HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

[Continued from our last.]

Hon. Mr Whelan's Speech on the Address, continued.

Now, as to His Excellency's reply, I must say it is astonishing that he should give expression to such sentiments as it contains. Had the answer to this Address proceeded from the Hon. Colonel Gray, Hon. Mr Palmer, or Hon. Mr Haviland, I should not have been surprised; but that a gentleman who is expected to hold the scales of justice in his hands, who is a representative of that Queen whose diadem will not pale its lustre before that of any other living Sovereign,—that he should descend and mix in the din and turmoil of politics, is truly lamentable, and altogether unworthy of one who holds such a high position. Referring to the Land Commission His Excellency says:—

"Await with patience the award of that tribunal composed of men who have no interests to serve but those of justice and of truth. Do not testify impatience. Agitation must re-act injuriously on yourselves. Turn a deaf ear to all those *visionary schemes* which, pending the investigations of the Commissioners, are as crude and premature as they are impracticable. I care not whether these schemes assume the shape of a *loan*, to be guaranteed by the Imperial Government, or some supposed *shorter* solution of the difficulty. I clasn them all under one category, and unhesitatingly advise you to reject them."

By characterising all these schemes for the relief of the tenantry which are not entertained by the present Government, whether devised by their predecessors, or advocated by single individuals, as "visionary and delusive," His Excellency has, in my opinion, lowered that high character which it was his duty to maintain. Even the Loan Bill—that Bill which passed both branches of the Legislature by respectable majorities, and which was introduced at the suggestion of the then Colonial Minister, Mr. Labouchere—even that Bill His Excellency has classed among the visionary schemes which the people are unhesitatingly called upon to reject. What, does His Excellency designate as delusive a scheme which was devised to obtain a loan for the purchase of land, while he himself has sanctioned a rise in the rate of interest to procure money for a similar purchase? He also alludes to "some supposed shorter solution of the difficulty arising out of the Land Question," by which he no doubt means the question of Escheat. This scheme he likewise stamps as visionary, though it has been advocated on the floor of this House by individuals who now compose a part of his Government, and by other prominent men in the Conservative ranks. I will now turn my attention to the paragraph in His Excellency's speech in reference to the Land Commission. He says in reference to the delay in giving in the award:—

"It has arisen as much from the laborious and responsible character of the task, which the Commissioners undertook, as from frequent interruptions—your own Reform having, in his high official position, other onerous duties to discharge."

Is this a satisfactory reason to the people of this Island that the award of the Commissioners has been delayed, because one of the Referees—the Referee for the tenantry—owing to his official position, has other onerous duties to perform? This circumstance was well known to the majority of this House at the time of his appointment, and they ought to have selected one who is not so pressed by public engagements. But, Sir, I am not disappointed. I have more than once expressed my belief that the Commission would prove nothing but a scheme to gain time. I believe, however, that the Commissioners were actuated by proper motives in endeavoring to discharge the duties assigned them; but I cannot believe that the Government, when they brought forward their resolutions on this subject, were sincere in desiring to obtain that Commission which has as yet produced nothing. The inquiry of the Commission, however, was instituted so far as to lead the tenantry to believe that their condition was to be ameliorated; and it has been so far satisfactory that it has given full vent to the feelings of the people, and been the means of exhibiting the evils of the leasehold tenure. With respect to the Bill to give effect to the award of the Commission, which his Grace the Duke of Newcastle did not consider advisable to submit for Her Majesty's assent, I believe it has been referred to by my hon. friend on the left, (Mr. Coles) yet as I have given it some attention, I may be permitted to offer a remark. I am of opinion that had the Bill been forwarded to the Colonial Office early in the summer, before the proprietors had sufficient time to petition against it, it would have received the Royal assent. But in this neglect of duty, we have another instance of the want of sincerity on the part of the Government. What other fate could it be expected to meet, when one of the members of the Government said here in his place, that he knew very well the Bill would never pass? Is this the manner in which the business of the country should be conducted? that Bills are prepared by the Executive, and passed through both branches of the Legislature, which are afterwards refused the Royal allowance; and then we are informed next session that they could never pass—that they are, to use His Excellency's words, "visionary schemes." I have not seen the Duke's despatches, but trust they will show something to justify him in the seemingly vacillating course which he has pursued. It appears by the despatch to His Excellency, intimating the appointment of the Commission, that His Grace was at that time satisfied with the passing of the Bill, and afterwards he writes that he considers such legislation premature. Let hon. members on the opposite side of the House explain the reason of this change in the views of the Colonial Minister. With respect to the Commission, we learn from His Excellency's speech, and from private sources, that it will resume its labors early in the ensuing summer. It is highly probable that they will then require considerable time to make out the award, and that this House will be called upon next session to pass an Act to give it effect, which after being sent home, will probably go, like the last, the way of all waste paper; for what are we to expect from the efforts of a Government to relieve the tenantry, which numbers among its members not less than four or five land agents and proprietors? But though the award be satisfactory, and the Act to confirm it receive Her Majesty's assent, before this can be accomplished at least nearly two years will elapse. Some immediate steps ought to be taken to prevent the suffering and hardships endured by many of the tenantry on account of distraints for arrears of rent; and with the view to test hon. members on this point, I purpose to submit an amendment to the paragraph of the Address under consideration, which is in answer to the next paragraph of His Excellency's speech. A certain hon. member displayed considerable warmth of feeling, &c. on a late occasion, when it was remarked that he was the supporter of a Government favorable to the proprietors, and he declared that he would resent anything of the kind. Now, Sir, this amendment will test whether hon. gentlemen generally, actuated by similar feelings, are sincere in their professions, and whether the tenantry have more friends on this or on that side of the House.

