Parliamentary.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 15.

This being the day appointed for the meeting of the Legislature, all the Members of the Legislative Council were present, and the oath required by law was duly administered to those elected since last Session, by the Commissioners appointed for that purpose, The Hon. Donald Montgomery was unanimously re-elected President. His Honor William Cleaver Francis Robinson, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor, opened the Session by a speech to both Houses. The officers of the Legislative Council were all re-elected, viz:—John Ball, Esq., Clerk; Rev. L. C. Jenkins, D. D., Chaplain; Henry Palmer, Esq., Usher of the Black Rod and Sergeant-at-Arms; James Ramsay, Reporter; W. C. Trowan, Messenger; John Hobbs, Door Keeper.

Hon COLONIAL SECRETARY (Mr. Haviland) referred to the changes which had taken place in the Government since last Session. After the general election the late Government had, for causes which he would leave the Leader of that Government (Hon. Mr. Haythorne) to explain, resigned. A new Administration had been formed, consisting of Hon. J. C. Pope, President of the Executive Council; Hon. T. H. Haviland, Colonial Secretary; Hon. F. D. St. Croix Brecken, Attorney General; Hons. Messrs. A. A. McDonald, G. W. Howlan, Emanuel McEachern, L. C. Owen, John Yeo and James Duncan. He presumed, however, that, from the position which Mr. Yeo had just assumed, as Speaker of the House of Assembly, he would immediately resign his seat in the Government. He (Mr. H.) expressed a hope that all the Members of the Legislature would lay aside party spirit, and "put their shoulders to the wheel," to advance the true interests of the Colony.

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE briefly explained the causes which had led to the resignation of the late Government. After the General election, considerable differences of opinion existed between him and his colleagues, upon an important public question. Failing to harmonize those discrepancies, he had felt it to be his duty to resign his seat, and in doing so was joined by the other Members of the Administration.—Adjourned.

THURSDAY, Feb. 16.

The contract for Printing and Binding the Journal of this House, for the present Session, was awarded to Mr. Thomas Reilly, at £2 8s. per sheet of eight pages.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD presented the report of the Committee appointed to receive tenders for the publication of the Debates of this House, for the present Session, from which it appeared that three tenders had been received, viz.:—One from Mr. David Laird, at £2 1s. 6d. per sheet of four pages, binding 1s. per copy; one from Mr. Thomas Reilly, at £2 8s. 6d per sheet of four pages, and publish it in the HERALD for £25; and one from Mr. P. R. Bowers, at £2 3s. per sheet of four pages,—binding 1s. 2d. per copy. The Committee recommended that Mr. Laird's tender be accepted, it being the lowest. They also recommended that Mr. Reilly's tender, for publishing the Debates in the HERALD, be accepted, and that the proprietors of papers in King's and Prince Counties should receive the sum of £10 each, if they would engage to publish a fair summary report of the Debates.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole upon the report, and, after some discussion, progress was reported, and leave to sit again granted.

Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY said, in reply to a question by the Hon. Mr. Reid, as to who should be addressed as Leader of the Government, in the Council, that as he (Col. Secretary) was the only departmental officer in the Upper House, the duty of leading the Government there would devolve upon him.—Adjourned.

FRIDAY, Feb. 17.

Hon. THE PRESIDENT informed the House that he had received a communication from Mr. A. McNeill, offering the Members of the Legislative Council free access to the Charlottetown Reading Room during the present Session.

The House, in committee of the whole, resumed the consideration of the report of the committee appointed to receive tenders for printing the debates of this House, and the hon. Mr. McDonald stated that he had ascertained from Mr. Reilly that he did not contemplate that one part of his tender should be accepted without the other, but that he was willing to publish the Debates in the HERALD for £35. Mr. Laird was also willing to publish them in the PATRIOT for £24, and he (Mr. McDonald) was willing to accept Mr. Laird's offer.

Hon. Mr. BREN was also willing to accept Mr. Laird's offer, and he would not oppose giving £24 to one other paper in Charlottetown, but thought £35 was more than they would be justified in giving for that service.

Hon. THE PRESIDENT and Hon. Col. Secretary spoke of the indifference of newspaper proprietors to the publication of the debates, without being subsidised, which indifference they attributed to a want of enterprise. They were of opinion that if the debates of the Legislative were published in the papers instead of being filled, to a great extent, with trashy romantic tales and notices of patent medicines, they would be far more acceptable to their readers.

Hon. Mr. DIXOWELL remarked that the printers were increasing in their demands, but he thought the evil would soon work its own cure. He would like to see the debates circulated in all parts of the country, but it was necessary to guard against an abuse of the public funds.

Hon. Mr. STRONG and hon. Mr. McDonald spoke of the necessity of having the debates published within a reasonable time after the prorogation of the House. Their publication was sometimes extended over the whole summer, and that was the reason they were so little appreciated.

