

Hon. Mr. COLES. The service upon which they were employed went far beyond that. It extended—to the disgrace of their honorable profession—to their being placed as a guard upon a cow-house, to prevent the unfortunate tenant from having access to it, even for the purpose of milking the cow taken in distress, without the express sanction or permission of the Sheriff. He was very far indeed from defending organized, or indeed any resistance, to the officers of the law in the discharge of their official duty; but he maintained, as he had already asserted, that if judicious endeavours had been made in time to carry the law into effect by civil means only, there would have been no occasion either for the presence or employment of the Troops. He had it from the Sheriff, Mr. Dodd, himself, that if the Government had placed twenty or thirty special constables at his command, he could, effectually, and without any danger of a breach of the peace, have served every Writ, and carried into effect every warrant of distress which had been put into his hands for such purposes.

Hon. the Leader of the Government (Mr. Pope). He did not believe that Mr. Dodd ever made use of any such words.

Hon. Mr. COLES positively reasserted that the Sheriff, Mr. Dodd, had distinctly told him that, if the Government had given him the assistance of 20 or 30 special constables, he could have effectually discharged all his duties, as against tenants, without the aid of the troops. The employment, however, of such a man as the Deputy Sheriff, who, as was well known, was by no means of too civil and conciliatory a disposition, had, most certainly, not tended to the securing of the discharge of the Sheriff's duties in a quiet and peaceable manner; but, on the contrary, his harsh and arbitrary mode of proceeding, had caused the people to entertain so confirmed a dislike to himself personally, that his simple appearance, at the head of a body of even the most respectable, constables had been felt to be of itself a provocative to insubordination and tumult. The arbitrary and offensive nature of the man had been sufficiently proved by the fact that, without any warrant, complaint, or any authority save that of his own tyrannical will, he had taken into custody two peaceable and unoffending men, upon the high-road, as they were quietly wending their way home from Charlottetown, and had handcuffed and kept them prisoners in his own house for one whole night. Such tyrannical and unlawful conduct, on the part of the Deputy Sheriff, ought to have caused his immediate dismissal from office. He was, however, allowed to retain his appointment, and such allowance he (Hon. Mr. Coles) thought was one immediate cause of the disturbance which, soon after, took place. He was not going to dispute that, but for the restraining presence of the military, the resistance and commotion which arose at Bagnall's would, in all likelihood have been attended by most disastrous and lamentable consequences. His Excellency said, "the general prosperity of the past year has been marred by the civil disturbances which took place in some parts of this Colony." That was no doubt true to the letter; but he would observe that although those disturbances had marred the general prosperity of the Colony, the evils which they had caused were felt by none so severely as by the poor unfortunate men, who, through the effects of delusion and deception practised upon them, had been led to set themselves in opposition to the due execution of the law. The illegality of the Tenant League did not lie in the tenantry having formed themselves into a Union for the purpose of endeavouring to induce their landlords to sell to them the freeholds of their farms upon what they, the Union, should conceive to be fair and equitable terms; but in their having bound themselves to each other to resist all demands for rent, or attempts to enforce payment of rents, until such time as their landlords should be willing to treat with them for the sale and purchase of their farms on their own terms. That they had bound themselves to resist all demands for the payment of rent in the manner in which it was generally understood by persons having no connexion with the League, that was by physical force, was however denied by some of its leaders. They said that what they meant by resistance to demands made for rent, was merely the tenants' availing themselves of all the delays which the law would allow them, as the putting off of

suits from court to court; and so, if it were possible, wearying their landlords into an acquiescence with their proposals. But, be that as it might, he was persuaded that, by a prompt and energetic use of the civil authority, the disturbances adverted to might have been prevented, and there would have been no pretence for drawing down disgrace upon the Colony by the Government's procuring a detachment of Troops to be sent hither to enforce due obedience to the laws on the part of the people. Of the very serious expense which that action of the Government had occasioned to the Colony by the erection of barracks for the accommodation of the troops, it was not then, perhaps, the proper time to speak. He would, however, merely remark that he thought it would have been much better to have rented buildings for their accommodation than to have erected new barracks for that purpose. With the question relative to the expense so incurred, and the unwarrantable mode in which an appropriation of public moneys to defray it had been made, they would, however, have to deal at another time; and, therefore, he would then say no more upon the subject. To the answer proposed, by the draft Address, to that paragraph of His Excellency's Speech which alludes to the late civil disturbances in the Colony, he could not exactly agree. He thought something like what he was about to submit would be more in accordance with the sense of the country, and also with that of hon. members on the Government side of the House, if instead of yielding themselves implicitly to the behests of the Government, they were to act in obedience to the dictates of conscience. The hon. gentleman then read and submitted the following amendment:

"The House of Assembly regret that civil disturbances took place in this Colony during the past year; but the House of Assembly respectfully submit that the alleged open and systematic defiance of the law might have been averted by a more prompt and energetic use of the civil authority, when the disturbances first made their appearance, and thus the recourse to extraordinary measures, as referred to in your Excellency's Speech, might have been avoided."

The organization of the League was illegal so far as respected the Resolution to resist the exaction of rent; but, otherwise, it was perfectly legal. If the association had simply confined themselves to endeavours to induce proprietors to part with the fee simple of their lands, to their tenants, on reasonable terms, no fault could, with any propriety, have been found with them; and, as was evidenced by the bargain which they had concluded with Mr. Haythorne, on behalf of his tenants, they might, had they not most effectually enfeebled their power to do good by the resistance pledge, have succeeded, in the same way, in effecting the emancipation of tenants on other estates from the bonds of the leasehold tenure.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH. It was a mistake to say that that agreement was effected by the Tenant League. They were no party to it in any way. It was directly concluded by and between Mr. Haythorne and his tenants, without the intervention of any other party.

Hon. Mr. COLES. The agreement was drawn up by the leaders of the League; and he would be glad to think the hon. member for the Second District of Queen's County (Hon. Mr. Longworth) was likely to make as good a bargain for his constituents. He (Hon. Mr. Coles) was glad to learn that the League had recinded the resistance clause from their Constitution; and he believed that, if made wiser by experience, they confined themselves to legal and constitutional action, they would yet be a means of ensuring substantial benefits to the tenantry at large. But although he had said so much in their favor, he must qualify it by declaring that the League had nothing to expect from the Liberal party. They had no right to expect anything from that party; for they had brought disgrace upon the country. Neither his hon. friend, the Editor of the *Examiner*, nor any other man who was really anxious for the good name and welfare of the country, could have failed to condemn their proceedings and to denounce their resistance pledge.

The Hon. member then submitted his amendment.

(To be continued.)