[Mr. Whelan then read his amendment, which has already been published.]

I may be told that such a measure would be an interference with private rights; this no doubt will be the argument brought forward by the supporters of the Government. But I shall anticipate it by saying that surely the Commissioners, when they recommended at the close of their sittings in Charlottetown, that only one year's rent be paid, also interfered with private rights. In short, the whole scheme of the Commission is an interference with private rights. If we are the real friends of the tenantry, I think we should pass a measure of this kind, and leave it to the Imperial Government to say whether it is an interference with private rights or not. As extreme diseases require extreme remedies, it may be competent to pass such a law. I have been often referred to the United States for precedents by the hon. and learned member for Georgetown, and in return for his information to me, I may remind him that the State of Georgia the other day passed a law to prevent the collection of all debts for a certain time. I have frequently been referred to that country for precedents, I simply give it as one. I am confident that this amendment to the Address will not pass; but I will have the satisfaction of placing upon record my views, and those, I believe, of others on this side of the House; and what will also, I feel assured, meet the approval of the people of this Island generally.

The hon. member then proceeded to comment on succeeding paragraphs, but a question of order having arisen, he concluded by moving the amendment which he had before read. The House then adjourned till three o'clock.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS RESUMED.

Mr. BEER.—Mr. Chairman, it appears as if the Government were put upon its trial, on the paragraph under consideration. As an independent member of this House, Sir, I can express my opinion freely on this question. I have no personal interest at stake in connection with the Government, and therefore have nothing to gain or lose whether it stand or fall. But it may be different with some members of this House; to them it may be of material consequence that it be defeated at the present time. I stand in the same position with respect to the Proprietors as to the Government; I have nothing to gain from their favor, nor fear from their opposition. My sympathies are nearly altogether with the Tenantry, the most of my dealings being with them. The hon. leader of the opposition endeavored to make out a case against the Government for the course which they pursued while the Commission was proceeding with its investigations. This kind of opposition, however, is nothing new. Some hon. members on the other side of the House at first characterized the Commission as a will-o'-the-wisp, and said it would never sit; and when they ascertained that it would sit, they then affirmed that it would accomplish no good; and when it did sit, and seemed most willing to investigate every matter connected with the question, they then said the award would never be given. They have thus employed every means to throw obloquy upon the Commission; and after it had closed its sittings here, they claimed the credit of communicating to the Court all the information which it received. I am of opinion that the Government, when they had procured the Commission, and had obtained the consent of such a talented gentleman as Mr. Howe to act as referee for the Tenantry—the most competent for the appointment, perhaps, that could be obtained in the lower Provinces—and had retained such able counsel, though they had stood aloof altogether from the Court, would have been quite justified in so doing. I am astonished to hear that some hon. members consider that the purchase of the Worrell Estate was so good a bargain as that of the Selkirk Estate. Taking into consideration the quantity of land, the amount paid, and the receipts in the same space of time, the Selkirk Estate has been a very much better bargain than the Worrell property. It is well known that Lord Selkirk would not treat with the late Government for his Estates—that he would have nothing to do with them at all. I believe it has been mainly through the exertions of the present Lieutenant Governor, seconded, of course, by the Government, that the purchase has been effected. The present Government, in my opinion, will do more while in power for the good of the country, than has been done since this Island was a Colony. The words put in the mouths of some of the Tenants who came before the Commission, by certain individuals, I believe were injurious to the cause of the Tenantry. I will cheerfully support the paragraph in the Address, for I feel assured that the Commission will turn out well.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND.—Mr. Chairman, the ex-Queen's Printer, who favored us in the preceding part of the day with a lengthy speech, has come out in a new character—that of the Lindley Murray of the opposition. The hon. member has expressed his astonishment that Her Majesty's Representative should open the Legislature with a speech couched in such indulgent language. If he is so very loyal as to be shocked because the Queen's Representative so lowered the dignity of his royal mistress, as to read a speech in which, as he thinks, there are so many inaccuracies, what will he say when I point out an expression in Her Majesty's speech, at the opening of Parliament in 1859, similar to one which he terms inelegant in that of His Excellency's? With respect to the sentence referring to the renewing of the Census, I can show the hon. member similar methods of expression in the writings of the historians McAulay and Allison, who, I presume, were greater grammarians than even the Hon. Edward Whelan. But, Sir, I cannot give him credit for originality in criticising gubernatorial speeches, for the great Cobbett was in the habit, for some years, of criticising almost every royal speech with which Parliament was opened. The hon. member alluded to the Belfast people not being able to pay their rents, and therefore, I suppose wished to draw the inference that they would be unable to pay the instalments of the purchase money of their farms. He seemed also to say that the settlers on the Worrell Estate were better able to pay than those on the Selkirk property. But we have no evidence of this, for how often under the late Government, and under the present, have we seen notices to the purchasers on this property to come and pay up their arrears. There was no guarantee given by the late Government, when the Worrell Estate was purchased, that it would be self-sustaining. It is well known, however, from the exceedingly low price paid for the Selkirk Estate by the present Government, that it would not prove a burden upon the Colony; and the noble manner in which the Tenants have come forward and paid the first of their instalments, is an earnest that the whole will be received. The Tenantry on this Estate, Sir, appear to be as superior in a pecuniary point of view to many on the Worrell property as light is to darkness. We have the evidence of this fact before us every year in the returns from this property. The opposition take great credit to themselves