

Mr. Attorney General DRAPER said, in the year 1797 the Crown, under the Great Seal, passed to the Chiefs, Warriors and Women of the Six Nations and their heirs a certain tract of land in the neighbourhood of Belleville, with the reservation that the said lands were to be certain to the Crown. But this grant was defective, inasmuch as it gave to the people of the Six Nations no corporate powers. As years rolled on these lands became a hunting-ground, and the advancement of the Indians in Arts and Agriculture was not commensurate with their wants; while the country around became settled, and improving in value rendered the Indian lands also more valuable for settlement purposes. In order that these lands might be disposed of to form a fund for the benefit of the Indians, the Chiefs, with the consent of the people, relinquished them to the Crown. At this period there was in existence, a law which compelled the Government in all future grants of land to reserve a quantity equal to one-seventh, for the Clergy; and in re-granting these lands, reservation was made. This was the act complained of, and the Government of the present day did not feel itself justified in recommending to Parliament remuneration for that which had been done of necessity in accordance with the law.

Mr. DRAPER went again into Committee of Supply. Mr. DRAPER rose and stated that owing to the vote given on a previous evening, he had felt called upon to take into consideration the House of Commons to be taken by himself and colleagues thereupon. Since that time they had received from their supporters such assurances of confidence and support, that they felt justified in declining to decline to carry on the Government. In announcing this, he begged to assure the House, that whatever the opinion of the Clergy, he was not between Members on minor matters, the administration would be guided in all actions by a sincere desire for the public good. (The announcement was received with loud cheers.) Mr. CALEY then moved that it was expedient to repeal so much of the Act 8 Vic. Cap. 3, as related to the duties on wheat.

The hon. Gentleman went into a lengthened statistical statement of the advantages to be derived by Canada from this measure. We had hoped to give the Inspector-General's speech, and those of other members, in fact to present the debate entire. But the arrival of two Mails from England with the important information they convey has compelled us to omit them, and notice those who either have or have not spoken previously, on the question, or brought forward some new views.—Monday, 25th April.

Mr. CALEY followed Mr. Cailey in opposition. Mr. HALL replied. The speech of the hon. gentleman was a bold and manly exposition of the question. He reduced it to this, whether having built Canada up to a great expense for the purpose of carrying on a trade, he should refuse to take that of his neighbours with his own. He concluded by saying that he represented an agricultural constituency and it was probable that his vote might not be his seat, but he would, in spite of that, support a measure which he believed to be for the good of the whole Province.

Mr. JOHNSTON said, he would vote against the resolution of the Inspector General; but he conceived it ought not to be made a Government measure. Mr. DEANE said, if it was possible to prevent American wheat from going to England, by the present duty, he would support the reduction, because he conceived that then it would be injurious to the Canadian farmer. But if Great Britain threw open her ports it would be impossible to prevent the United States from entering that market; and when he considered the enterprise and the perseverance of the Americans, he believed that it would be a most unwise enactment which should close the St. Lawrence to them, for it would assuredly lead them to improve their own means of communication, and might in the end enable them to carry cheaper than we could through the channels that we could carry for them. But perhaps this measure was premature, our canals are not yet finished, nor do we know that the new English doctrine of Free Trade which has been taken up in England will or will not be carried into effect. He confessed that Lower Canada was in an especially painful position when compared with the United States, and that the United States had a climate; she had severe winters, and the Agricultural labourer was obliged to complete all his operations, to plough, to sow, to reap and house in five months to provide the provisions for seven dreary winter months when none of these things could be done. He would not consent to a measure which he said would be injurious to the Canadian farmer in the admission of American wheat in the manner proposed if it be not brought into direct competition with him in the market of consumption here.