The report was amended by striking out the recommendation to have the debates published in the HERALD, by recommending their publication in the *Patriot*, and by making provision to have them published within six weeks after the prorogation of the Legislature.

The House was then resumed, and the report as amended was adopted.

The following draft address, in reply to the Speech of His Honor, the Lieutenant Governor, at the opening of the Session, was presented by the Hon. Mr. Gordon, and its consideration in Committee of the whole House was, on motion of the Hon. Col. Secretary, made the order of the day for Tuesday next.

To His Honor William Cleaver Francis Robinson, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief, &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOR;

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council, in General Assembly convened, thank your Honor for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present Session.

It is with unfeigned satisfaction that we witness the inauguration of your official intercourse with the representative branches of the Legislature of this Island, and it affords us sincere pleasure to have an opportunity of congratulating your Honor upon the occasion of your assumption of the Government of this Colony, under such favorable auspices, at a time when peace, tranquility and commercial prosperity pervade every portion of the Empire.

It will be our pleasing duty to give your Honor our hearty co-operation and support in carrying out any measures for the advancement of this Colony, entrusted to your charge by Her Most Gracious Majesty.

We anticipate beneficial results from your earnest desire to become acquainted with our local wants and circumstances, and hope we may entertain the assurance that the period of your Honor's Administration of the Government of this Island will be referred to, as unprecedented in the history of our commercial prosperity, as well as marked by the great efforts made towards the advancement of the welfare and happiness of the people.

With your Honor, we are deeply impressed with the necessity for encouragement to competitors in our various industrial pursuits, and are gratified that you have had so favorable an opportunity of examining some of the staple products of the Colony, as well as the evidences of skilled industry exhibited at the General Exhibition, held soon after your Honor's arrival.

We feel that we have reason to be devoutly thankful for the Providential dispensations enjoyed by us, to which your Honor has happily referred.

We thank your Honor for the intimation relative to the various papers and documents which are to be laid before us, and which shall receive our most deliberate consideration.

We are glad to be informed that the prohibitory instructions which had been issued to Custom-house officials, with respect to the practice of admitting United States fishing vessels to entry in the ports of this Island, have been withdrawn.

The progress made in the erection of the new public building in Charlottetown is most satisfactory, and we view with approval the preparations being made, in order to give increased accommodation to the various departments of Government, for the purpose of facilitating the public business, and for the greater security of the public Records.

Measures for extending the usefulness of the Savings' Bank shall receive that considerate attention which the importance of that most valuable institution demands.

The law relating to the limitation of the terms of the Supreme Court has been found to operate to the inconvenience of suitors. Our attention will be devoted to the framing of such legislative enactment as will tend to further a more expeditious administration of justice.

We cordially agree with your Honor in the opinion that the means for the transport and shipment of the productions of this Island are now inadequate to the wants of the people, and it will be our aim, as it will be our duty, to provide such accommodation in this branch of the public service as the exigencies of the country demand, and commensurate with the financial position of the Colony.

We concur in opinion with your Honor, that the Asylum for insane persons requires to be enlarged in order to afford more accommodation. When the papers, having reference to this Institution, are submitted, we shall not fail to give the matter due consideration.

We most cordially reciprocate the desire expressed by your Honor, that such relations may be established between your Honor and this branch of the Legislature as may tend to the most satisfactory results, in the legislation of the Island, and prove beneficial to all classes of Her Majesty's subjects.

Adjourned until Tuesday next.

TUESDAY, Feb. 21.

House in Committee on the Address in reply to his Honor's speech.—Hon. Mr. Gordon in the Chair.

First and second paragraphs agreed to without discussion.

On the third paragraph being read, Hon. Mr. Beer made a few observations respecting the "local wants" of the Colony, one of the most important of which he considered to be the improvement of our highways. The permanent improvement of some of our highways had been commenced, and would have to be continued, even at a greater outlay, whether a Railroad were built through the Island or not. He would like to see a stone crusher in each County, and five or six schooners employed during the summer in carrying stone or gravel from the Mainland, to improve our roads. He would not object to seeing the Colony run in debt to the amount of £100,000, for the purpose of making good permanent roads.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD had travelled a good deal last Autumn, and had not seen any roads so bad as those in the vicinity of Charlottetown, with the exception of the parts macadamized, which showed the necessity of effecting some improvement in the neighborhood of shipping places. He was not aware of any disposition on the part of the Government to abandon the macadamization of roads; but it should be borne in mind that macadamized roads would not yield any revenue towards the repayment of the cost of their construction, while a railroad would be expected to yield some return.

Hon. the PRESIDENT thought the discussion was premature, as a subsequent paragraph in the address would bring the subject more fully before them.