because Lot 11 was purchased on so reasonable terms—that estate of a few thousand acres. They boast of this property being self-sustaining, but never utter a syllable about the sixty thousand acres on the Worrell Estate that were not self-sustaining. The hon. member referred to what he was pleased to denominate the subserviency displayed by the people of Belfast in some of the expressions in their address to the Lieutenant Governor in reference to the purchase of the Selkirk Estate, and hinted that it was effected to further the political interests of a certain member of the Government. But he himself, Sir, knows well for what purpose the Worrell Estate was purchased. He knows that a large draft was made upon the funds of the Colony to preserve him a place in this House. I admit that Mr. Whelan possesses talent, and displays eloquence, and if anything were to befal him, Heaven help the liberal party. If he were to fall, they would soon become broken up and scattered. No wonder then that on account of his abilities, an effort was made to secure his place in the Legislature. Much has been said in regard to the presence of lawyers in this House; but, Sir, it would be a great deal more to their pecuniary advantage to attend to the business of their profession than to engage in politics. I myself would have had much more to support my family today, if I had not descended into the political arena; yet I had a duty to perform. I had to come forward and stand for the rights of my country, and never shall I relax my efforts until every necessary object is gained. And no party, I believe, was ever so able to effect the political salvation of the Colony as the party who at present hold the reins of Government. The members of the opposition talk eloquently of what they accomplished when in power. And what did they do the eight long years they were in office to ameliorate the condition of the tenantry? Nothing but carry through the Land Purchase Bill. They know that now is their time to make a breach in the present Government, for if the present opportunity should pass, and the Land question be settled, they are aware that they will never again rise to power. I heard the sentiment expressed on Saturday, that we ought not to have purchased the Selkirk Estate, when we were unable to procure the money without paying a higher rate of interest than was specified in the Purchase Bill. This shows all the sympathy of the Liberal party for the suffering tenantry. They must ensure the Government for issuing Warrants to ensure a property by which hundreds of settlers have had the opportunity of converting their leaseholds into freeholds. And, Sir, I believe if the people of Belfast heard the remark of the hon. member, Mr. Whelan, this morning, respecting their inability, on account of an insufficient wardrobe, to attend the Governor's levee, and the disparaging manner in which he spoke of them generally, they would feel doubly thankful that the Conservatives are in power, for did the hon. member and his friends hold the reins of Government, the proprietary shackles of the tenantry on that Estate would, in all probability, never have been removed. Much as has been said in regard to the issuing of Warrants at a high rate of interest, I defy any member of the opposition to say that under the circumstances of the case the Government did wrong; and I believe that every individual of them, from the ex-Queen's Printer down, if put upon oath, would not say so; and if they did, the country would cry out against them. But it suits the opposite party to talk loudly about the constitution of the Colony being violated, and to employ every means to overthrow the Government. They, of course, have no interests to subserve by endeavouring to overturn the Government! Not they! However, if the Government should be defeated, and the country pronounce against us, I shall cheerfully resign my seat at the Council board, but I will still carry with me the conviction that I have done my duty to my country and my God. I may offer a remark further in reference to the Land Commission. I supported the resolutions for the Commission because I considered some scheme of the kind was necessary to the peace and welfare of the Colony. And the appointment of the Commission having been obtained. I consider it was the duty of the Government to occupy an independent position: for had they not taken this stand, the proprietors would have had a plea to come before the British Government, complaining that the Government here had acted unfairly, and praying that the whole Commission be set aside. But we have been censured for taking this unpartisan course, and at the same time have been told that though we have a law officer of our own, paid out of the public purse, we retained others to plead the cause of the tenantry. Had the Attorney General been directed to conduct the case, and he only, we would never have heard an end to the complaints of the Opposition, and for this reason partly, and because Mr. Hensley was known to be familiar with the case of the tenantry, the Government obtained his services. Now, Sir, though I believe that the Attorney General is equal in talent to Mr. Hensley, yet as it is generally admitted to be true in physic that a Doctor in whom a patient has no confidence, seldom effects a cure; so in this matter, unless the people had confidence in the Counsel they would not be satisfied that justice had been done to their case. They would have objected to Mr. Bracken because he is related to the proprietors, and connected with the old family compact. So the Government considered it better to employ other Counsel than give reason for objections of this kind. Mr. Hensley's coadjutor was a gentleman of great talent, and a rising member of the New Brunswick Bar, and who, next to the hon. Commissioner Gray, is considered, I believe, the most able legal gentleman in that Colony. It is evident, then, that if the Government had desired to favor the proprietors, they would not have procured the services of such competent men, but of some third or fourth rate lawyer to advocate the cause of the tenantry. Great objections have been taken against the Attorney General and myself for issuing writs for the collection of arrears of rent on the Tracadie estate. Sir, I have yet to learn that though a professional man enters into the political arena he is to neglect the interests of his client. The duty of a British lawyer is to sacrifice all to the interests of his client; and this principle in relation to jurisprudence is one of the surest guarantees of the liberty of the people. The responsibility in issuing writs does not rest with the lawyer, but with the client who brings forward the case. My partner and I have been almost branded as traitors for complying with the instructions of our clients; but I learn on searching the public records that that friend of the tenant—that champion of the people, the Attorney General of the late Government—the Hon. Joseph Hensley—also issued writs against the bleeding tenantry of the famous Tracadie estate. And this same gentleman, while in office under the late Government, was the paid attorney of Robert Bruce Stewart, then whom there is not a proprietor more obnoxious to the tenantry of this Island.

