

cannot well treat it with indifference, much less opposition. When the proper time arrives I will be prepared to enter into the merits of the whole question. I have had no opportunity, through indisposition, to express my opinions on the subject at any public meetings, except some held in my own district; and when it comes up here I shall regard it as my duty to assume all the responsibility which attaches to my conduct in the matter, as well as to deal with every feature of the question. I would be glad were my hon friend to withdraw his amendment, as I consider it to be too trifling a matter on which to divide this hon Committee.

Mr CONROY.—Mr Chairman, if party feeling has not been sunk on this question in this House, it has been pretty well laid aside in the country. At Tignish, a part of the district which I have the honor to represent, where the people are very much divided in their political opinions, my colleague and I lately attended a meeting, at which every one appeared to be opposed to the proposed Union. I never saw a time when newspapers were so much sought after, and the speeches delivered at public meetings so generally read. The speech of the hon Solicitor General was read in our part of the Island with great dissatisfaction; and his appointment to a seat in the Executive is considered, in consequence of his decided Union sentiments, to have been very injudicious on the part of the Government. I know that the country is dissatisfied with the appointment, therefore I have no hesitation in supporting the amendment proposed by the hon leader of the Opposition.

Hon Mr HENSLEY.—When I came into the house this afternoon, Mr Chairman, the resolution proposed by the hon leader of the Opposition was on the table. I would rather it had not been brought forward; or at least, that it had been put in another form; but as he appears desirous to press it, every member must say yes or nay. The question on which we are required to vote, is, Should the hon Solicitor General have been appointed to a seat in the Executive? Notwithstanding all the respect which I entertain for the hon gentleman alluded to, yet considering his extreme views in favor of Union, and the excited state of the country on the question, I consider the Government would have stood better with the people had his appointment not been made. When I previously addressed you, Mr Chairman, I stated my intention to submit a resolution expressing regret that the Government had not declared its policy on the question of Confederation. Though I have abandoned the idea of proposing a motion to that effect, yet I must state, that as this subject is one of the most momentous which has ever come before the consideration of the Legislature, I think the Government ought to have given some decided expression of opinion upon it. I believe there is sufficient information before the public to have warranted such an expression of opinion. It is all very well to say that a majority of the members of the Government have made speeches against Union; but they ought to have come out as a Government with some decided declaration in regard to the question. What information can be gathered from such speeches when we find them here contradicting each other as to the tendency of their remarks? Even some of the speeches given in Canada, we are told, are not to be understood in that sense which we would take to be their natural meaning. I will vote for the amendment; but in so doing I disclaim any personal objections to the hon gentleman to whom it refers. I have, on the contrary, a very high respect for him. The hon member for Murray Harbor has stated that he will support the paragraph, and not the amendment. I have heard him express strong sentiments on the question of Union—stating that the man who supported the scheme must be almost a lunatic. If he is not sorry that a person of this description should be appointed to a seat in the Government, then I have nothing more to say. (Laughter.)

The question was then put to the Committee by the chairman:

For Mr Coles' amendment—Honourables Coles, Kelly, Thornton, Warburton, Hensley, Laird, Messrs Sinclair, Conroy, Walker—9.

Against it—Hons J. C. Pope, Longworth, Col. Gray, Col. Secretary, Davies, Kay, Speaker, Whelan; Messrs Ramsay,

Brecken, Montgomery, Haslam, Green, McLennan, Duncan—15.

Progress was then reported, and the House adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, March 3.

The Committee on the consideration of the Draft Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech was resumed.

The 6th and 7th paragraphs were adopted without any discussion. When the 8th, which related to Agriculture and the improvement of Stock, was read,

Hon Mr COLES said if the Government were really anxious to improve the Stock of the Island, he considered the selection of animals (especially the horses) imported since last Session, was the very worst that could be made; and the sooner they were re-shipped the better for the interests of the Island. The horses, with one exception, were the ugliest that could be found, and their color and symmetry were by no means prepossessing. He regretted that four cart horses had been imported; it would have been far better to have imported two cart horses and one or two good blood horses. He then commented upon the defective and unprofitable manner in which the Agricultural Society was conducted, and strongly urged the necessity of re-modelling that Institution.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH thought that there was no departure on the part of the Government from the Resolution of the House last Session relative to the importation of Stock. It was then the almost unanimous opinion of hon members that the old Clydesdale breed were preferable to any other for the agricultural interests of this Colony. Some thousands of pounds were realized by our farmers from the sale of that description of horses; the breed of the old Columbus and the horses recently imported were selected from precisely the same Clydesdale Stock. He, too, was of opinion that it would be better had a thorough bred—or to use the ordinary expression, a Blood Horse—been selected; but the Government had a specific duty to perform under the Resolution of last Session, to which they had adhered. He also expressed his regret that the Model Farm system of breeding Stock had been abandoned, and hoped that sufficient experience had been acquired to convince all parties interested of the advantages which would result from the resuscitation of the Model or Stock Farm. The hon member observed that though he was not a practical agriculturist to any great extent, yet he was fully persuaded from his own experience, and the little attention he had given to the raising of Stock, that a local Institution, conducted upon the Model Farm principle, would prove highly advantageous, and be a great saving to the country. It was a bad system to be importing that which could be profitably produced at one half the cost, and of equal value, on the Island. The hon member said he was sorry to admit that the agricultural interests of the Colony had not received that encouragement essential to its prosperity; and he hoped some system co-extensive with the wants and necessities of the country would be adopted during the present Session.

Hon Mr COLES said he had no doubt that it would be a difficult matter to re-organize the Agricultural Society; for so long as politics were allowed to be introduced into its management no success would attend the Institution. At present it might be fairly considered a Government Society. The annual grant was expended in paying the rent of the building and the salary of the Secretary; and if the Government had no confidence in the Society, was it any wonder that the public took no interest in the matter? He regretted that farmers generally did not urge upon their Representatives the importance of giving more ample support to this most important subject.

Hon J. C. POPE hoped when this question relative to the dearest interests of the Island would be properly before this House, it would be taken up and discussed in that spirit of fairness and freedom from party interests which its importance demanded. He exceedingly regretted the abandonment of the Model Farm, and hoped soon to see a similar Institution re-established. It was unfair to reflect on the Government for the importation of the present Stock—which had been purchased in express compliance with the Resolution of the House of Assembly. He then proceeded to show that the