

humorously styled him the silent, or deaf and dumb member; but he was a sensible man, in the first rank of the indispensable and honorable farming class, and could, and did, deliver his opinions creditably, as often as was needed. It might be well if there were more of the most intelligent of that class in every parliament. I may here mention that I saw the same deaf and dumb man admitted and examined as a witness in the Supreme Court at Truro, in a case of illegitimate child-murder, and it was chiefly on his evidence that the prisoner was convicted.

The regular hour for assembling was 10 o'clock, and the sittings generally continued until 4 or 5 in the afternoon. The public business, I can aver, was, in those days, diligently attended to and dispatched. The sessions, on an average, continued about 10 weeks. The debates were conducted with far more courtesy and moderation than those in the parliaments of the present day. Rarely, indeed, was there any personal bitterness, or asperity, rude epithets, or severe accusations, or unbecoming language, all of which have been, so often, and discreditably employed, in parliaments in later times.

To the best of my recollection, never during those early years of legislation was a charge of bribery made against any member. The oppositions to elections which came before the Assembly related chiefly to the qualifications of Candidates or voters.

As well as I can remember, it was in the session of 1815, that a bounty on salt was granted, of two shillings and sixpence per ton, when the price at public sale, on importation, fell short of twenty shillings. It