Mr. OWEN.—One of the charges brought against the present Government is that they issued Treasury warrants at six per cent. instead of Debentures at five, as specified in the Purchase Bill, to obtain money for the purchase of the Selkirk estate and Lot 54. I consider this one of the most judicious actions of the Government, for it would have been better to pay ten per cent. interest than to allow the estates to pass into other hands. It has been asserted by an hon. member that the land on Lot 54 is so poor that it is only a fit place for frogs. Now, Sir, I am very well acquainted with that Township, and I can say that it will compare favorably with the adjoining Lots, and that the land is of as good a quality as any on the Worrell estate, with the exception perhaps of Lot 38. Much has been said against the Land Commission; but in my opinion a great deal has been gained by its appointment. It is the first public acknowledgment on the part of the British Government that there are grievances or questions in dispute in this Colony with respect to the land tenures, which require to be settled. The Commission has given great satisfaction in King's County, for the people there considered it a privilege to be permitted to go into Court and state their grievances. The tenantry in the district which I represent are satisfied to wait until the result of the Commission be known, as it would be inconsistent one session to ask for a Commission and the next to seek that it be set aside, when it had not sufficient time to complete its labors. This proposal which is now made to pass a law to prevent the collection of arrears of rent is only a piece of deception, and intended to go forth to the country. Those who are advocating such a measure know it would never become law. I would like to ask the hon. leader of the Opposition if he believes that a Bill to suspend proceedings for the collection of arrears of rent, would receive the Royal assent? But even admitting that it should pass at home, what benefit would result from such a Bill, for before it could have time to become law, the award of the Commissioners would be made known.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON.—I do not purpose to occupy much time, but to speak briefly to the question. The Commissioners recommended that one year's rent be paid, and that no arrears be exacted. This recommendation has been attended to by the tenantry, for I can assure you that the landlords seldom ever received more rent than they have done this year. The proprietors, however, at least many of them, have not been satisfied with one year's rent, but have proceeded to compel the payment of arrears. Now, Sir, I will support the resolution, because such a measure as it proposes would only be giving effect to the recommendation of the Commissioners, and because I believe that unless something of the kind is done there will be more agitation in the country this year than there ever was with the question of Escheat. I have been often asked by tenants since the sitting of the Commission if they ought to pay rent, and I have always advised them to pay, as recommended by that Court. The people are expecting more from the Commission than they ever did from any other scheme for the settlement of the land question; and they are anxiously waiting to hear its result. In regard to the property with which I have to do, I have attended to the recommendation of the Commissioners, and will not compel payment of arrears until their decision be known.