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE said the subsequent paragraph referred more particularly to the subject of railways, and he thought the improvement of roads could be discussed with as much propriety under the paragraph just read, which referred to local wants. He might say that he hailed with satisfaction the announcement in his Honor's speech, that he intended to see for himself and become personally acquainted with the different localities of the country, and with the people. He was, also, glad to hear from a Member of the Government that they intended to proceed with the improvement of the roads, for it was absolutely necessary, and yet would not interfere with a much greater improvement which he hoped to see commenced at an early day. At the same time, he would regret to see a very large expenditure for the macadamization of roads. That system had had its day; but a better system was now universally superseding it.

Hon. Mr. BALDERSTON referred to the difficulty of keeping the stone crusher at work, and the expense of macadamizing roads with imported stone. He thought that by the importation and application of coarse gravel they could be improved at a much less cost.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL approved of the suggestion respecting the importation of gravel. If it could be imported at a reasonable cost, and kept for repairing roads in the fall, they might be kept in a good state of repair all through the shipping season. The more the roads got out of repair, the more it would cost to put them in repair, and if the ruts were filled up in proper time, the cost would not be so very great.

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE was not sanguine respecting the utility of gravel from Nova Scotia. He believed it would cost a larger amount and was not as durable as stone. In one place on the St. Peter's Road, Island stone had been applied to the depth of ten inches and covered three inches deep with imported gravel. For a time the road was excellent, but ultimately it gave way under the pressure of heavy carting.

Hon. Mr. STRONG was gratified to hear that the Government did not intend to relax their efforts to improve our roads by means of macadamization, whatever their intention might be with respect to a railroad. He referred to the improvement effected in the neighborhood of Summerside, by means of the application of hard stone, abundance of which could be obtained upon the shore; but he was at a loss to know why the ruling powers had not given a Stone Crusher to each County. He thought the time had arrived when Statute Labor should be abolished, for in almost every instance the law was evaded, as people did not appear to consider it any sin to cheat Her Majesty.

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE, while admitting that statute labor was inadequate to the making and maintenance of roads, thought it would be unwise to abolish it altogether at present.

Hon. Mr. REID considered the Board of Works, Commissioners, Overseers, &c., a complete farce. Men were called out to work three days for the small sum of 2s. 6d. each, and if that sum were placed in the hands of competent persons to expend, much more work would be preformed. There was also an amount of jobbing connected with the Commissioners' and Overseers' department which should be investigated by the Government.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD thought his honor, who had just spoken, was guilty of a dereliction of duty if he was aware of such jobbing as he had referred to, and did not bring it formally to the notice of the Government. Successive Governments had tried to improve our road system, and thought the present system did not reach perfection, yet it was an improvement; and he believed that the Board of Works and all parties connected with it, were desirous of doing their duty.

Hon. Col. SECRETARY was sorry to hear that there was something so very "rotten in the state of Denmark," and was surprised that his hon. friend on the left (Mr. Reid) had not lodged a formal complaint at the proper quarter. He trusted that he would do so before the next meeting of the Executive Government, and he felt assured that it would be duly attended to.

Hon. Mr. REID believed the Commissioners at the Westward were as honest as any on the Island, but still complaints of the misappropriation of money were made, and he (Mr. R.) thought he was doing his duty in making them known in the Legislature. It was the system that was rotten.

Hon. Mr. BELL could not agree with all that had been said by his colleague; but still, the road system, bad as it was, was not faithfully carried out. He approved of the macadamization of roads, but at the present rate, the next generation would not see all our roads macadamized. The Board of Works was too cumbersome and expensive without corresponding advantages. The roads should be repaired at an earlier period of the season, and more attention should be paid to winter roads.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL thought it was strange that while roads were made through the wilderness years ago when the country was but thinly settled, they could not now be kept in repair. The young men now thought more of driving upon the roads and destroying them then they did of working upon them.

Clause agreed to.—Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 22.

A copy of statistics of New Zealand was presented to the House by His Honor the President, and laid on the table. The House then resumed the consideration of the Address in answer to His Honor's Speech.

On the paragraph relating to exhibitions being read, Hon. Col. Secretary observed that he thought there could only be one opinion upon it. His Honor spoke at some length upon the necessity of encouraging the various industrial pursuits of the country, and of the marked improvement which had taken place in those pursuits of late years, as evinced by the various articles exhibited at those exhibitions. The carriages and harness exhibited would compare favorably with those manufactured in older countries. In order to prevent our live stock from deteriorating he thought it was necessary that importations, to a limited extent, should take place from time to time.

Hon. Mr HAYTHORNE was also in favor of encouraging Exhibitions of articles of industry as well as live stock, though he thought the recent Exhibition held in Charlottetown was not so satisfactory as some of its predecessors. If those exhibitions were merely looked at in a social light, he thought the money appropriated for them was well expended.

Hon. Mr. REID spoke of the great difficulty of transporting articles from the western part of the Island to Summerside. He thought the Exhibitions should be held in a more central part of the Island. In his opinion it would be advisable for the Government to appropriate a certain amount yearly, for the importation of improved stock and seed grain.

