

NAYS:

Mr. Rae,	Mr. Montgomery,
Mr. D. Maclean,	Mr. Dingwell,
Mr. Cooper,	Mr. D. Macdonald,
Mr. Macintosh,	Mr. Macgregor.
Mr. Fraser,	

So it was carried in the affirmative.

The main motion, as amended, was then put and carried.

Resolved, That this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to inquire into and take into consideration the state of the Colony.

The House accordingly resolved itself into the said Committee.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Macgregor took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

Mr. Macgregor reported, that the Committee had come to a Resolution; which Resolution was again read at the Clerk's Table, and is as followeth:—

WHEREAS the greater portion of the settled lands of this Colony are held under lease, at rents payable in cash only to absentee Proprietors, and the annual amount thereof drawn from the Island must of necessity operate as a serious drawback on its prosperity. That the general embarrassments and commercial distress which have existed in Great Britain for the last two years have occasioned the almost total destruction of our trade with the Mother Country, which consisted chiefly in the export of shipping and lumber, and from which source a portion of our supplies of specie has been derived; these circumstances, together with the failure of our accustomed markets for agricultural produce in the neighbouring Provinces, arising from similar causes existing there, have so far affected the agriculturists of the Colony as to render the payment of their rents in cash a measure of extreme difficulty and almost impossibility. That owing to the foregoing circumstances, and from other causes which have unhappily existed in this Colony, but to which it is unnecessary further to advert, the Tenantry have become embarrassed by a large accumulation of arrears of rent—the existence of which must necessarily operate as a serious check to future improvement, and is alike injurious to the interest of Landlord and Tenant. That, from the positive declarations of the Imperial Government hitherto expressed in despatches laid before the Legislature of this Colony, and particularly in the late despatch received from the Right Honorable Lord Stanley, dated 14th July, 1842, relating to the tenure of land in this Colony, and in an-

swer to the Address of the late House of Assembly to Her Majesty and the Imperial Parliament, it appears that Her Majesty's Government has declined any further interference, by the sanction of any enactment, between Landlord and Tenant; therefore, that the House of Assembly can no longer extend to the Tenantry of the Colony any hope of relieving them, by enactment, from the obligations of their leases; but, nevertheless, this Committee is deeply impressed with a sense of the necessity that now devolves on the Proprietors in the present embarrassed state of the Tenantry, of remitting such portion of the arrears of rent as the situation and conduct of individuals may warrant, and accepting for the future their rents in the marketable productions of the soil at the market price: *Resolved, therefore*, That your Committee are of opinion, that the existence of evils so generally felt fully warrants this House in earnestly appealing to, and soliciting the powerful interference of Her Majesty's Government, as mediators between the Proprietors and their Tenantry in this Island, with a view of inducing the former to remit such portion of the arrears of rent now due as will encourage the Tenants in their efforts to discharge the legal demands of the Landlords, and to urge on them the necessity of adopting such arrangements as will enable the Tenantry to pay their rents for the future in the marketable productions of the soil; at the market price—an arrangement that we fully believe would be equally advantageous and beneficial to both parties, and would lay the foundation of a better state of feeling than now exists—and, without which, this Colony cannot be expected to prosper. Your Committee would further recommend, that the Legislative Council be requested to join in such Address; and that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor be also solicited to unite his influence, in furtherance of a recommendation of such vital importance to the future peace and welfare of this Colony.

And the said Resolution being again read;

Mr. Rae moved, in amendment thereto, that the word "Whereas," and from thence to the end of the preamble, be struck out, and the following substituted—"Resolved, that from the knowledge which Members of Assembly in general had of the circumstances of the country, and of popular feeling for many years; from the greater knowledge of those circumstances, and of that feeling which their position as Members has given them; from the votes of the House of Assembly at different times since the year 1797, up to this year, particularly the Twelfth and Thirteenth Resolutions of the 24th January, 1833, and the Report of 1835—from the various causes which have prevented the redress of grievances—which causes are summarily stated in the Report of the Commissioner of the Earl of Durham,