

sloners. I think that no party will rise up, and eschew what I have now said. What did Messrs. Cooper, Rae, Macintosh, and others get for advocating the just claims of the people? They were honorable men—they were patriots! But they were men who were reviled and misrepresented, as I have been. Well, matters came to this, that all these misrepresentations and disappointments had so exasperated the people, that it led to the formation of the Tenant Union organization. I have been referred to in connection with that organization. In the early rising of that body, I felt that they had a perfect right to make offers to the proprietors. And I tell you, Sir, that the Union was composed of the very bone and sinew of Queen's County. And I contend, Sir, that the Tenant League or any other body of men, have a perfect right to make overtures to the proprietors. No objection can be taken to that; and, Sir, lands were bought up by that organization on fair terms.

Mr. BRECKEN.—Where?

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—From Hon. Mr. Haythorne, and others. They bought that gentleman's estate. They were respectable men, and when they came to this city to take a drive, they were not men who were to be insulted by a proprietary faction's sending constables quite unnecessarily to annoy them. I was never a member of the Tenant Union, but as soon as I understood that in some parts of the country a few refractory men contemplated resistance, I published a letter in the *Weekly*, the organ of that party, shewing them that to do so, would just be committing what the proprietors wished them to do, and warned them against any unlawful proceedings. But after the Government made representations that it was necessary to have the troops brought here, they brought up a few of the Leaguers to court for alleged resistance to the law, but had hard work to get evidence to convict them.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—The hon. member was Foreman of the Jury that brought in the Bill.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—A grand jury hears evidence for the Crown only. The grand jury, therefore, sent the whole case down, in order that the evidence might be heard on both sides; and what do you find? Why, that, in order to punish these men, the verdict of the jury had to be set aside, and the men indicted were punished for a crime of which the jury acquitted them. I think, when such is the case, that there is no liberty for the people—no liberty for the subject; and when we see men gentlemen at the bar, who pride themselves as being so patriotic and high-minded, allowing all this to take place before them, and raising no voice against it, it speaks little for their love of liberty.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—I say, Sir, that if the Judges have done wrong, it is the duty of the hon. member, as a member of the Government, to have them removed from the bench.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—I did not say that the Judges had done wrong; I merely repeated what I had heard and read in the public newspapers; and will, Mr. Chairman, hon. members on the other side of this House deny this statement? When the Government undertook to purchase the Cunard estate, it was their duty to have made some provision for the payment. I think I saw in some paper a statement to the effect that the Banks represented that they could meet all these payments as they became due, without inconvenience. I believe such a statement was made, and that the Government would not have effected the purchase unless they had such expectations. But we know the situa-

tion of the Banks, that, under their constitution, they can not afford the accommodation required, because it has been and is as much as the Banks can do to afford merchants the ordinary requirements for remittances to Britain; and it is evident to every man acquainted with the trade of the Colony, that the Banks cannot now meet the payment on exchange in England without draining the specie from their vaults. In doing so, the community would suffer, because the exchange they require will be absorbed by Government, and the distress which we already feel will be fearfully augmented when the second and third payments are made. I therefore blame the late Government for entering into a purchase before providing means to pay it—without distracting the trade of the Colony. Sir, they have left us this difficulty to contend with, without allowing time to make the necessary arrangement for overcoming this want of statesmanship, by obtaining money in the British market to meet it. While trade is flourishing, it is all very well, but when a reverse comes around, and the Banks cannot give the facilities required, it is different; and where is the gentleman in business, who is not aware of this? I am apprehensive that, when the time for the next payment to be made on the estate comes on, a great difficulty will be experienced, unless some remedy is provided. When the late Government made the first payment, where did they go for money? They went to the Banks. The Banks do not create exchange or bring gold into the market; that is the merchants' avocation, who employ our labor in various ways, in constructing ships, in fishing, &c., &c.; and by exporting these effects abroad, they (the merchants) then give the Banks exchange on their brokers for the proceeds of their shipments. It is true the merchant cannot go on without aid from the Banks,—one assists the other; it therefore follows if the Government drain the Banks of gold, that they cannot afford the accommodation trade requires, then it becomes paralyzed. This is what we are rapidly approaching to, and if the Government cannot effect credit in London, to draw on in payment for the sums falling due on the Cunard estate, I think the Banks will either have to stop specie payment or shut up for a time, which will not only entail ruin on the trader, but eventually fall as heavily on the agricultural classes. I cannot account for gentlemen, possessing the ability the late Government were acknowledged to possess, entering at all into this arrangement, unless it was that they expected the payment of this debt would be an inducement for us to go into Confederation, as we might be enabled to meet this difficulty out of the sum they expected the Canadians would give us for yielding up our liberty. A deeper laid scheme could not have been devised. (Hear, hear.) You may say hear, hear; but many who hear me know it was so. My hon. colleague has said that this state of affairs has been brought on by overtrading. I cannot agree with him. The stock now in this Island is not one-sixth more than it was last year; nor does the fall in the price of shipping apply to this Island with any force. It applies with more force to those ships sent from St. John and Quebec. The people of England ought to be proud of these Colonies, when they look at such splendid ships as are sent from New Brunswick and Quebec. They are classed for seven years, when they should be classed for twelve. They are equal to ships built of English oak, being built of material that will not take the dry rot. Now, I wish to show that the cause of the low price of these splendid ships sent home from the sister Provinces, is that there are more of them in the market than are required; this is the reason why their price is so much depressed. The ships we build range from 100 to 300 tons, and as but few so small are sent to market from other parts,—the requirements being greater, our vessels have not fallen equally low in price with those