

9. Under the circumstances of your Excellency not being able to negotiate Debentures at five per cent., in accordance with the Land Purchase Act, whilst Treasury Warrants yielded six per cent., we approve of the course adopted by your Excellency in issuing Warrants for that service.

10. We are pleased to learn that your Excellency's efforts in organising Volunteer Rifle and Artillery Corps have been responded to in a praiseworthy manner by numbers of spirited young men enrolling themselves. We will cheerfully make such provision for supporting and encouraging the movement as our limited means will afford, in order to enable your Excellency to further their efficiency. Your Excellency's suggestion respecting the Militia law not being applicable to them, shall receive our best consideration.

11. It is pleasing to know that the reception given to the Prince of Wales by the People of this Colony was gratifying to His Royal Highness, testifying as it did an attachment and loyalty so characteristic of its inhabitants.

12. We cordially unite with your Excellency in the fervent hope that our deliberations may, with the favor of Divine Providence, conduce to the honor and welfare of this Island.

The first, second and third paragraphs were agreed to. The fourth having been read—

Hon. Mr. COLES said—we are not altogether surprised to hear that the expenses of the past year are not met by the Revenue. But, Mr. Chairman, we were not aware last Session that two Estates were going to be purchased by the Government. With respect to the Selkirk Estate, we were informed by His Excellency that it was offered to them at a low rate, and the House, on this account, considered it should be purchased, though the Land Commission was agreed to. Now, though it was stated in the message to the House, that Lord Selkirk had offered his Estate to the Government, it turns out that the very reverse was the case—that they had offered to purchase it from him. From a conversation which I had with Mr. Douce, I learned that it was offered to him for £3,000 less than it was purchased for by the Government. The offer was made to his son when in England, and as he could not agree to the purchase without his father's consent, he returned to the Island for that purpose, and while absent, Lord Selkirk received propositions from the Government. If they, instead of making an offer for the Estate, had sent home to ascertain what Lord Selkirk would have taken for it, this £3,000 might have been saved. The correspondence with this Proprietor was not submitted to the Legislature when the purchase was proposed, as it should have been, or probably the measure would not have received the concurrence of the House. Again, Sir, when this House extended the Land Purchase Bill with the view of purchasing this Estate, it was distinctly laid down that no higher rate of interest should be paid than what was mentioned in the Act; and when I stated at the time, that it was doubtful whether money could be obtained at 5 per cent., oh, they had no fears! their credit stood so high everywhere, that they could obtain money to any amount, but the poor Liberal party, when in power, could not get a shilling! The late Government, however, though so much abused, procured money at 5 per cent. under the Land Purchase Act, while the present Government have failed. But what have they done! They have violated the constitution of the Colony, by issuing Treasury Warrants that are not authorized by any law of the Island. This is the course pursued by this great Government, which we were almost led to believe would never do any wrong. I am surprised that

the constitutional lawyer, the hon. member for Georgetown, should have consented to such an act. What would have been the result had the opposition now come into power, and expiated these Warrants, as they might have done? I did not think His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor would have come down here whining in the manner he did in his Speech—"it was found impossible to negotiate debenture loans at 5 per cent., while Treasury Warrants yielded 5 per cent.; I was therefore compelled, in order to meet our engagements, to avail myself of the temporary expedient of issuing Warrants to the amount required." The other Estate, Lot 54, the Government was not authorized to purchase; but I suppose they bought it to please an absentee Proprietor. They must go and give him £3,000 for the Estate, and that too after the greater portion of the good land on the Township was sold. What remains is swamps, or land on which scarcely anything can live but frogs. No wonder, then, that we hear the debt of the Colony is increasing. I maintain that if the Government could not procure money at the rate of interest specified in the Act, they had no right to purchase the land at all. They may say, but we have received so much from the sales on the Selkirk Estate, that a portion of the Warrants has been paid off by this means; but they had no right to appropriate the money thus received to such a purpose, for Warrants when issued should be redeemed in their turn. The expenses of the past year, which have been increased by the purchase of two Estates, have not been, we are told, met by the revenue. What, then, will now be the public debt of the Colony? We have heard much about the extravagance of the late Government—oh, they were ruining the country! But when we went out of power, the debt was only about £39,000; now it will be found to be over £60,000. At one time, under the administration of the late Government, if the sum paid for land, and the amount of Treasury Notes about were deducted, the debt was not more than £2,000 or £3,000. The Government last year knew that they were going to purchase at least one Estate; they were aware also that a reception was to be given to the Prince of Wales; and to meet this and other extra expenditure, they increased the duties from 25 to 100 per cent., and yet we are told that the expenses have not been met by the revenue. Respecting Lot 54, nothing is said in His Excellency's Speech; all the glorification is about the Selkirk property—"the purchase has been attended with the most satisfactory results—it will be a self-sustaining transaction." But no expectation is expressed that Lot 54 will be self-sustaining. Here, then, we see the Government engaged in a land speculation without the probability of its being self-sustaining, and that too since the Commission was appointed; and notwithstanding all that they have said about the loss by the purchase of the Worrell Estate. How much also have we heard from some of the members of the present Government respecting the titles on the Worrell Estate not being investigated; but here they have consented to the purchase of Estates, without any investigation of the titles. I believe it was understood with respect to the Selkirk estate that no investigation should be had; but what excuse can be offered with regard to Lot 54, the title to which is known to be very questionable? I do not think the objection to the fourth paragraph of the Address very important; yet, I believe, Sir, that a bad course has been pursued by purchasing the two estates together. The large sum received from the sales on the Selkirk estate, we are informed, is an earnest of the self-sustaining character of the transaction. From the Worrell estate, in reference to which so much complaint has been made, a large amount was also paid in during the first year. My next session, we may hear a different tale about the Selkirk estate. The tenants on the estate, it appears from a remark made by the agent last year on the floor of this House, have scarcely paid any rent for 14 or 15 years, and from the amount