of the Land Tenure Bill, they will be sorely disappointed. I am confident that the Governor and his advisers are doing all they can to settle this question, and I am satisfied to leave it in their hands. Perhaps as his honor has obtained the opinion of the members of the Government, he will withdraw his resolution.

Hon. Mr. LOED: As a member of the Government, I would not object to the resolution, if it were not for the amount of money that would be required to carry out the resolution contained in it. I think it would do as much good as some of your honors imagine. I would not object to putting my hand in my pocket and paying four or five pounds for the lands or to bring the question to the notice of the members of the House of Commons, and probably it is a favorable time for doing nothing, but we are willing to give them a fair price for them, and as they refuse to sell, I think we have a right to take some such course as we have done in the past. We wish to have a direct bearing upon the point: we wish to have the action of the Imperial Parliament, and if it requires some hundreds of pounds, I believe it would be money well expended, and the country would be out in doing it. We are not asking for the proprietors' lands for nothing, but we are willing to give them a fair price for them, and as they refuse to sell, I think we have a right to take some such course as we have done in the past. We wish to have a direct bearing upon the point: we wish to have the action of the Imperial Parliament, and if it requires some hundreds of pounds, I believe it would be money well expended, and the country would be out in doing it.

Hon. Mr. BAINBRIDGE: I must say, I fall to see the objections to this resolution. I think it is the very thing the country has been calling for for many years. Unless something of that kind is done, the question will just remain where it is for another generation. It would only be necessary to notice the resolutions contained in the journal, which have a direct bearing upon the point: we wish to have the action of the Imperial Parliament, and if it requires some hundreds of pounds, I believe it would be money well expended, and the country would be out in doing it. We are not asking for the proprietors' lands for nothing, but we are willing to give them a fair price for them, and as they refuse to sell, I think we have a right to take some such course as we have done in the past. We wish to have a direct bearing upon the point: we wish to have the action of the Imperial Parliament, and if it requires some hundreds of pounds, I believe it would be money well expended, and the country would be out in doing it.

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