Hon. Mr. BELL thought it was very pleasing to see the improvement made in agricultural pursuits during the last few years. He thought it would be well to give our farmers an opportunity of competing with those in the neighboring Colonies. In the articles of grain and some implements he thought we could compete with any country. The importation of thoroughbred stock was a matter of great importance, but they were so expensive that it was only through the Legislature or a Central Society that it could be accomplished.

Hon. Mr. BALDERSTON thought our manufacturers should be encouraged. We now import many articles which could be manufactured of a better quality at home. Our soil was well adapted to the cultivation of flax, and grain sacks made of it here by hand would wear four or five times as long as any we can import. Improvement of stock should also be encouraged, and he thought the Government should appropriate a sum sufficient to import a first class blood horse this year.

Hon. Mr. BEER thought the country was gradually waking up to the necessity of attending to the improvement of stock, and the people had the means of keeping stock much better than they had a a few years ago, owing principally to the vastly increased quantity of hay raised by the application of lime and musselmud.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL did not think there would be any difference of opinion respecting the benefits of improved stock, but there might be some difference respecting the manner in which improved stock would be distributed through the country. He was not satisfied with the way in which stock had formerly been distributed.

Hon. the PRESIDENT, Hon. Messrs. Strong, Haythorne, Gordon and McDonald, all spoke on the necessity of improving stock and of giving encouragement to agriculture.

On the next paragraph being read. Hon. Col. Secretary remarked that he was afraid the people of this Colony were not as thankful as they should be for the many blessings they enjoy. We had an abundant harvest, our agriculturists had received remunerative prices for their produce, and the country was in flourishing circumstances. We had also been blessed with health. No dire disease had decimated our population, and we had also been protected from the fearful scourge of war. His honor referred to the war between France and Germany, and said that he would not consider it a misappropriation of the public funds, if a small sum were granted, as a thank offering, to relieve some of those on the Continent of Europe, who were without the common necessaries of life.

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE said he sympathised with the Col. Secretary's remarks, and trusted that his reference to the sufferers in France, might be taken as an indication that the Government intended to devote a small sum to their relief.

Seventh paragraph.

Hon. Mr. BEER alluded to the address to Her Majesty passed by the Legislative Council last session, relative to passing a compulsory measure for the settlement of the land question, and expressed a hope that a favorable answer to that address would be found among the papers referred to by His Honor in his Speech.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD said the receipt of that address at the Colonial office had been acknowledged, but he was not aware that any further answer to it had been received.

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE was inclined to think that an answer had been received, but, as several months had elapsed since he had retired from the Government, he could not undertake to say what the purport of it was. His honor alluded to the absence of any reference to the Land Question in the Speech, and wished to know if they were to take that fact as an indication that the Government did not intend to take any action in the matter.

Hon. Col. SECRETARY replied that the Government was prepared to carry out the spirit of the laws upon the statute book, relative to the purchase of estates, and could not promise anything further at present.

Adjourned.

THURSDAY, Feb. 23.

The House, in committee of the whole, resumed the consideration of the address, and, on the eighth paragraph being read, Hon. Col. Secretary spoke in reference to the orders issued to Custom House officers, last summer, respecting the admission of foreign vessels to entry in the ports of this Island. He considered that the Government had no alternative but to act as they did, and he believed that an able state document, or remonstrance, sent to the Imperial Authorities by the late Government, was the means of having the restrictions removed late in the Autumn.

Hon. Mr. BEER was of opinion that the harsh and arbitrary orders referred to, had not originated with the Imperial Authorities, but on this side of the Atlantic—probably at Ottawa—and were designed as a punishment to the colonies which refused to become part of the Dominion.

Hon. Mr. BELL spoke of the loss sustained by parties engaged in trade by the restrictive orders issued last summer, without any notice. He considered that the late Government, which he characterized as imbecile, was very much to blame, and it was a reflection upon them to have Her Majesty's officers coming here to execute the laws of the country. The "dogs of war" had been let loose upon people who considered they were doing a perfectly honest and legitimate business.

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE replied to the Hon. Mr. Bell. He was fully aware that the orders issued last summer to Custom House officers would be felt as oppressive by many parties engaged in trade; but if the Government had not acted as they did, matters might have been much worse. He would ask Mr. Bell and other members of the House to suspend their judgment till the papers would be laid before them.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD said it was not to enforce the laws of the colony that a British officer was sent here, but to enforce a treaty between the Imperial Government and the Government of the United States. If the Government of the Colony had not acted as they did, a fleet of American vessels might have come into the harbor and all have been confiscated, which might have led to an interruption of the friendly relations existing between the two countries.

On the ninth clause being read, Hon. the President, Hon. Col. Secretary, Hon. Mr. Bell and Hon. Mr. Beer, spoke in approval of the action of the late Government, with respect to the public building in course of erection on Queen Square.

