

Motion then agreed to, that the Commission be referred to the Committee of Supply.

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN moved the appointment of a Committee on Public Accounts. The following gentlemen were appointed: WIGHTMAN, McDonald, Perry, Whelan, Longworth, Clarke and Haviland.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY laid on the table a classified statement of the Public Accounts, by which it appears that the actual expenditure for the last year was £52,898 5s. 8½d., including the amount of £18,000 paid for the Worrel Estate, against the receipt of £46,033 16s. 6½d. Deducting, however, the purchase money of the Worrel Estate, which cannot be fairly charged against the expenditure for the year, would leave a surplus of £11,135 5s. 10½d., over the expenditure, and after paying the balance of the previous year against the Colony of £3,028 11s. 6d., would leave the sum of £8,016 14s. 4½d., clear of Treasury Notes, Debentures and unpaid Warrants.

Hon. Mr. WARBURTON laid on the table the Treasurer's Accounts for the last year. Mr. Clarke presented the Import Accounts from Bedouque. Mr. McDonald presented the Light and Impost Accounts for the District of Georgetown—referred to Committee on Public Accounts.

On motion of the Hon. Col. Secretary, the standing order of the House requiring notice of the introduction of Bills was suspended to enable him to introduce three Bills, brought down as Government measures, viz: Tenant's Compensation Bill, Bill for appointing Sheriffs, and Bill for taking census, which were read a first time, and it was resolved that the Tenant's Compensation Bill should be read a second time on Thursday next, and the two others to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, February 14.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY having presented the correspondence relative to the purchase of the Worrel estate, after the same had been read by the Clerk, said,—Mr. Speaker, as the Government deem it but right that every information, with reference to the subject-matter of the documents just read, should be furnished not only to the tenantry living on the estate, but to the public at large, I move their publication. And I can inform the House that the Government will be able to sell the best lands, fronting on the rivers and main post roads, at 12s. 6d. per acre, and those on the Cardigan and other roads at 10s. per acre, the wilderness lands from 5s. to 10s. per acre. I will also state, sir, that the bonds formerly given to Mr. Worrel by parties wishing to purchase, and by which they agreed to pay 30s. or 40s. per acre, will be cancelled, and they will be allowed to purchase at the rate of 12s. 6d. per acre, with two years' interest on their bonds. A further boon will be granted to those tenants who are in arrears by a remission of all save two years' rent, while in many instances, eight or ten years' rent is due. To this no tenant can reasonably object. By the agreement made with Messrs. Pope & Co., all debts due from the estate were to be transferred to the Government. Sir, the Government was informed by them that they had received no money since they had purchased the property. But shortly after that statement had been made, a person came to me with a receipt acknowledging the payment of £50, and Messrs. Pope & Co. had to submit to the deduction of that amount from the purchase money.

Mr. COOPER.—I do not intend, Mr. Speaker, to object to the motion for publication. On the contrary, I think it right that all publicity should be given to the documents. I cannot, however, approve of the conduct of the Government

in concluding the purchase, without previous investigation of the title they were about to acquire.

Hon. Mr. PALMER.—Mr. Speaker, I have no objection to the publication of the papers we have just heard read; but, sir, I should like to know in what manner, and through what channels it is intended to make them public. Is it intended that they shall be published merely in the *Royal Gazette*? Sir, I hope they will appear in all the newspapers in the Island, for not only the tenantry on the estate but every man in the Colony is deeply interested in the matter. If so large a sum of the public money has been applied to the purchase of this particular property, every tenant, ay, every tax-payer, should know what had occurred. All parties, whether tenants to Lord Selkirk, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Cunard, or any other proprietor, should know the course pursued towards the Worrel tenantry, and have a right to expect the same favor would be shown to them. I therefore trust that the correspondence will be published in all the papers, although I not believe that the Bill will be self-sustaining, nor will it confer all the benefits anticipated by its advocates.

Hon. Mr. MOONEY.—Mr. Speaker, one would suppose, from the tenor of the last speaker's observations, that the Hon. Secretary wished to restrict the publicity to be given to those documents. Sir, such never was the thought of the Hon. Secretary or the Government. We wish all the papers to publish them. I, sir, may state that I never was opposed to the purchase, although it was stated in one of the public journals that when the Executive Council was deliberating on the propriety of concluding the purchase, I was at Flinty Glen, and the Hon. Mr. Warburton in the United States. Sir, that statement is false. At the time alluded to, I was not at Flinty Glen, nor was Mr. Warburton in the States.

Mr. MCINTOSH. I am inclined to think, Mr. Speaker, that the Government were justified in effecting the purchase. It has been said that Mr. Cox was in too great a hurry to buy his land; in my opinion the same remark will apply to the government, they were, I fear, in too great a hurry also, and will find some difficulty in making all the land available. Their first duty, however, was to enquire into the title of those from whom they purchased, but I trust, Sir, that matter will be quietly settled.

Hon. Mr. LORD. Mr. Speaker, I feel satisfied that the tenantry will soon feel the good effects of the course pursued by the Government in this matter. They will no longer be compelled to take their lands under short leases at the caprice of Landlords or their agents. I agree, Sir, with the hon. Member, (Mr. Cooper) that the tenants have not hitherto received justice, but why now stir up old grievances? The Hon. Member (Mr. Palmer) seeks to make political capital against the Government by assertions, in making which I do not think him sincere, he must know that the Bill will be self-sustaining. Right glad will the people be to obtain their lands at 5s. or 6s. per acre. And I feel confident, that in 6 or 7 years not more than 1000 acres of the wilderness land will remain unsold. Why Sir, the timber alone on those lands will more than pay the price. It will be for the interest of the proprietors to sell their lands to the Government at a fair rate. Mr. Cox, by his haste, has paid some 50 or 60 per cent more than he would have had to pay, if he had waited and bought from the Government. I and my colleagues in the Government have not the slightest objection to the correspondence being published in all the papers, although, Sir, if the present position of parties in this House were reversed, I doubt whether equal liberality would be manifested.

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN. The question before the House,