

of all the tenants on the island, and particularly those on Mr. Haythorne's estate, he threw out the suggestion in regard to the desirability of making the amount to be advanced from the Treasury two-thirds instead of one-half. He believed that if two-thirds of the purchase money were advanced by the Government, the sales would be in general that the tenants would not require to pay more than 12s. 6d. an acre for their farms. The proprietors, he thought, if the greater portion of their lands were likely to be bought, would no doubt come down to that price.

The principle of the Bill received the general approval of Hon. members on both sides of the House. It was then committed, read clause by clause, and reported agreed to.

Before the question was put on the report of the Committee, Hon. Mr. Coles moved that it be recommittees, for the purpose of amending the same by a Resolution, which he then submitted, to the effect that two-thirds, and not one-half, the purchase money be advanced; and also to allow for any instalments paid by tenants, who might produce receipt for the same, to the Commissioner of Public Lands, said receipt being for the payment of one-third of said purchase money of their farms. He said that he was desirous to have that amendment inserted in the Bill, that Mr. Haythorne's offer might be carried out, which he had read to the House, previously to going into Committee; for he thought that if the tenants on the estate of that gentleman could get rid of all their back rents by the Government advancing three-fifths, that amount should be paid by the Government.

Hon. Mr. Coles was sorry that such principles should be enunciated by the Solicitor General of any Colony. They were too worthy of the atmosphere of this House. The measure under consideration might be a sister of the Land Purchase Bill, but it differed as much from that Bill as one sister did from another. If the Land Purchase Bill had not been opposed—if its principles had only been carried out, there would have been no need of this measure, nor of the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill. He was not, however, opposed to the principle of the Bill before the House; he had, on a former occasion, expressed himself in favor of such a measure, but his proposition was that if the tenants paid down one-third of the purchase money, the Government should advance the other two-thirds. The Bill as introduced would not be a benefit to any except the rich tenants, as a large sum of money would require to be paid down at once. Under the Land Purchase Bill only 20 per cent of the purchase money had to be paid down; besides the two per cent being paid down at 10s., the whole sum did not amount to so much as a tenant would be paid in the case of this Bill. Where individuals would separately buy from their landlords, under the Purchase Bill the tenant's first instalment only came to about £10, and his back rents were given up to him; but under this Bill there would be no remission of arrears, and one-half of the price asked would have to be paid before a purchase could be effected. To show how anxious some of the proprietors were to get completely clear of their lands, he would read the following Postscript to a letter which he lately received from a gentleman who had entered into a negotiation with him:

"Postscript."

I have only further to remark on the subject of the arrears and the purchase of my property generally, that in case a measure is carried into effect for assisting tenants in the purchase of their farms, and my tenants are allowed the advantage of it in January next, when their second instalment, making two-fifths of the whole Purchase money, shall have been paid, so that the arrears may be then finally closed, I will engage in that case to remit the whole of the arrears.

"Hon. G. Coles."

It had been stated in the House that the agreement which Mr. Haythorne entered into with his tenants required them to pay their arrears (I rent after the fifth or last instalment of the purchase money of their farms had been met; he was, however, here mistaken by that gentleman to say that if the Government advanced three-fifths of the price of their farms, he would remit to his tenants their arrears of rent. He (Mr. C.) hoped the Government would amend their Bill as to meet this case. He did not say that he would oppose the measure; but on behalf

MARCH 23, 1865.

R. P. HAYTHORNE."

The Bill was accordingly agreed to.

Debate on the Union of the Colonies resumed and adjourned.

TUESDAY, March 28.

The Hon. leader of the Government submitted a message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, transmitting the Report of the Adjutant General of Militia for the year 1864.

The House in Committee on Pauper Soles reported several resolutions agreed to, after which Progress was reported.

The House in Committee on matters relating to Roads, Bridges and Wharfe, and after some time spent therein, Progress was reported.

The House then again spent some time in Committee on the report of the Committee on new Roads.

Objection was taken to the opening of a road at Bay