Mr. CALEY explained that the reason why he was anxious to make the change immediate, was that the freights from Montreal to New York to England, during the next three years would possess an advantage of 3 per cent, which with the improvement which would flow from an increase of trade would be a protection was taken off enable Canada with an especially high rate of duty to be transported down through our waters to the shipping port, that it could be from the lakes to New York—to compete without fear with the United States. The Americans had a long and tedious navigation from the Lakes to the sea, a navigation which occupied days, and was completed in some cases, by the means of pack animals, and their interest communications, and their sea-going freights could not be lower. The amount of export of flour from New York, was as great in 1821 as it was in 1853; and although from the increase in its population had been commensurate, and their wheat was not inferior to ours. Mr. COLVILLE said the resolution before the House could not be considered as removing the protection from the farmer of Canada.

Mr. AYLWYN said, he had remonstrated on the precipitancy of the House at the beginning of the Session, when an Address was voted to the Queen on this subject; he had warned the House of the consequence of the pledge it was called on to give. Mr. CALEY rose to order—The House had been called upon to give no pledge, and it had given a universal feeling was that the House had pledged itself to this policy by the action it had taken. He would ask the Inspector General whether it was not probable that Her Majesty's Chancellor of the Exchequer would use in his plea and read as an argument in favour of Great Britain, adopting the principle of Free Trade, the very Address which he had been so precipitate as to send? Mr. CALEY said, he did not believe the Chancellor of the Exchequer would do anything of the kind, and would put no construction upon that Address than what it would fairly bear.

Mr. AYLWYN continued—If such should, however, be the case, the Inspector General would be in an unpleasant position, as his duty and the duty of the House not to sanction this scheme, but to resist the resolutions before it. Though he, Mr. A., represented a commercial city, he was not prepared to sacrifice all interest to the spirit of commerce. If he held a seat in the House of Lords he would oppose the repeal of the Corn Laws, because he would not see the Bill introduced, if the British Empire depended on their continuance. It had been said and written of Lower Canada that its only manufacture was wooden shoes, that it was a poor beggarly country incapable of raising sufficient grain for its own consumption. He appeared to believe, however, that the represented agricultural constituencies in Lower Canada, within the last few years past, the people had not been compelled to discontinue the use of wheat bread.

Mr. ROBINSON—We want to sell it. Mr. AYLWYN said, Hon. gentlemen might talk of selling, but he was in Lower Canada, and he had had the same view returned. He contended that the Agriculturalist of Canada could no more compete with the Americans than our infant manufactures could with theirs. He preferred the speech of Sir Howard Douglas to that of the Chancellor of the Exchequer; he considered it was adding insult to injury to ask Canada to make sacrifices at this time. He knew well the thousand wild and visionary schemes which had been palmed off as Free Trade had been met in Montreal, and how they would be met in Quebec. He would ask those who were concerned in the timber trade how they would be met in the West, where they would like to have to compete with the Baltic without the protection of which they have now the advantage; it would be found that they thought protection not so bad a thing after all. When Free Trade principles became general over the world the *Milwaukee* would appear at the Bar and ask the House to sit again. Before taking his seat the hon. gentleman made some allusion to the necessity of allowing time for persons connected with the leather trade to say how the proposed reduction on this article would affect them, which we did not catch very distinctly.

Mr. ELMATZING in explanation of the views he offered on a previous evening upon this question, and in support of the resolutions. Mr. WILLIAMS opposed them as injurious to the farmer; but chiefly on the ground that action in the Colonial Legislature was not warranted.

Mr. ROBINSON supported the resolutions at some length. Mr. McCONNELL spoke in favour of the resolutions. Mr. CHAUVIN opposed the measure before the House.

After remarks from Messrs. Brooks and Drummond, the amendment was put and lost. Ayes 27—Nays 45. Among the ayes were Messrs. Price, Baldwin, Lemoin, Leslie, Nelson, Chauvean, Drummond, Thomson, Lafontaine, Williams, Johnston, Seymour and Aylwin.

On the original motion the numbers were, Ayes 44—Nays 31. Resolutions 2, 3, and 4, were then put and carried.