Hon. Mr. MACAULAY.—[Reads Mr. Whelan's amendment.] This document has upon the face of it most dangerous words. It in effect says that the Commission should be nullified. The expectations of the tenantry have been raised by the Commission, and before it has completed its labours, we should never think of passing a resolution which would go to set the whole affair aside. I fear, Sir, this amendment has not had its origin in honesty of purpose. I would consider myself a traitor to my country did I support such a measure as is contemplated by the resolution, because it would thwart the good intentions of this House when they asked for the Commission. No good purpose will be served by following hon. members on the opposite side of the House into details; it is sufficient to say that I believe they are not sincere in their opposition to the paragraph under consideration, as they must know that a Bill to stay legal proceedings for the collection of rent would never receive the Royal allowance.

Progress was reported, and the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, Feb. 26.

House again in Committee on the Address in answer to His Excellency's speech.

Mr CONROY.—Mr Chairman; the paragraph of the Address under consideration expresses regret that the Commission has not made its report. This regret is fully concurred in by me, and I believe by the people of the Island generally. The Commission has raised great expectations among the tenantry; it was almost the only subject of conversation in the country for three or four months. The delay in making the award, we are informed has been caused by the other business engagements of the Referees, and we are recommended by the members of the Government to exercise patience. This may be all very well, but what is the use of preaching patience to a man who is distrained upon, and all his effects taken away by the bailiff. The tenants in the district which I represent, I believe are as punctual in paying their rents as any in the Island, and have complied with the recommendation of the Commissioners to pay one year's rent, as well as could be expected. But those most in arrears are those who are least able to pay this year's rent; still I have been informed that Mr Charles Palmer has distrained upon several of those not only for the accruing rent, but also for arrears. In one case, I have been told, a person who receives rent for Mr Palmer sent him notice that a certain tenant in arrears had paid this year's rent, and the answer returned by Mr Palmer was, "give him credit for one year's rent, and distrain for the balance." I do not say that all the proprietors would act in this manner, and I understand there are no such difficulties on the estate managed by Mr DeBlois; but when I hear of such conduct as this, how can I ask my constituents to wait with patience the award of the Commissioners, and be subject to the lash of the proprietors for probably two years longer. A meeting was held in my district just before I left home to consider the necessity of petitioning this House to pass a law to stay proceedings at present for the collection of rents; and I understand that a petition to this effect from that part of the country will be laid before the House in a few days. The general impression among my constituents is, that nearly every member of the Government, excepting Hon. Col. Gray, (who is very much esteemed in that part of the Island,) is doing almost everything to thwart the Commission. I was sorry to hear the hon. member Mr Yeo the other day speak against the character of the Hon. Mr Warburton. It did not come well from that hon. member to charge anything against one who is his political opponent. If Mr Warburton made any incorrect statements before the Commission, as Mr Yeo was present, he ought to have contradicted him at the time, and not alluded to it on the floor of this House.

Hon. Col. GRAY.—Mr Chairman; in regard to the distraints mentioned by the hon. member for Tignish, I have to state that I have made inquiries, and cannot learn that there has been one case of the kind where the recommendation of the Commissioners was carried out, on the estate of any proprietor, who agreed to the Commission. I deplore as much as the hon. member for Tignish, that it should be necessary to distrain in any case, but the Government has nothing to do with that,—the law must take its course. He states that the tenants will probably remain two years longer under the lash of the proprietors. They have been much longer than two years under the proprietors already, and we have never heard the hon. member express so much sympathy for them before. But I have seen it stated under the hand of the Commissioners themselves that the award will be ready in June. Is that two years? If I could obtain my desire the award would not be delayed two weeks. I consider that we have done all that we could do in the case. But the question before the Committee is the amendment submitted by the hon. member, Mr Whelan. I cannot congratulate hon. members of the Opposition on the wisdom which has prompted the introduction of such an amendment, because I am certain very few will be deceived by it. Sir, a decent respect for ourselves as a legislative body, should have prevented the agitation of such a question. I do not blame some of the uninformed men in the country parts of the Island who are led to believe that such a measure as is proposed in the amendment could become law; but Sir, I do cast foul blame upon any Representative of the people for encouraging them in such a delusion. Hon. members opposite know as well as I do that such a measure even if passed by this House, must have a suspending clause, and that Her Majesty herself has not the power of granting what is desired—it would be a violation of her coronation oath, and a breach of the constitution. I confess, Mr Chairman, I was pained to hear the remarks of the hon. member for Cardigan (Mr Thornton) last evening. I would now ask that hon. gentleman, who I believe is incapable of an untruth, does he think such a measure as staying payment of rents, would receive the Royal assent? Setting aside the unconstitutional nature of the question, I doubt not that the hon. member is most sincere in his desire, together with his friend the hon. leader of the Opposition, that the object of the Commission should be defeated. For 35 years, successive Houses of Assembly endeavored to settle the land question and for 8 years since 1851, the present Opposition held the reins of Government; but their acts were such that not only the great proprietors, but also the Home Government viewed them with suspicion and distrust. And what is the position of the Colony now? Not only has the British Government granted a court of enquiry, but almost all the great proprietors have agreed to be bound by its decision. This Court is now deliberating on the question, and in the face of this, and after having bound ourselves by a solemn contract with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Opposition now turn round and ask us to pass a measure which would put an end to the Commission, stultify ourselves before the public, bring upon us the contempt of the Home Government, and put a weapon into the hands of the great proprietors *for ever*. Sir, if this House had the power of passing such a measure, we would not have required the Commission at all. Only think of the heartlessness of this attempt to deceive the tenantry! Even supposing it were possible for Her Majesty to sanction such a measure, it could not be sent home and returned before the award of the Commissioners be made; hence it would be totally useless in every respect. I am pained to hear hon. members so cruelly trifle with the feelings of the people.