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE referred to the difference of opinion which existed respecting the propriety of placing the building referred to on Queen Square. As the law was explicit upon that point, they had no alternative but to build on the Square, or defer building till another season, which, considering the great necessity which existed for increased accommodation in public offices, was not desirable.

On the clause relating to the extension of accommodation in the Saving's Bank being read, several members spoke in favor of granting the increased accomodation required.

Hon. Messrs. Bell, Strong, Muirhead and hon. the President advocated the establishment of a branch of the Saving's Bank and several public offices in Summerside.

Hon. Mr. GORDON was glad that the subject had been brought forward, and hoped that the Bill would provide for the establishment of a branch of the Saving's Bank, and the public offices referred to in Georgetown also.

The paragraph relating to the extension of the Terms of the Supreme Court called forth a lengthy speech from the Hon. Col. Secretary, showing the necessity for such extension, and the loss which Suitors sometimes sustained by having their suits postponed from one time to another.

Twelfth paragraph.

Hon. Mr. BEER did not like to vote without further information upon such an important question as the construction of a trunk line of railway from Alberton to Georgetown. He had been given to understand that the members from the western part of the Island would not support the proposition unless the line should go to Tignish. Others would require it to go to Souris, and though it would not go near a number of the principal settlements, he believed it would not be less than 160 miles in length. Even supposing it could be built for £5,000 per mile, it would cost the Colony between £50,000 and £60,000 a year, which would overwhelm the country in difficulties. He was not altogether opposed to building a railroad, but thought, 30 or 40 miles would be enough for the Colony to undertake at the outset.

Hon. Col. SECRETARY said the paragraph in his honor's speech merely called the attention of the Legislature to the inadequacy of the means of transporting produce to the shipping places. It did not commit the Government to a railway policy. If a Railway Bill were brought down, it would be time enough then to discuss the question of the number of miles to be constructed. He could not deny the great advantage of railway communication, providing it could be obtained without crippling the resources of the Colony. He did not see why this Colony should be an exception to almost all civilized countries.

Hon. the PRESIDENT was not prepared to go for a railway at present. The question should be submitted to the people, and it was not spoken of at the last Election. In the mean time he thought the Government should turn their attention to other means of improving the facilities for transportation. If a railroad were to be built, a trunk line should be the first consideration, and branch lines would eventually follow. He thought that two months would suffice to carry all the produce raised on the Island over the railroad, and during the remaining ten months, there would be very little employment for it.

Hon. Mr. MUIRHEAD said he was in favor of constructing a railroad throughout the Island, and had been so for a number of years; but he was not prepared to vote for it till the line should be thoroughly surveyed, the number of bridges ascertained, &c. It was reported that a company had offered to build the road at £5000 per mile, but they reserved the privilege of choosing the route themselves, and they might run round all the hills, making the road one-fifth longer than it would otherwise be.

Hon. Mr. BELL was also in favor of building a railroad from Tignish to Georgetown, and he was confident that it would pay in the course of a few years. It would tend to increase the trade and develope the resources of the country to a greater extent than most people were aware of. It was an erroneous idea that all the freight that would pass over the road, could be carried in two months. Many articles would be carried besides agricultural produce and fish. There would be lime, lumber, firewood, coal and many other articles. He was satisfied that there was coal on Lot 3, and hoped the Government would appropriate a sum of money this year to ascertain that fact.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, Feb. 21.

Dr. Robertson presented a petition from Mr. John Gaffney, against the return of John McDonald, Esq., as a member for the Third District of Prince County. The petition recites that some 39 voters polled their votes without being entitled to do so, and that the petitioner's agent objected to the votes on declaration day. The Sheriff declared that Mr. Arsenault had received 595 votes, Mr. McDonald 557, Gaffney 553, and Sinclair 495. The petitioner contends that if the objected votes were struck off, he would have been ahead of Mr. McDonald. The petition was made an order of the day for Thursday. The Address in answer to the Governor's Speech was then taken up. The first paragraph was agreed to without discussion.

The Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN (Leader of the Opposition) complimented His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, upon his assumption of the administration of the Government of this Colony and thought it rather extraordinary the Government were allowing the different paragraphs of the Address to pass without comment. He hoped the Governor would visit the country next summer and make himself acquainted with its agricultural capabilities.

Hon. B. Davies followed, and referred to the first paragraph, saying that he was not glad at the present political state of things, which was what the first paragraph really meant. It appeared to him that from the ominous silence of the Government upon the School question, he feared the present free system of this Island was to be interfered with. He referred to the vast number of paupers in England, who, had they the advantages of our education system, would not have been a burden upon the country. Free land and free education were what the people wanted to make them happy and independent.

