

HON. MR. DUNCAN.—I cannot agree with the last speaker, that the colony would be better off if that land had not been purchased, for it will be repurchased from the government by the settlers, and there need be no loss by the transaction. It is my opinion that it is for Education they have increased the expenditure, and they have made no provision for it. There should be some means taken to meet this extra expense and not go into debt. I do not want to see our debentures again at twenty per cent. discount.

HON. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—I think the hon. member will find that the interest on the Debentures for the purchase of former estates, as well as the expenses of the Land Office, have to be taken out of the receipts, and only the remainder taken as an off-set against the disbursements.

HON. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—I do not think the whole burden should be put upon the Land Office and the purchase of seed grain; it is making an invidious distinction, because other large public works have helped to cause the deficiency. I would therefore move that the words "owing principally to the purchase of land and the advances for seed grain," be struck out.

HON. MR. LAIRD.—It is not to be supposed, Mr. Chairman, that a Government would speak of every item of expenditure. Probably two of the greatest causes of the increased expenditure have been mentioned, and I do not see anything wrong in it. The hon. member for Charlottetown (Mr. Brecken) seems to think that the government are ashamed of their own child, when they do not say anything about the extra expenditure for education. I think they have no reason to be ashamed, but, on the contrary, should feel proud that the money has been spent in so worthy a cause. I for one, feel proud that the people have availed themselves of the privileges placed within their reach, to such an extent as to cause an increased expenditure for education. The people would rather have a tax imposed upon them by the government to defray any extra expense that may be incurred, than be called upon again to tax themselves as they were obliged to do under the former Act.

MR. BRECKEN.—I believe that money cannot be better expended than in forwarding the cause of Education, but what I wish the Government to do, is, to come forward and own the first results of the Act they are so proud of, and not put it on some other departments.

MR. SPEAKER.—Mr. Chairman, although a large amount has been expended on Education, yet I do not think there is any expenditure that has received more commendation from the people. Go from one end of the Island to the other and you will not hear any complaints about too much money having been expended for education, but if the amount is too great for the Revenue to bear, I think the people would willingly submit

to increased taxation rather than have the system altered. In reference to the accounts of the Land Office, I think they are not properly made up. It has been asked of me whether the Land Office was paying or not, but I could not give a satisfactory answer. I should like to see the accounts made up in such a manner that we could see at a glance how much had been paid in from each Township, and how many acres remained unsettled, and then we would be able to form a pretty correct opinion of the whole matter.

HON. MR. DUNCAN.—I think if Education is the real cause for the extra expenditure, it would have been better to have so stated, and then the Government could have gone to the people and asked them to submit to a tax to support it. When the salaries were reduced by the late Government, the people in the district which I represented were not in favor of having the whole salary paid out of the Treasury.

HON. MR. HOWLAN.—It would have been well if the hon. member for Charlottetown had thought five or six years ago of curtailing the expenditure. There is a monument of their folly just outside of Charlottetown. If they had saved the £12,000 they spent in building Barracks, it might now be used in purchasing land. There was also £2,100 paid for the expenses of the Troops, which was a legacy from the late Government. There has been a great deal of extra expense during the past few years, and we have yet to learn that it is the cost of Education that has caused the expenditure to exceed the Revenue.

HON. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—The hon. member (Mr. Howlan) has given a clear and positive proof that the paragraph under consideration should not remain as it is, for he has shown that there are other items, besides the purchase of land and seed grain, that has caused the extra expenditure. It is very incorrect to select only two special causes where there are so many. I think the Government side of the House must feel very thankful to his Honor the Speaker for censuring them for the manner in which the accounts of the Public Land Office are kept.

MR. BRECKEN.—I would like to see a little Tenant League got up to see how this Government would deal with it. I wish that the hon. member from Tignish (Mr. Howlan) and his friends had been in power when that little agitation took place. Some hon. members seem to say that the accounts in the Land Office are in such a state of confusion that they cannot tell whether it has proved a gain or a loss to the Government—how then can they say that it was owing to the Land Office that the Expenditure was greater than the receipts. The only censure I cast upon the Government is this, that when it is proved that paying the whole amount of the Teachers' salaries out of the Public Treasury is the cause of the extra expenditure, they have not the honesty to ac-