Hon. Mr THORNTON.—I rise to answer a question put to me by the hon. leader of the Government in this end of the building, as to whether I believe that such a measure as that proposed in the amendment would receive the Royal assent. I may state that I have my doubts upon this point, because so many measures which have been passed by the Legislature have not received this assent, and even the Bill carried through last Session, to give effect to the award, has not as yet been sanctioned at home. The measure proposed in the amendment is not to say that arrears of rent shall never be collected, but only to carry out the recommendation of the Commissioners, that none be distrained for until their award be made. No sooner had the Commissioners left the Island, than advertisements appeared in the newspapers stating that if they had power to prevent the collection of rent, they might also prevent the collection of any debt, and containing other such remarks, thus throwing ridicule upon the whole thing. The proposed measure is only to give effect to the award of the Commissioners, and prevent such proceedings.

Mr COOPER.—It is utterly absurd to say that a bill to prevent distraints for arrears of rent would not receive the royal assent. If the Commissioners possessed the right to recommend that one year's rent be paid, which no doubt they did, if they take it into consideration when making their award, surely they had as good a right to recommend that payment of arrears be not enforced; and as the House Government has placed the whole property of the proprietors, as it were in the hands of the Commissioners, I do not see that it could object to sanction a bill to give effect to their recommendation. I believe if the British Government knew what is taking place here in the way of oppressing the tenantry, it would consider us highly culpable, if we did not pass such a measure as is proposed by the amendment.

Hon. Mr COLES.—I was surprised to hear the lesson read to us this morning by the hon. leader of the Government. He states that the Home Government possessed no confidence in the late Government; but, Sir, I think they have shown quite as much respect for the late Government as for the present. Hon. members of the majority, speak as if the Commission had originated with them, which is not the case, as it was recommended to the late Government by the Secretary of State for the Colonies; and when the present Government came into power, they only took up the suggestion. We are accused of bringing in this amendment only for the purpose of defeating the Government; and no wonder, when they think this that we hear so much whining about deceiving the people. But, Sir, I would be sorry to see the Government defeated on this resolution, as I desire that they should have the opportunity to carry out this Land Commission scheme which they have begun. The amendment does not contemplate thwarting the Commission, but only to suspend oppressive proceedings pending the award of the Commissioners. It would only be a temporary measure, and would fall to the ground as soon as the award became binding.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS.

WEDNESDAY, March 13.

Mr Yeo presented a petition from Lot 17 praying a grant to aid in placing the Steamer Princess Royal on the route from Bedeque to Miramichi &c. Mr Sinclair presented a petition from Lots 18 and 19 praying for an enactment to stay proceedings for the collection of arrears of rent until the award of the Commissioners be made public. Mr Davies presented a petition of divers merchants praying for the passing of a Bankruptcy Law—ordered to be committed to Committee of the whole House on Tuesday next. Mr Beer introduced a Bill for the punishment of persons who shall be guilty of trespassing in orchards &c.—read a first and second time. Mr Haviland presented a petition from the Executive Committee of the Charlottetown Debating Club, praying a grant in aid of their funds. A large number of other petitions praying aid for roads, bridges, wharves, Teachers, &c, were presented.

THURSDAY, March 14.