Hon. Mr. McEACHERN referred to the fact that in the feudal times, to which Mr. Davies referred, education was in the hands of the monks and was free; hence, the peasant's son was qualified to become a Prince of the Church, or a Prime Minister of England. This might account for the difference between the peasants of that day and of the present. Mr. Davies's reference to the French Revolution as an outburst of liberty was unfortunate. The leaders of the movement banished the name of Christianity from the land, and guillotined every man who professed to be a friend of law and order.

Hon. B. DAVIES replied by bringing up Cromwell's barebones, and declared himself a friend of the revolution now going on in England in relation to free land and free education.

Hon. Mr. McEACHERN again called attention to the fact that the system of education in vogue in the middle ages, and which placed master and man upon almost a footing of equality as regards the comforts of life, was the very system which he now deprecates.

Hon. Mr. Callbeck thought the speech rather shadowy as regards the policy of the Government. Something should have been said about education and the land question.

Hon. Mr. PERRY thought it unnecessary just now to discuss the whole speech. With respect to education, the Government is not expected to meddle with the system now in operation during their term of office, and he doubted if the Opposition were prepared to offer any resolution on the subject which thought meet the views of Catholics.

Mr. McNEILL thought there was sufficient matter in the speech to call for opposition. The Land question and Education were too important to be overlooked—especially education, which broke up the late Government. He was afraid it was like a smoky chimney, although patched up, it would break out again.

Hon. P. SINCLAIR complained of the bashfulness of the Government members in explaining the omission of two such great subjects. They should speak out and let the country know what they meant to do.

Mr. COWAN thought the Government acted on the principle of least said soonest mended. He hoped the Land question would not be neglected by the Government. Lot 27 should certainly be purchased, and Lot 19, in which the faith of the Leader of the Government was bound up, should likewise come into the hands of the Government. These estates would prove self-sustaining.

The Hon. D. DAVIES believed that, with the exception of one or two estates, which were almost made a present to the Government, the lands of the Colony would not prove self-sustaining. The well-to-do farmers did not need the assistance of the Government. The poor ones required all their capital to improve their farms, and hence, however small the price per acre of their lands, they could not meet their instalments as they became due. It must, therefore, happen that the Government will lose on purchases. Farmers require capital as well as merchants. Before further estates were purchased, it would be advisable to see how the present purchases turn out. With reference to the reduction of teachers' salaries a few years ago, referred to by Mr. McNeill the plan was based upon a sound principle. As to the formation of the Government, he explained that parties were so broken up, that the coalition became necessary. He was a Confederate—a moderate one, as were also some of his friends, which led to the break up of the Conservative party, and the Education question broke up the Liberal party. The Catholics, under those circumstances, made overtures to those Conservative members who agreed with him, upon the basis that if they took no action on Confederation, they would not press the School question. There was nothing degrading to either party in the combination, which was an absolute necessity. There was no sacrifice of principle; and religious wrangling was knocked on the head by the arrangement, and a guarantee given to the country that Confederation was not to be foisted upon it.

Hon. Mr. PERRY, in reference to County Exhibitions, said that while he approved of them, yet he objected to their being held in the extreme end of a county, as was the case in Prince County. The exhibition, while creditable to the exhibitors, yet could not generally be participated in, nor be looked upon as a complete representation of the County.

Hon. B. DAVIES moved that the address be referred back to the Committee who prepared it, for the purpose of connecting the first and second disjointed paragraphs, which were evidently intended to be one.

Hon. Mr. POPE deemed it unnecessary, and replied to Mr. Davies, in defence of the course adopted by the Government, in not making long declarations in moving the House into Committee, on the address in answer to the Speech. He quoted Mr Davies' own remarks in support of that view when he was *pro tem* Leader last Session. He then went into the various paragraphs of the Speech, defending them *seriatim*. As to the subjects of Education and the Land Tenures, which some hon. Members said should be named in the Addres, he would only remark that the Conservative party did not go to the country at the last Election, to disturb the present system of Education; why then allude to it? Neither did they promise the people compulsory legislation on the Land Question. He would ask why did not the hon. Member for Belfast (Mr. Davies), during the past four Sessions, attempt compulsory measures? That hon. Member must know that such a step would be in direct violation of all the Despatches which had been received from the Imperial Government. He, the hon. Member for Belfast, must also remember the reply which the Government, of which he was an official, received to their humble supplication, asking permission to introduce such a measure. That stinging rebuke should convince him of the utter folly of such a course. The present Governmen were, however, desirous to purchase all the Proprietory Estates they could, on justifiable terms; and in reply to his colleague, Mr. Howatt, touching the purchase of the Estates to which that hon. Member alluded, a correspondence has been entered into on that subject, the reply to which, when received, will be given.

Mr. McLEAN objected to the King's County Exhibitions being held at Georgetown, as unfair to the County. The Exhibitions should be held alternately at Souris and St. Peter's Bay. He then referred to the Catholics joining the present Government—especially those who pledged themselves to their constituents for a grant to St. Dunstan's College, and then pledged themselves in the opposite direction. He was in favor of education—a higher education—and regretted that Catholics should pledge themselves against a grant to St. Dunstan's College.