Mr. NELSON spoke in favour of the importation of Indian Corn for consumption in Lower Canada, free of duty. Upon the resolution 5 for lessening the Sugar duties being taken up, Mr. Aylwin moved in amendment that the duty be 6d. instead of 7s. 6d.—this he afterwards altered to 5s.

The motion was lost. Mr. CHAUVIN moved in amendment that the duty be 6s. Mr. DRAPER asked if the hon. gentleman was prepared to show what reduction the revenue would suffer by this motion or if it were merely for the sake of opposition.

The amendment was lost. Mr. CALEY then postponed the resolutions affecting leather and its manufactures until Friday next.

Adjourned. Thursday, April 23. The Sergeant-at-Arms reported that Messrs. Horton and Warren, Commissioners on the Middlesex Election, were in the Adjourned sitting on Friday, and he was directed to keep them in custody until further orders.

A petition from those persons was received and read, praying the House to take a favourable view of the proceedings and the Commission to discharge them from further attendance.

The following petitions were read:—Petitions from Chatham, Colborne and Grafton, Markham and Vaughan, Chippewa, Amherstburg, and Hamilton, praying that a portion of the Clergy Reserves may be vested in the Church of England Clergymen.

The Attorney-General moved that the said Commissioners had been guilty of contempt of that House, with the intention, if that carried, that the said Commissioners be committed to prison during the pleasure of the House, and that the Speaker issue his warrant for that purpose.

Mr. Solicitor-General 1853 moved, in amendment, that the contempt had been unintentional; and that the Commissioners be admonished and discharged. The amendment carried, and the Commissioners, having been reprimanded by the Speaker, were released.

Mr. Attorney-General DRAPER announced his intention, on Monday, to move for an Address of Congratulation to His Excellency on his appointment as Governor-General.

Mr. Inspector-General CALEY laid on the table the Schedules for the Civil List, and gave notice of the Resolutions he should move in connection therewith, when the House went again into Committee of Supply.

Mr. AYLWYN gave notice of his intention to introduce a Bill to regulate the Duties of Master and Servant.

Mr. Attorney-General DRAPER gave notice of his intention to introduce a Bill to remove the attainder of certain persons by name.

Mr. HALL then went into Committee on the Militia Bill. Mr. DRAPER said, that he would not take up the time of the House in remarking upon a measure of the importance of which all were convinced. He would merely move the passing of the first clause.

Mr. Attorney-General begged to call the attention of the Hon. Attorney-General to some parts of the Bill, which, according to his (Mr. Merritt's) ideas, required some amendment. He feared that, under its operation, the young men would be taken away from the officers with whom they were acquainted, and those of other authority of those whom they knew nothing of. Under these circumstances, they would not like to be called out for drill, whereas if they were left to the officers whom they knew, they would never complain of being called together in battalions. He feared that the present arrangement of the army and militia would not give rise to the same satisfactory results with 1812.

Dr. TACHE said, that there could be but one opinion in the House upon this Bill. Considering how necessary it was to maintain an efficient militia force, it was surprising that the Government had permitted it to be so entirely disintegrated by the unhappy troubles of the late war. It was a national problem, and he would not like to see it so completely broken up as more dangerous than useful; for it was aware that dissatisfaction had prevailed among his compatriots, and it had been too ready to believe—because a few hundreds of individuals had risen to oppose a Government justly held in contempt—that they were all bad men, but rebellious. (Loud cheers from the Opposition.) If it could be shown that the mass was disaffected, he would vote against it. He would say that the mass were the descendants of those who, in 1812, had so nobly sustained the hon. of Great Britain and their own. (Great applause.)

