

at once? No person was apprehended for violating the laws; but the rents in that place were lowered down nearly one half, and nothing had been heard of the affair since. Out of it, however, he believed the Tenant League arose. The hon. Leader of the Opposition had stated that the Court pronounced the League an illegal association. This was the first time he (Mr. D.) had heard of it. The Court could not give such a decision for they had no evidence to that effect before them. The hon. member had also asked him why he did not carry out Escheat instead of supporting the Land Purchase Bill? Well he found that he could not carry out Escheat, and as the next best measure he supported the Land Purchase Bill. But if he had a party of his own way of thinking he would go yet for a Court of Escheat. But the Home Government were in favor of a moderate measure and wished to make a compromise. The late Government, however, desired no compromise, or they would not have passed the Fifteen Years Purchase Bill. The first recommendation in the Land Commissioners' Award ought to have been carried out, namely that the proprietors should take a low price for their lands; and if they refused to comply with this recommendation, their claims ought to have been taken into a Court of Escheat. The policy, however, which the Country had adopted, and which the people had sent us here to carry out, was the Land Purchase Bill of the hon. Leader of the Government. With respect to those members of the Tenant League, who had broken the law, he had never defended their conduct, for when they broke the law they also broke the rules of the League.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON said that no person within this Legislature could feel more keenly than he did when any act of injustice was done against the people; and while he held a seat in the other branch of the Legislature, and was a member of the Government, he always endeavored to make a distinction between those who were led astray and those who led them astray. He believed that some of those who joined the Tenant League were honest in their intentions; but that those who started that association were dishonest men. As a member of the late Government he had never given encouragement to that League.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—The hon. member never tried to put it down.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON.—The statement was incorrect. He (Hon Mr. H.) attended a meeting at Crapaud at which he told the people that if an indignation speech would do them any service he could give them one two hours in length; this he said because he knew that they had grievances to complain of; but he also told them that the course for them to pursue was to make the best of a bad bargain. There were parties present who were busy in stirring up the people to join the League, and he considered it his duty to warn them of the consequences of extreme measures. He was present also at a meeting held at New London just before the passing of the Fifteen Years Purchase Bill, which was attended by all classes; and at that meeting a resolution was passed instructing the Representatives for the district to give their support to that Bill. Another meeting was held in another part of his district which he attended, and at which the Fifteen

Years Purchase Bill was particularly discussed; there the question was put directly to him whether he thought the British Government would send troops here to kill the poor tenantry, if they refused to pay rent. His reply was that the British Government would send troops here, if required, to protect the rights of property. The people looked at him with surprise. He pointed out to them how that Britain had spent some three millions of money to uphold the honor of her flag in the case of the Trent affair; and that she was just at that time sending troops out to New Zealand to quell an insurrection; and of course she would maintain the supremacy of the laws in this Island. And were the people offended at these plain statements; no, when the meeting closed they gave three times three cheers for Hon. Mr. Beer and himself; and one of those who were stirring the people up in favor of the League said that we had got off in triumph.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES believed that if the Conservative party had addressed the people showing them the impropriety of resisting the law, it would have stopped them.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON had written over a dozen letters to different parties about the Tenant League, and he had addressed two or three to the editor of *Ross's Weekly*. He told the proprietor of that paper he would yet see his error, and he had admitted it to him (Mr. H.) the other day. He said to that publisher, "You are urging on the people in a certain direction, and you are not showing them where they should stop." When the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Davies) was previously addressing this hon. committee, he understood him to say that Hon. W. H. Pope had gone to the Murray Harbor district to stir up a meeting there shortly after his return from England, when home with Hon. Mr. Palmer. He (Mr. H.) would communicate what information he had obtained relative to that subject. When running his election he was opposed by leading men of the Tenant League, and during his canvassing campaign the matter was thoroughly discussed. He often told his opponents that if they could prove anything to the effect that Mr. Pope had been down that way stirring up the people, he would himself publish the statement in the newspapers. When we came round in the course of our canvass to the place where the gun was seen, on inquiry, the whole story about Mr. W. H. Pope having been there, turned out to be a pure fabrication.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—What was the gun taken there for?

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON.—It was a small affair of a ship's gun which had been dragged there by a few boys for sport. But to be serious, the proclamation issued by the Lieut. Governor after the famous procession on St. Patrick's Day, declared the Tenant League to be illegal; and the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Davies) would have to disprove the proclamation, or withdraw his statement that the late Government had encouraged the Tenant League, for the two were antagonistic. He (Mr. H.) would ask whether if the New Wiltshire League, whose doings were recorded on the Journals of this House, had sent its delegates to the Central Committee, that committee could not be held responsible for its acts? It was in vain for the