Hon. Mr. McEACHERN denied that he ever pledged himself in favor of a grant to St. Dunstan's College, and he wished to know if the party with which Mr. McLean associated himself, were in favor of a grant.

Mr. McLEAN denied that he was associated with any party.

Here, an altercation ensued between these gentlemen, which it is not necessary to report.

Hon. Mr. PERRY corrected an assertion of the hon. P. Sinclair, that he said the people were quite satisfied with the Education Act. He said the majority were satisfied with it; but it was well known that a large minority were not. Mr. Perry denied having made a pledge to his constituents to insist upon a grant to St. Dunstan's College, and he was not inconsistent. He would violate his pledge if he opposed this Government upon that question alone. So long as they legislated for the good of the country, they would receive his support.

After some cross-firing between Mr. McLean and Messrs. Duncan and McEachern, in which the charge was preferred against Mr. McLean of being willing to support the coalition, provided he received a seat in the Executive or the Custom House, and which charge Mr. McLean indignantly denied.—

Hon. D. DAVIES explained that whilst the Government were muzzled on Confederation, and the Catholics pledged not to press the Education Question upon the Executive, yet, they were at perfect liberty to try and mould public opinion to their views upon the subject. This was fully understood.

Hon. Mr. BRECKEN referred to the causes which led to the formation of the present Government. The late one broke up from one cause or another, and Mr. Pope was called upon to form an Administration. The task was a difficult one; but Mr. Pope was equal to the emergency. Out of the three political parties into which the representatives of the people were divided, he accomplished the task—rendered easy by the moderation of the Catholics—of forming the present Coalition Government. Mr. William Pitt was a noble instance of a statesman who formed and led a Coalition Government, from the purest motives of patriotism, and who served the best interests of his country by doing so. As to the Speech, the Government did not allude to the School Question, because they intended to keep faith and leave the matter to the people. The Land Question was, in the opinion of the Hon. D. Davies, settled two years ago, and yet he twitted the Government for not mentioning the subject in the Speech. The only mention necessary, was to buy up Estates as they offered, and this the Government intended to do, if for no other reason than to stop the mischievous agitation of demagogues like Mr. D. Davies.

Mr. McNEILL said the Land Question should have been alluded to in the Speech. The final settlement of that question was indispensible to the happiness of the people. It was strange that the hon. Atty. General had ceased to advocate Confederation. Hon. Members should carry out their principles. It was well known that the late Government broke up upon the School Question, and though they appeared to work, there were traitors in their midst. He feared that there was a question alluded to in the Speech that would tend to Confederation.

Hon. ATTY. GENERAL asked what about the Tenant League and the principles contended for on behalf of that association, by the hon. Member for Rustico. He (hon. Atty. General) would ask if that hon. Member had carried out his pledges and promises, when his party refused to entertain his views on the Tenant League movement. Did he abandon the Government who voted against him and the hon. Member for Belfast (Mr. B. Davies) on that question?

Mr. McNEILL said he was not ashamed of his actions touching the League movement, and his return at the last General Election was evidence of the people's approval.

Hon. P. SINCLAIR referred to the policy of the Government—it was one of expediency, and the pledge was degrading. Confederation might be indirectly brought about. The object is to work up taxation, so as to make Confederation desirable. The combination is a dishonest one and utterly devoid of principle.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAN said that Governments were always censured by the Opposition. There was nothing in the paragraph under consideration respecting Education. Hon. Members, however, in the Opposition, seemed anxious to drag that question into the debate, and he was prepared to meet them. The hon. member for Belfast, (Mr. Benj. Davies) with all his boasted liberalism, at the late Election recorded his vote for the Prince of Tories in this Colony, the Hon. Edward Palmer. When the Liberal party met at the celebrated caucus held in the Colonial Building, after the General Election last August, a majority of them were found in favor of Grants to denominational Schools. Successive leaders of that party held similar views with the majority of the party, and the Hon. Mr. Haythorne honorably acted up to his convictions on the question of Grants. Catholic constituencies returned their members in favor of Grants to superior institutions of learning—but not to destroy the common School system of the Colony. And su ely the views and feelings of thirty-five thousand of the population of a small Colony should be respected. He (Hon. Mr. Howlan) then read the resolutions submitted on behalf of the advocates of Grants at the meeting or caucus referred to. The building of the new Methodist College at a cost, to that denomination, of some ten thousand pounds, was a substantial proof of the fact that others as well as Catholics desired to have religious teaching in schools.