What our fathers had done for us, we ought to do now, if only justice was rendered to them. Their loyalty was not a speculative loyalty. Only give justice to the French Canadians, and it would be seen that their energetic battalions would be the foremost to rush to the frontier, and there oppose their bodies to any and every assault. (Great applause.) He was essentially necessary, and that, in order to its being well organized, it was necessary to do something to get rid of the complaints which had been too long suffered, so that all parties, whatever race or whatever religion, might be equal partakers in the benefits of its subjects. He could not say that the Bill, as it stood, was what he should be disposed to call a very good measure, for he feared that it could not be put into execution in the manner proposed. In the first place, he was not in favour of six days' drill which was required by the companies. He would ask what those six days' drills was intended to effect? He asked whether six days was sufficient to go through the necessary exercises—whether, in that short time, the men could be taught to deploy, to form in open and close column, and in the face of a field battery? He thought, too, that the battalions imposed by the Bill on officers were more than they could be expected to perform. He considered the duties required from the Battalion Boards, composed of the Colonial Adjutants and other officers, were more than they could be expected to perform. He would ask what those six days' drills was intended to effect? He asked whether six days was sufficient to go through the necessary exercises—whether, in that short time, the men could be taught to deploy, to form in open and close column, and in the face of a field battery? He thought, too, that the battalions imposed by the Bill on officers were more than they could be expected to perform.

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by the Governor of this Province, with the advice of the Executive Council, and the approval of public worship and religious instruction in Canada.

That, from these provisions, it appears that it was not the intention of the Imperial Parliament, at the time of the passing of the said Act, to appropriate the said lands among the denominations of places which chains were erected throughout the territory to be placed the Clergy Reserves at the disposal of the Government, to be sold, and the proceeds to be divided in the proportions mentioned in the said Act.

That the attention of the Provincial Legislature has been drawn to this subject by the Petition of the Church Society of the Diocese of Toronto and the Diocese of Quebec, and other petitions, signed by many thousand persons, members of the United Church of England and Ireland, resident in the said Diocese of Toronto and Diocese of Quebec, praying to have the control over, and the disposition and management of, their respective shares of the Clergy Reserves, as is equivalent to the proportion of the funds granted by the provision of the Act of the Imperial Parliament, as aforesaid, passed in the fourth year of your Majesty's reign, and they occur in the prayer of the petition, for the following considerations:—

First—That these lands were set apart for the purpose of religion and the instruction of public worship, it was thereby intended to create an adequate fund for a permanent endowment for those important objects; but they now perceive that, under the system adopted, the share appropriated to the Church of England, the Church of the Episcopians, is likely to be a very small one, and that, inasmuch as the system, as it is, will reduce it to little more than a nominal provision for the support of their Church.

That the policy of the Imperial Government has ever been, with this exception, to place under the management and direction of the Church they meant to support such endowment as they deemed it expedient to grant. Thus, in the State of New York, the members of the Church of England are at this day enabled to build their Churches and station their Missionaries in every section of that extensive country, by the aid of the funds provided by the pious care of a British Monarch who that country was a British Colony. That the numerous Dutch population of the same State, are supplied with pastors from ample funds provided also at an early day by the care of the Government; and that, in both these cases, the foundation of the Church of England, and the Church of the Episcopians, at the time it was made, compared with the Clergy Reserves set apart in this Colony by his late Majesty King George the Third; but which grants being scrupulously preserved, carefully and economically managed by their respective Churches, which were deeply interested in their proceeds, and at the same time respected by succeeding Governments, now yield manifold resources for the support of religion.

Second—We beg permission further to represent, that our Roman Catholic fellow-subjects of Lower Canada have been treated by the Imperial Government with the same generosity and confidence. They acted at this day the most ample endowment for their Churches and Colleges, arising from early grants of land, which, if alienated at the value they once bore, would have afforded but a nominal provision which indeed but a very small portion of the sum which was actually granted, and the value of the passing hour, when we feel that several years have elapsed since their proceeds, and at the same time respected by succeeding Governments, now yield manifold resources for the support of religion.

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navigation. Their lakes were to them of the greatest advantage, if they would only carry out a consistent policy, and by doing so he had endeavoured to show that they had nothing to fear from the European Market. They had now three years to prepare for the battle; and he considered it incumbent