Mr. J. Yeo presented a petition from Robert McDonald, and others praying a grant of £1000 for the erection of a wharf at the south side of West Point. Mr. Howat presented a petition from Crapaud, praying the House to allow the grant of £250 made last year for the purpose of building a dredging machine, to be given to the "Crapaud Dredging Machine Company" to hire a machine, on condition that petitioners subscribe £350 for said purpose, or grant the Company the privilege of taxing exports from that harbour until a sufficient sum be raised to pay the hire of a machine. Several other petitions were presented. On motion of Hon. Mr. Coles, a call of the House was ordered for Thursday next, to take into consideration the several petitions on the table praying the House to take such action as will prevent distraints for rent until the award of the Commissioners be made known. The hon. Mr. Haviland laid on the table the Sheriff's return to the writ for the election of a member for the first District of King's County, in room of John Knight, Esq., resigned. It appeared from said return that the Hon. Joseph Hensley had been elected for said District, and he having appeared at the bar of the House, and been introduced to the Speaker by the Hon. Mr. Wightman and the Hon. Mr. Thornton, took the oaths and his seat. The Bill for the prevention of trespasses on orchards, &c., was passed through Committee, and reported agreed to with amendments. Hon Mr. Haviland introduced a Bill to give summary protection to persons employed in the publication of Parliamentary papers.

FRIDAY, March 15.

A motion being made that the Decimal Currency Bill be committed to a Committee of the whole House, considerable discussion ensued, in the course of which Hon. Mr. Coles moved in amendment that it be read this day three months; and the question having been put on the motion of amendment, it was carried 13 to 10. The Parliamentary paper protection Bill was read a second time, committed, and agreed to. Hon. Mr. Haviland presented to the House the Estimates for the current year, whereupon the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply—Mr. McNeill in the chair. A motion having been made by Hon. Mr. Haviland that the sum of £6000 be granted for the Road Service, including all special grants; and an amendment having been moved by Hon. Mr. Wightman that the sum be £7000, a debate ensued which occupied the remainder of the day.

SATURDAY, March 16.

House spent nearly the whole day in Committee of Supply, discussing the grant for the Road Service.

MONDAY, March 18.

A number of petitions were presented, after which the remainder of the day was occupied in Committee of Supply in debate on the Road Service appropriation. When the question was put, before the adjournment, on the motion of amendment that the sum for the Service be £8000, there appeared for it—Hons. Messrs. Wightman, Coles, Thornton, Kelly, Whelan, and Mr. Conroy—6.

Against it—Hons. Messrs. Gray, Haviland, Longworth, Laird, McAulay, Hensley; Messrs. Montgomery, J. Yeo, Owen, Davies, Holm, Howat, Beer, Cooper, Sinclair—15.

The question was then put on the main motion, that the sum be £6000, which was carried on the same division, reversing the order.

TUESDAY, March 19.

On motion of hon. Mr. Haviland, it was resolved that unless the Journals of this House, for the session of 1859, be furnished within one week from this date, legal steps will be taken to enforce the penalty in the Contractor's bond.

House again in Committee of Supply, and agreed to the division of the Road money for the Counties. The House then resolved itself into Committee on the petition presented on Wednesday last, for the passing of a Bankruptcy Law. A discussion ensued, in the course of which a resolution was moved that it be referred to a special committee to prepare a Bill in accordance therewith.

WEDNESDAY, March 20.

The following resolution was reported from the Committee of Supply and agreed to, viz.:—That the sum of £6000 be granted for the service of Roads, Bridges and Wharfs, for the present year, including all special grants, and that the same be appropriated to each County in the following manner, viz.:—Queen's County, including Charlottetown and Royalty, £1,300; Prince County, £1,100; King's County, £1,100; special grants for Queen's County, £800; special grants for Prince County, £650; special grants for King's County, £850; Roads opened under the compensation Act, £100; Contingent expenses of Roads, Bridges and Wharfs, to be equally divided between the three Counties, £300. House again resolved itself into a Committee on the petition for a Bankruptcy Law. Hon. Mr. Haviland moved an amendment to the motion made yesterday in reference to the petition, which amendment was to the effect that a Committee be appointed to report thereon next session.—Committee: Hons. Messrs. Haviland, Hensley, Longworth, Wightman, and Mr. Davies.

THURSDAY, March 21.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Coles, the consideration of the petitions praying for action to prevent collection of arrears of rent, was deferred until Tuesday next. The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the report of the Commissioners for the revising and reprinting of the laws. Two or three resolutions were come to in Committee, one of which was to the effect that the Act of last session providing for the revising, &c., of the laws be so amended as to enable the Commissioners to enter into a contract for the printing of the laws of this Island, according to the style of the revised statutes of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, or Canada, instead of that of the printed laws of this Island, and to empower the Commissioners to omit from the volumes of the general statutes, all local and private Acts, and to cause 200 copies of such Acts to be printed separately. The greater part of the remainder of the day was taken up in debate on the second reading of the Elective Legislative Council Bill.

