

which you were pleased to open the present Session, and for having called the Legislature at the most suitable season to take into our consideration the affairs of the Colony; and your Excellency may rely upon our best endeavours being directed to promote the public welfare."

The Chairman then read the second paragraph, which is as follows:—

"We have reason to be thankful to Divine Providence for having blessed the labours of the husbandman with the abundant fruits of the earth; and for the seasonable weather with which he has been enabled to gather in the harvest; and it is gratifying to learn that the Revenue for the past year exceeds in amount that of the previous year."

And, on his putting the question thereon—

Mr. H. HAVILAND rose and said, he could not exactly concur in all that was expressed in that paragraph. It might be that he was more scrupulous or conscientious than usual; but it certainly did appear to him that the tenor of the paragraph was not just; and although he had not consulted with any of the hon. members with whom he usually voted, he could not, in justice to himself, forbear to state his objections to it. The Address itself, taken altogether, was a complete novelty of the kind—a wonderful connexion of words duly arranged without meaning—of all meaningless speeches he had ever heard it was the most unmeaning. As was once said by a celebrated member of the bar of this Island, with reference to a similar emanation, it was *vox et præterea nihil*, or, as he liberally explained it, *nothing but wind*. It was possible, contended the hon. and learned member, that the absence of all notice, in the Speech, of measures contemplated by the Government, might proceed from a desire, on the part of the framers of it, not prematurely to excite alarm on that score; but, nevertheless, it was certainly remarkable that the Speech was so little in accordance with what the party in power had so strongly insisted, before the introduction of Responsible Government, should characterize such productions, and which they had so often declared would characterize them, when once that form of Government should be established in the Colony. It contained no intimation of any contemplated measure—it pointed out nothing to be done, and afforded no clue whatever as to what was to be the ministerial policy of the day; and yet the reading of the Speech to the House had no sooner been concluded than a Bill relating to a question of a most important nature was introduced by the Hon. Colonial Secretary—a measure concerning which, notwithstanding its great importance, not one word was said in the Speech. With respect to that measure and the mode in which it had been introduced, it would almost seem that the Hon. Colonial Secretary had calculated that by taking the House by surprise he should secure a victory. As to the opinion expressed, in the paragraph under consideration, concerning the late harvest, his own did not fully coincide with it. He could not agree that the harvest was one of extraordinary abundance. It was still a question whether, after the exports of produce which had been already made, there would be enough for the supply of our own wants. The number of heavily grain-laden sleighs which had, day after day, been seen in Charlottetown afforded no proof of the abundance of the late harvest; they might rather be a proof of the indebtedness and necessities of the farmers. Some farmers, besides, may have had abundant crops, whilst more may have had very poor ones. For these reasons he could not support the sentiment of the paragraph as expressed concerning the abundance of the harvest; for it asserted more than had been, or could yet be, proved to be true. With respect to the Revenue it might be said, "the proof of the pudding is in the eating of it." The Revenue of the past year might be £45,000, but if the expenditure were £50,000, the facts would not be such as they could congratulate the country upon. The Hon. Colonial Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer might have derived some benefit from it; but the country had positively derived none. If the reports concerning the amount of the Revenue, as compared with the expenditure, were true, there was anything but reason for congratulating the country upon that score, and what was said, in the Speech, about the Revenue's exceeding in amount that of the previous year was only a lawyer's quibble. If the Government could have congratulated the country, as Sir Alexander

Bannerman had lately done the people of Newfoundland, upon a surplus of Revenue in the chest, they would have had something to boast of. But as it was, large as the Revenue had been, the country had derived no benefit from it. The Speech was meagre in another respect; it made no mention of the Municipal Corporations and the Board of Works Bill, to which their attention, in the Speech at the opening of the last Session, had been called with so much pomp and circumstance; and for not having passed which, they were somewhat sharply reprimanded, in the Speech with which the Session was closed. When the manner in which those Bills had been at first brought under their notice, and the importance which was attached to them, were considered, it certainly was a matter of surprise that the present Speech did not contain their epitaphs. Well might these Bills be supposed to call from their graves, "O save us from our friends!" The framers, the fathers of these Bills, would, on contemplating their fate, one might have thought, have had some reason to assign for it in the Speech, or have deemed it right to express therein some regret for the darkness of the country which would not enable them to see and appreciate the benefits which would arise to them from the adoption of these famous measures. If the Hon. Colonial Secretary suggested the Speech, we may fancy he had been reading endeavouring to carry into practice the opinion of a celebrated French politician, that words were given to us a means whereby to conceal our thoughts and intentions; and as a successful piece of composition in that line, the Speech was worthy of being placed in a gilt frame and hung above the Magna Charta.

Mr. YEO. The Governor had certainly been misled, by his advisers, concerning the amount and quality of the late harvest. Had His Excellency been through the country, and been able to draw his conclusions concerning it from his own personal observations, as he, Mr. Yeo, had been, he would not, by any means, have characterized the harvest as one remarkable for its abundance. The truth, on the contrary, was, that almost every man who had had personal opportunities of judging of the real facts, knew that, as respected both oats and wheat generally, the crops had failed, and that the potatoes were positively rotten. He did not accuse His Excellency of any wilful misrepresentation; but to him (Mr. Yeo) it was clear he had been led astray by his ministry; for it was a fact that for every lot in which the crops were good, there were five in which they were bad.

Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—His Excellency most certainly had not been aware of the poverty-stricken state of the hon. member's (Mr. Yeo's) immediate section of the country, or perhaps he might somewhat have modified his language concerning the abundance of the harvest. As to the potatoe crop upon the whole, it was a well ascertained fact that it was a most abundant one—more abundant than that of any previous year. It was indeed true that with respect to some which had been sent to market it had proved a failure; but that could not be helped. He had not heard that there was any scarcity of oats, unless in some places in which they had failed in the spring. Some farmers had been so unfortunate as to have procured bad seed, and, on that account alone, they had had to sow a second time. As for the wheat it was certain that wherever it had not been sowed until June, the return had been an abundant one; and as for the barley, the produce was double what it had ever been known to be before. The wheat, throughout the Island was abundant in quantity and good in quality, never better in fact, where the farmers had been wise enough to be counselled and guided by the advice and practice of scientific agriculturists, and had not sown until June; but where farmers had chosen to plod on in the old way, the wheat had been destroyed by the weevil as usual; still, however, even they had had larger crops than they had had for many years before. [Hon. Mr. Montgomery. Not at New London.] Perhaps not; for they were there too wise to learn from the practice and experience of others; the lessons of science were addressed to them in vain, for they would not listen to them. The wheat, after June, grew luxuriantly, and filled well, and the harvest was doubtless abundant; and it was the bounden duty of the representatives of the people thankfully to acknowledge it. Of the last year's produce, it was a fact that there had already been sent out of