

Hon Mr Warburton—This was much better than the Award; and if proper arrangements had been made, money enough might have been raised in England, at a reasonable per centage, to have completed the purchase of the whole of the Proprietary Lands.

Hon Mr Hensley supported the resolution. The sum required to be raised was small; while the advantages held out on behalf of the Tenantry upon these estates were obvious.

Hon Mr COLES—If the loan bill had been adopted, they might have got their money at four, instead of six per cent. He thought the better way would be to pass a short act, allowing the Government to issue debentures at six per cent for this purpose, payable in ten years. The Land Purchase Act had been the best measure yet passed; and, although slow in operation, it had relieved the Tenantry, more than any other from, Proprietary influence. So far back as 1843 complaints had been made, and an act was passed allowing, or permitting the Tenants to pay their Landlords in "Merchandise Produce." He believed that the "Loan Bill" was the law of the land; as it had been passed without a suspending clause, and had never been refused by the Imperial Government. He, however, was willing to go for six per cent to complete this purchase.

Hon Col GRAY begged to assure the hon leader of the Opposition, that when large Proprietors, such as Sir Samuel Cunard, Mr Bruce Stewart or Mr Lawrence Sullivan could be induced to sell, the Government would be prepared with the money, to purchase at a fair and reasonable average price, as in the present instance. The Worrell Estate had been purchased at the rate of 12s 6d per acre, under the auspices of the hon leader of the Opposition, and the Island would shortly be called upon to pay a debt of £18,000 in order to redeem the debentures issued for the purchase.

Hon Mr COLES had applied for accounts with respect to the management of the Worrell Estate, but could not obtain them. Taking into consideration the amount of lands yet unsold upon the Worrell Estate, he believed that there should be, upon a fair balance sheet, a clear profit of over £42,000 in its favor. The purchase of the Worrell Estate, he believed, had laid the foundation of a good system; it had led to others, one of which was the purchase now before them.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH was of opinion, that if proper arrangements had been made by the Government of the day, who purchased the Worrell Estate, that the sum of £18,000 would not have been due at the present time. The hon leader of the Opposition, had told them that he believed the Loan Bill was at present the Law of the land, but such was not the case, it had never received the sanction or approbation of the Imperial Government, and was consequently become a dead letter. No better course, he believed, could be adopted than that laid down in the resolution at present before the House.

Mr HOWLAN—said it seemed to him that many members on the opposite side of the house, had lost all faith in the Award, or the benefits to be derived from it. He cordially agreed with the proposed terms of the present purchase, and only regretted that his constituents were not likely to have to favorable an opportunity presented to them. Although the purchase of the Worrell Estate might entail a trifling loss upon the Colony, it would not be money badly laid out, for it had broken the ice, and led to other purchases, like the one at present under consideration, all of which were of advantage to the Colony.

Mr DUNCAN complained of the waste of time in the debate. If they had got the loan of £100,000, to purchase the land, where was the land to be found, or who would offer it to them?

Hon Mr THORNTON supported the proposition. The present Government had come forward in a proper way with their resolutions, which was a great improvement, upon the manner in which the purchase of Lot 54 had been effected some years since.

Mr MONTGOMERY briefly supported the resolution.

Mr SINCLAIR gave his hearty support to the motion, expressing at the same time his regret, that so few offers of the kind had hitherto been made, otherwise the beneficial influence of the Land Purchase Act might have been tested thoroughly. All the estates yet offered to the Government for purchase, seemed to be those that did not remunerate the Proprietors. The Arbitration Clause of the Award, was what they should stand by, because the Proprietors would know that in all time to come their lands would be liable to be sold at a fair valuation. When they had secured the arbitration clause, would be the proper time to arrange for a Loan.

Hon Mr DAVIES, was well acquainted with the estates in question; they were well settled, and the reason, he believed, if the Tenants were in arrears, was on account of the excitement in connection with the settlement of the Award. He felt assured that the purchase would be a self sustaining one.

Mr CONROY supported the resolution, and like other hon members on that (opposition) side of the house, wished sincerely that his constituents, or even a portion of them, might have a similar chance offered to them.

Mr HASLAM thought that such an opportunity of allowing a large number of leaseholders being enabled to change their leaseholds into freeholds, should not be lost sight of.

Hon Mr POPP believed the proposed purchase a most advantageous one, taking all the circumstances into consideration. There could be no fair comparison between this and the Worrell Estates. Upon the latter, there was a large quantity of wilderness lands, still unoccupied, while upon Lots 51 and 59 nearly the whole of the lands were leased and occupied.

The resolutions were carried unanimously.—Progress was then reported—the Speaker in the chair.

Mr John Yeo, Messrs. Laird, Haslam, Howat, Conroy, Hensley and Sinclair, were appointed a Committee to receive and report upon all petitions from School Teachers, and upon School matters.

The House then adjourned.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

TENDERS FOR STEAMBOATS.

Hon Col Gray presented to the House tenders for two steamboats to ply between this Island and Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, as asked for in an advertisement lately inserted in the *Royal Gazette*. The tenders received were two in number, one from Mr Michael Stevenson, with Canadian securities, offering to supply two boats to ply as stated in the advertisement, for the sum of £3000, annually, over and above such grants as might be given by the Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; and the other from Messrs W. C. Bourke, and R. R. Hodgson, with Island securities, offering the same for £3000, giving the Island Government, the benefit of grants from the other Provinces.

The hon leader of the Government, in moving that the papers be laid on the table, explained that the reason for so doing was that some members of the Government contemplated taking shares in the proposed steamers, if the Island tender was accepted, and they thought it better to bring the matter before the House to prevent the appearance of any jobbery in the transaction?

Considerable discussion arose on the subject, and as it was stated that Mr Boultenhouse, the former owner of the "Westmorland," had a tender on the way, which had not arrived on account of the detention of the mails at Cape Tormentine, the matter was allowed to lie over.

Hon Mr Hensley introduced a Bill to incorporate a Marine insurance Company.

Adjourned.