

Mr. Speaker laid before the House the Impost Account for the District of Belfast, for the Quarter ending 30th June 1836.

*Ordered* That the said Account be referred to the Committee appointed to examine and report on the Public Accounts.

Read a third time, as engrossed, the Bill intituled *An Act for establishing the Standard weight of Grain and Pulse, and for the appointment of Officers for measuring and weighing the same.*

*Resolved*, That the said Bill do pass.

*Ordered*, That Mr. Pope do carry the said Bill to the Council, and desire their concurrence.

The Bill to repeal the Act 31 Geo. 3, cap. 3, for providing Pounds in the several Royalities, and for making more effectual provision in lieu thereof, was, according to order, read a second time,

*Ordered*, That the said Bill be now committed to a Committee of the whole House.

The House accordingly resolved itself into the said Committee.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. McCallum took the chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported, that the Committee had made a progress, and had directed him to move for leave to sit again—which the House agreed to.

Then the House adjourned for one hour.

And being met—

Two Messages from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor.

The Honorable Thomas H. Haviland, by command of His Excellency, delivered the following Messages:

[FIRST MESSAGE.]

J. HARVEY, Lieutenant Governor.

The Lieutenant Governor loses no time in laying before the House of Assembly a copy of the Despatch received from the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies (to which he felt it right to give immediate publicity upon its reaching his hands), in answer to the Address adopted by the Assembly during the last Session, to His Majesty, praying for the establishment of a Court of Escheat in this Island; and the Lieutenant Governor

avails himself of this occasion, of expressing his earnest hope that in any Legislative measure which may be founded upon the suggestions which it contains, the Inhabitants of this Island will recognize an important step towards, not only a more just and equal distribution of the public burthens, and the early redemption of the Paper Currency of the Island (constituting its only Public Debt), but also a well founded prospect of the attainment, at no remote period, of that object of primary importance—one which has always been the great desideratum of this Colony, viz., the certain and rapid increase of its population, and the consequent development of its great agricultural resources.

*Government House, January 30th, 1837.*

[COPY.]

No. 35.

Downing Street, 10th August, 1836.

SIR,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Wright's Despatch of the 5th May, No. 13, transmitting an Address to His Majesty from the House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, praying that measures may be taken for revesting in the Crown such lands as are liable to forfeiture for non-settlement. In Mr. Wright's Despatch is also enclosed a former Address adopted by the Assembly in their Session of 1835, but not transmitted to me by the late Lieut. Governor, together with various other documents relating to this subject.

I have had the honor to lay the Address of the Assembly at the foot of the Throne, and His Majesty has commanded me to return to it the following answer.

The evil against which the measures of the Assembly are specially directed, is the uncultivated state of the Island by reason of the want of settlers. This inconvenience was foreseen at the time when the Island first came into the possession of the British Crown, and with a view to anticipate it, there was inserted in the original Grants a condition, requiring the Grantees, on pain of forfeiture, to settle their lands with Protestants 'to be introduced from such parts of Europe as are not within His Majesty's Dominions, or to be such persons as have resided within His Majesty's Dominions of America,' for two years preceding the date of the respective Grants. It would not be possible now to ascertain, nor perhaps is it important to inquire, whether any exertions were made by the original Grantees to perform this condition, but it is evident that, even up to the present time, but little has been effected towards that object. Accordingly, as early as the year 1802 the subject was made a matter of complaint to His Majesty's Government, and an Act was passed by the Local Legislature, but appears not to have been confirmed by His Majesty, for enforcing the forfeiture of unsettled estates. In 1817 it would seem that two estates, Lots 15 and 55, were actually revested in the Crown for non-performance of the settlement duties; but in the following year a modification of the original condition was allowed, by dispensing with the exclusive description of foreigners who were to be accepted as settlers, while the time for performance of the condition was extended to December 1826. In September, 1826, Lord Bathurst announced that it was the in-