

is now left to do, is for the head-quarters of both sides to sanction the arrangement.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—I have not yet seen any account of the actions of the Congressional Committee being endorsed by Congress.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—As Congress has endorsed the action of the Committee, the plan will be recommended to the American Government, for their sanction. Taking this view of the matter, I believe I am justified in expecting that the great object we have in view will be finally obtained. We cannot expect that, like a child that wishes for a thing and must have it all at once, we shall have free trade without delay; but it will come sooner or later. We must agitate the matter and stick to it like the old Escheaters stuck to the Land Question. Although the latter did not obtain their wishes altogether, yet they got many of our grievances swept away.

The Speaker took the Chair, the Chairman reported progress and obtained leave to sit again.—House adjourned.

SATURDAY, April 17.

House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, on the consideration of the amendment of the Legislative Council, on the bill regulating the sale of Petroleum.

Mr. McCormack in the Chair.

Hon. Mr. Howlan said he was the party who introduced the bill, but the amendment proposed made such an alteration in the bill, as to almost destroy the original intention. The original bill provided that the lowest test proof of heat should be 120 deg. This amendment reduced it to 118 deg.; and made such other alterations as in his opinion it would be unwise to agree to it.

Hon. Leader of the Government said the House was placed in a peculiar position with respect to the bill; for it had either to allow or disallow, the amendment of the Council; and if the House should throw out the amendment, the Council may quash the bill; yet he saw no other course to adopt but the latter.

Hon. Mr. Laird was also opposed to the amendment.

Dr. Jenkins highly disapproved of lowering the standard for the test of heat, below 120 deg. Said that in the *London Lancet*, he saw that the test in England was 140 deg.

On motion, the amendment of the Council was not agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Kelly submitted the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That the order of the House of the 19th day of March last, appointing a Committee to report this Session, by Bill or otherwise, on the petition of Alexander McRae and others, of Townships Nos. 57 and 58; and also on the petition of Jardine Williams and others, of Townships Nos. 23 and 24, praying for the amendment, revision and consolidation of the Act of 1776, known as the Fee Act, with the Act 26th, George III, Cap.

13, be extended so as to enable the said Committee to report during the first week of next Session, by Bill or otherwise, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Hon. Leader of the Government had much pleasure in seconding the resolution, as it was more general in its application than he had anticipated it would be.

House adjourned for one hour.

*Afternoon Session.*

DIVORCE BILL.

House in Committee of the whole, on the bill to provide for the service of divorce process on absent parties.

After a short time, the Speaker took the Chair, and the Chairman reported the bill agreed to, without amendment.

The rule of the House being suspended for the purpose, the said bill was read a third time and passed.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, on the contingent accounts of the session, with closed doors.

House adjourned till Monday next.

MONDAY, April 19.

*Forenoon Session.*

A Conference was held with the Legislative Council on the Bill to regulate the sale of Kerosene oil.

DESPATCHES.

House in Committee on the further consideration of Despatches. Mr. Cameron in the Chair.

Mr. BELL.—I would move the following resolution.

*Whereas*, during the eleven years that the late Reciprocity Treaty with the United States of America was in operation, this Island prospered at a rate previously unparalleled in its history, and that for a continuance of that prosperity and for the due development of its resources, free access to the large and near market which the United States affords is an absolute necessity; and whereas by the recent action of the Congress of the United States and the visit of the Congressional Committee to the Island in September last, a reasonable prospect was afforded this Colony of a renewal of Free Trade relations with that great country; and whereas it appears from Despatches received by His Honor the Administrator of the Government, from Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, that the nature of the intercourse between the Congressional Committee and the local Government has been altogether misunderstood by the Imperial Authorities, the Local Government being well aware that neither in it nor in the Committee with which its members had communication, was vested the power of entering into separate and independent negotiations, that intercourse being in fact wholly informal and held solely for the purpose of receiving and imparting information; and whereas Her Majesty's loyal subjects on this Island,