

## SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS.

THURSDAY, April 12.

On motion of Mr. Brecken, the House in Committee resumed the consideration of the Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech.

When the paragraph in the Address, relating to the application of the money arising from the sale of the old Barracks towards the expenditure incurred in building the new ones, was read by the Chairman, another long debate ensued, during which it was urged by the Opposition, that so large an expenditure as that required for building the Barracks should not have been made without the consent of the Legislature; and that such permanent works should not have been erected until it was ascertained that the troops would be allowed to remain in the Colony; and in support of these views, Mr. Howlan submitted the following amendment to the paragraph under consideration:—

"The measure promised by your Excellency with respect to the sale of the old Barracks and the building of the new ones, will receive our careful attention, when all the papers on the subject shall be submitted to us. The House of Assembly cannot, however, but regret that so large an expenditure, as would appear to have been incurred for this permanent work, should have been undertaken without the consent of the Legislature."

The supporters of the Government on the contrary contended that, as it was necessary to call in the aid of troops, it was incumbent on the Government to provide suitable accommodations for them; that efforts were made to rebuild buildings, but none of suitable dimensions could be obtained; that the expenditure was in accordance with the principles which govern all constitutional Governments, when any emergency arises, rendering it necessary to appropriate money for the maintenance of law and order, and for the protection and defence of life and property; and that as some of the leading men of the Opposition supported the action of the Government, relative to calling in troops, they should concur with the necessity of providing them with suitable and proper accommodations.

At a late hour the question was put in Committee by the Chairman.

For the amendment—Hons Coles, Laird, Kelly, Thornton, Warburton, Whelan, Hensley; Messrs. Howlan, Sinclair, Sutherland—(10).

Against it—Hons. J. C. Pope, Longworth, Sol. General, the Speaker, Kaye, Davies, Gray, MacEachen; Messrs. Duncan, Brecken, Haslam, McEunna, Montgomery, Ramsay, and Green—(15).

Progress reported.—House adjourned.

FRIDAY, April 13.

The House in Committee of the whole again resumed the consideration of the Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech.

The paragraph relating to the recent purchase of Mr. Montgomery's estate in this Island, was read from the chair, to which the Hon. Mr. Warburton submitted the following amendment:—

"The House of Assembly rejoices to learn that your Excellency has concluded the purchase of another Estate from one of the proprietors.

"The House of Assembly cheerfully recognises in this purchase another testimony to the usefulness and necessity of the Bill which has authorised such a measure, and which the Liberal Government in 1853 were happily enabled to place upon the statute book of the Colony."

A lengthy debate then followed, during which the merits and demerits of the various Bills which, from time to time, have been enacted for the settlement of the Land Question,

were reviewed and commented upon. Both sides of the House, however, concurred in the desirability of employing every legitimate measure having for its object the cancelling of the leasehold system. In the course of the debate the Hon. Col. Gray observed as his opinion, and ardent hope, that before the next Session of that House, a proposal for the purchase of the Cunard and Sullivan estates in this Colony, would be submitted for their consideration.

The Hon. the Leader of the Government observed, that it was the intention of the Government to ask the hon. House for an extension of the Land Purchase Bill with the view of purchasing the estates to which allusion had been made by the hon. member for Belfast.

At the close of the discussion the paragraph under consideration was agreed to in Committee without a division. House adjourned.

SATURDAY, April 14.

The House in Committee resumed the consideration of the draft address in answer to His Excellency's Speech.

The paragraph in allusion to the loyalty and spirit manifested by the people of the neighboring Provinces, relative to the threatened attack of the Fenians, and the necessity of making due preparations for any emergency that might arise, by taking into consideration the Laws which at present regulate the Militia and Volunteer forces of this Island, was read—

Hon. Mr. Coles expressed his readiness to support the Government in devising measures for the defence of the country, and said that on a subject of such vital importance, he hoped both sides of the House would concur in the adoption of such measures as would tend to show that we were, as a people, prepared to devote our best energies and all our available means for the defence and maintenance of our British Institutions. Whatever our local differences might be, he said, on the subject of military defence he had no doubt hon. members on both sides of the House would be unanimous.

Hon. Col. Gray and other hon. members on the Government side of the House then expressed their satisfaction at what had fallen from the hon. leader of the Opposition, and trusted when the subject of military defence would be submitted to the consideration of that hon. house, that that unanimity, so desirable on a subject of such vital importance, would characterise their deliberation.

Hon. Col. Gray then entered into a very lengthy exposition of our position in a military point of view, and spoke of the complications likely to arise from the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty.

A discussion then took place touching the conduct of the Government, in causing Special Constables to be sworn in to keep the peace in Charlottetown on St. Patrick's day, a procedure which, it was urged especially by Messrs. Conroy and Howlan, was not only uncalled for, but a slander on the character of the Irish Roman Catholics of the Colony.

It was stated in reply by the Hon. Sol. General and others that the construction sought to be put on the conduct of the Government on that point, was unjust. That no insult to any portion of the community was intended—that it would appear that in Canada and elsewhere Fenians made their boast that on St. Patrick's Day they would inaugurate their campaign. That Fenian sympathy prevailed to some extent was shown from the fact that Fenian buttons and ballads were exposed for sale in Charlottetown. That the Fenian organization was not recognized as being composed of Roman Catholics or Protestants, many of them being avowed infidels.

That the precautionary steps taken by the Government on St. Patrick's day were not intended to throw the slightest reflection on the loyalty and attachment of the Irish Catholics of this Island to British Institutions.

But that as it was feared that a sympathy for Fenianism might exist here, as in the other Colonies, to some extent, it was thought advisable to be prepared for any manifestation which might be attempted on behalf of Fenianism on that day.