It was but reasonable for the representatives of Catholic interests to expect that a party to whom they had given an almost undivided support for twenty years, should be disposed to meet to some extent, at all events, their views and wishes. Catholics had nothing to expect from the Conservative party, they had no claims on that party, but when they, the Catholic members, were told in that caucus by the party with whom they were politically allied, that they, the Catholics, could leave the Liberal party, as there was another party ready to coalesce with those so called great Liberals, there was no option for them, but to find new political associates. That such a combination of proscriptionists was contemplated could easily be understood on referring to the *Patriot* newspaper. He (Hon. Mr. Howlan) then read an extract from that paper, calling upon Protestants to sink all political differences, and form astrong and compact party to resist Roman Catholic aggression.

Hon. D. DAVIES regretted that so much had been said about a question productive of no good. The experience of the past should convince hon. members on all sides, that no good results could follow from the agitation of questions calculated to excite the people. As to the paragraph under discussion, all would admit that those annual Exhibitions for the promotion of industry were very desirable. The prizes awarded on those occasions were altogether too inadequate. Money could not, in any way, be better or more judiciously expended than in fostering those annual exhibitions, for the encouragement of agricultural and local industry.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR admitted that no political party in the Colony could do well without the support of Catholics, if it could be honorably retained. They might be satisfied for a time with a grant for their College; but, their aim, doubtless, was the endowment of all schools built by their church.

Mr. REILLY explained the position in which he stood, touching the change that had taken place. His experience was, that those loudest in their professions of liberalism had not practised what they preached. The late so called liberal party were broken up because of the extreme views of some of that party, in reference to the school question, and the late Government could not be carried on. As a consequence, the Leader of the present Government (Hon. Mr. Pope) was called upon to form a Government. He summoned those whom he considered would coalesce. There was no alternative but another general election or a coalition. It would have been folly to appeal to an excited people. The cry would be Protestant against Catholic, and past experience should guard against a religious warfare. It was perfectly understood, however, that the supporters of the present Government were at liberty to express their views freely on the subject of Education, as on any other question. But not to embarrass the Government by forcing the question until the public mind was better educated to receive it. The success which followed the opening of the St. Patrick's Hall School, and the Methodist College in Charlottetown, and the fact that the secular schools of which the hon. member (Mr. Sinclair) was such an admirer, were deserted, were substantial proof that the people had lost confidence in the system that obtained. To deprive those high schools in which were educated all the children of Catholic parents, and a large number of Protestant children, of Legislative aid, was an unjust doctrine.

Mr. DUNROE said the policy of the present Government on the school question was clearly defined when the election took place, and it was to the effect that no grants to sectarian schools or colleges, be given during the term of the present House. He replied to the remarks of the hon. member for East Point (Mr. McLean), touching the removal of the Annual Exhibition of Agricultural and Local industry, from Georgetown to Souris, and contended that no part of the County was so convenient and suitable a place for the exhibition as the capital of the County. The large concourse of people who assembled on the occasion, required accommodation which could not be afforded as well in any other place in the County as at Georgetown.

Hon. Mr. McEACHERN agreed with the remarks of his colleague (Mr. McLean) on the subject of removing the exhibition to Souris, that being a more central part of the County than Georgetown, which was situated almost at the extreme end of it.

House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 22.

The answer to the Governor's Speech was again taken up. The fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh paragraphs were agreed to without discussion. The eighth, relative to the treatment of American vessels in British ports, called up the

Hon. Mr. PERRY, who pointed out the advantages of American vessels frequenting our harbors, and the satisfactory trade relations existing between the Colonies and the United States, during the continuance of the Reciprocity Treaty. The Americans, however, having abrogated the Treaty, the Colonists had nothing to do but to fall back upon their rights. He hoped the Commission, about to meet, would harmoniously settle the matter.

Mr. BREN was glad that the restrictions referred to were abolished. The Americans were our best customers. The retaliatory policy adopted, was not the best that could be adopted.

Mr. McNEILL was gratified at the repeal of the Custom regulations. Their enforcement injured the Revenue last year. We should cultivate a friendly spirit with the Americans.

Hon. Mr. POPE contended that the regulations were called for at the time, because a new Treaty was not likely to be gained by giving up all our rights, and going down on our knees to the Americans, praying for free trade. The relaxation of the regulations in reference to the re-shipment of fish and the right of entry into Colonial ports, was the result of petitions from this side of the Atlantic, and partly owing to the desire of the Imperial Government to settle the affair amicably with the American Government. The question for the House to consider was, whether we should accept any Treaty inferior to the late one, should such a proposition be submitted to the Government, as is likely to be the case when the International Commission comes to take the matter into consideration?

Hon. Mr. BRECKEN looked upon the matter as in a transition state. The powers of the Commissioners were not absolute in the matter. After collecting information, their suggestions will doubtlessly be forwarded for our acceptance. The rigid carrying out of the article of the Treaty of 1818, which gave American fishing vessels the right to enter Colonial ports, only for the purpose of shelter, and getting supplies of wood and water