

once to relieve the monetary pressure existing at the present time. The reason for going abroad is that, in view of the £12,000 to be paid in July, on the Cunard estate, and the further sum of £12,000 in January next, unless relief can be given, these payments will greatly increase the pressure, and create many difficulties which will prevent the Banks from discounting, as they must so soon prepare to meet these foreign demands. We must recollect that, notwithstanding all the money we have in the Treasury, our predecessors have left us many debts to pay, and we have to look to the payments to be made in the future. My own individual views are that, if a loan can be had, we should endeavor to obtain one. I am certain that, unless some great change in the mercantile world takes place, that when the instalments I have referred to shall have to be paid by us, the community will be placed in a difficult position; consequently, if a loan can be effected at, say about 6 per cent., I think it would be an advantage to this Colony. With respect to what has been said by the other hon. member for Georgetown, I will only remark that it is easy to find fault. We are much obliged to him for endeavoring to enlighten us with respect to composition. No doubt, he will yet be rewarded by being at the head of a government, and when he is, we shall have the satisfaction of looking to a party that will have an Address free from all grammatical errors. In reply to what has been said about the Hon. Col Gray, I can only state that I have always acknowledged my belief that he was actuated by a sincere desire to advance the welfare of the country, when he brought forward the Land Commission measure. But I think it will be admitted that, of all the schemes introduced for the settlement of the Land Question, the Land Purchase Bill has been the best and most successful.

Hon. Mr. DUNCAN.—With regard to the projected loan, Mr. Speaker, I think it can be provided for here. If it is intended to accommodate the mercantile community, then I say that the object in view is a mistaken policy. Trade is like water, if left to itself, it will find its own level. If merchants cannot get money to meet their bills, or procure exchange, it is an evidence that there has been over-trading; and it shows also that the balance of trade is against the Colony. But, Sir, I would sooner borrow money at home, if it can be had, than go abroad to raise funds. If there is an actual necessity for securing a loan, then I would go abroad, providing it can be obtained on reasonable terms. But I am of opinion that the Colony, in matter of finance, is in a very good state, for there is to the credit of the Colony the following sums, viz:—

In the Bank of Prince Edward Island,	£7556	4	0
In the Union Bank,	8225	0	0
Cash in the Treasury,	1010	19	6
In over due Bonds,	1790	0	0
And in Bonds not due,	18615	6	6

Amounting in all to £37,197 10 0

This will leave £15,619 19s. over, after paying the money that will be due on the Cunard Estate up to and on the 1st of January, 1868. That estate has already realized £11,220; other Estates last year £5080; and all that will have to be paid on the Cunard property will be in July next, £10,750, and in January next £10,750. After that time there will be no further demands against the Estate, except the interest, until the Bonds become due in 1876, which leaves some room for the present Government to work upon. They, Sir, must be very extravagant indeed if they cannot carry on the Government with a balance of £16,000 to begin with. But I have not heard what interest they expect to pay on the contemplated loan.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—The hon. and learned Attorney General said six per cent.

Hon. Mr. DUNCAN.—When the party asked for a loan before, some person sent home a copy of the *Royal Gazette*, and when the Colonial Minister saw that the Colony was in debt to the extent of £25,000, while the despatch they sent home with the Loan Bill showed a balance to the credit of the Colony of £5000, the result was, that so soon as the Colonial Minister noticed this discrepancy, the loan was dropped at once. The cause of the present depression of trade in this community is not to be attributed to the purchase of the Cunard Estate. It is to be charged to other causes. Many ships are lying at home unsold, and unless they sell at a better price than they have done recently, ship-builders had better close up their business than go on and lose money. Another reason is that there were large importations last year, and sales have taken place at a ruinous loss, while a large amount of property yet remains on hand unsold.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAN.—When was that Bank statement taken to which you referred?

Hon. Mr. DUNCAN.—On the first of April. The Government, as shown by the statement I gave, have only £21,000 to pay on the Cunard Estate, which, considering the credits bequeathed by the late Government, will leave them about £16,000 to begin with; therefore, I do not think that they should borrow any money at all. The Land Purchase Bill was carried through the Legislature when the Hon. Mr. Coles was the Leader of the Government, but it was supported by both parties. The late Mr. Duncan McLean put forth the ideas, and they worked them out. The purchase of the Cunard Estate, it was believed at one time, would occasion a considerable loss to the Government; but judging from the amount of receipts already come in—about one-fourteenth per cent. of the whole purchase money—and that there is a large quantity of good land yet to sell on the estate, I think the loss will be but trifling, perhaps about £5000 or £6000. With respect to the purchase of more lands, I did not think the present Government would require any funds for that purpose, as I understood that some of the hon. members who support that party had propounded the doctrine before the election that the tenantry could procure free lands without the assistance of the Government.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAN.—Mr. Chairman; we have been told that the Land Purchase Bill did not originate with the Liberal party. I shall not go into the consideration of that matter now; nor is it necessary, as the subject was pretty fully discussed here last year. But I will read a quotation from the *Islander* of 1853, which shows the opinions the Conservative party entertained about the Bill at the time:—

“SWEEPING MEASURE”—THE LAND PURCHASE BILL.—This is emphatically the greatest broom, or leading humbug of the Session. It is just Coles' old Bill, authorizing the Government to purchase Township lands at not more than 7s. 6d. currency per acre, in lots not less than 1000 acres, if any proprietor be willing to sell within the limit. The *Royal Gazette*, of the 7th inst., furnishes an epitome of the Act, and a very confused affair it seems to be. The Government to settle the tenantry in freehold, if they wish it, at 'cost and charges'; but it appears that those same 'cost and charges' may amount to, but not exceed, 'that sum, the annual interest of which would be equal to the annual rent paid by them under their leases.' Reducing our cotemporary's explanation to a perspicuous statement, it means that if a tenant pays £7 10s. rent in the produce of the farm, he may have to pay £7 10s. rent of interest in cash, yearly, to the Treasury, until he be enabled to hand over £150 to the Government, for the freehold of the same. How the 'charges' should amount to such a figure is the mystery.