FRIDAY, March 22.

The time of the House in the forenoon was occupied in debate on the second reading of the Elective Legislative Council Bill. A motion having been made that the House do go into Committee on the Bill, it was carried by a large majority. In the afternoon the Bill was taken up in Committee, and when the clause was read in reference to the number of members in all—12, and the number for each County—4, Mr Davies moved an amendment that the whole number be 13, and that Charlottetown and Royalty have the privilege of returning one member. After some discussion, on the question being put on Mr Davies' motion, there appeared,

For it.—Hons. Speaker, Yeo, Gray, Haviland, Longworth, Laird; Messrs. Davies, Owen, Holm, McNeill, Beer, Montgomery, Ramsay.—14

Against it.—Hons. Coles, Whelan, Hensley, Thornton, Wightman, Kelly; Messrs. Conroy, Sinclair, Doyle, Cooper.—10

D. LAIRD, Reporter.

PARAPHINE OIL LAMPS, &c., OIL at 6s. a gallon, with a stock of Linseed Oil, and Paints and White Lead—at the store of

BENJ. DAVIES.

4i.

CARPETING, FLOOR CLOTH, &C.,

AT THE SUBSCRIBER'S ESTABLISHment, CHEAP SIDE, QUEEN SQUARE—

A few pieces choice patterns of good Wool, Kidd'r and Tapestry CARPETS, together with an assortment of Wool and Oil Floor Cloths, Mats, &c., &c., at a reduced price.

BENJ DAVIES.

March 18, 1861. 4i.

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &C.

BY A. H. YATES.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION ON THURSday, the 28th inst., at 11 o'clock, at the

"PAVILION HOTEL,"

a quantity of Household Furniture, &c, &c. consisting of

1 Hair cloth SOFA
1 Damask COUCH
2 do do small
1 Mahogany Centre TABLE
1 do Card TABLE
1 Walnut extension Dining TABLE
2 Birch Dining TABLES
2 Pembroke TABLES
2 doz Cane Seat CHAIRS
3 doz Wood seat do
Office and Arm CHAIRS
4 CARPETS and Hearth RUGS
Lot Stair CARPET and RODS
Franklin and other STOVES
3 BEDSTEADS & MATRESSES
2 BUREAUS
4 Sink WASHSTANDS
6 Toilette TABLES
Feather PILLOWS & BOLSTERS
Lot of Hair PILLOWS
Looking GLASSES
Lot of BEDDING
A quantity of kitchen and cooking UTENSILS
Earthenware, JARS, &c
A lot of painted Bar Rooms KEGS & GLASS

Together with various other Articles Terms £10 and upwards 3 months; under £10 cash. Approved joint notes of hand required.

H. HAZZARD.

March 22, 1861. ERW

Important Sale of

FARM STOCK, GRAIN, FARMING IMPLEMENTS, &c., &c.,

TO BE SOLD AT AUCTION ON THURSday, the 11th day of April next, at the hour of 11 o'clock forenoon, at the residence of Mr JAMES LAIRD, Sen., New Glasgow,—being part of his valuable Stock, Viz.,

2 Horses, 5 years old.
1 Entire Horse, by Warwick 3 years old
1 Blood Colt,
6 Superior Milch Cows,
1 Heifer 3 years old,
1 Bull, do. do.
3 Heifers, 1 year old,
1 Bull, do. do.
14 breeding Ewes,
100 bushels Wheat,
200 do Potatoes,
1 Plough, 1 Cart,
1 Horse-Rake,
1 Turnip Cutter,
1 Turnip Drill,
Hay & Straw,
Horse Harness.

400 bushels Oats,—and sundry other articles not enumerated.

TERMS very liberal, and made known on the day of Sale.

THOS. MACNEILL, Auctioneer.

March 12, 1861 3w

The Royal Agricultural Society.

THE ADJOURNED GENERAL MEETing of the Royal Agricultural Society, will be held on Wednesday the 27th March inst., at the Temperance Hall, at the hour of two o'clock in the afternoon.

By Order,
JAMES D. HAZZARD Sec. & Treas.
(All the papers)

March 23, 1861.

FOR SALE OR TO BE LET.

THE FARM AT THE HEAD OF Wheatly River, at present in the occupation of David Rattray. It contains about 150 acres of excellent land a large portion of which is under cultivation, ditched and fenced, and within a short distance of one manure. A good dwelling house and barn &c., are on the premises. This farm is about 15 miles from Charlottetown, and being centrally situated at the junction of several roads, is valuable as a business stand. Possession will be given about 1st April next.—Apply to

H. J. CUNDALL.

Charlottetown, Feb. 16, 1861. 1