

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 denigrate 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 befall him, Heaven help the liberal party. If he were to fail, 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 to-day, 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 censure the Government for issuing Warrants to secure 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 unpartizan 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 physics 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. Brecken 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, than 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