

were proper, he would assuredly find that they were not made in accordance with the Royal Instructions. There was no time now for any measures but those absolutely necessary for the public service.

Mr. GOOPER rejoiced to hear that the crops had been so abundant, more especially as he heard last fall that the wheat had injured the wheat; and potatoes had manifested symptoms of decay after having been dug. It was true that we raised large quantities of oats—more indeed than was consistent with proper farming. The prices obtained in the markets of the United States caused this by no means judicious mode of farming, which must have the ultimate effect of diminishing the productive capacity of the soil.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN did not rise with the intention of alluding to all the topics to which reference had been made, but he could not refrain from complimenting the hon. members of the Government on the rare skill they had displayed in framing the speech. It was an admirable specimen of that kind of document which is calculated to give the least possible trouble to its concoctors. No doubt, in framing it, the Government had acted on the idea enunciated by Talleyrand, that language was bestowed upon man for the purpose of concealing his thoughts. The speech bore such internal evidence of its being the production of a mind versed in the composition of such papers, that he really began to think that some of his political friends had lent their assistance in its compilation. However that might be, the non-committal character of the speech, although it might do very well for the Government, would not satisfy the country. Before their advent to power the supporters of the Government were loud in their promises of reform; nought was heard but the necessity of energetic measures of the most important nature, affecting materially, as in some cases, the institutions of the country, and the lamentations over the ruin of the country, the general exodus of the people, the almost universal bankruptcy caused by the late Government while they held the reins of power, were neither low nor far between. When at length they were invested with the coveted power, instead of preannouncing any remedial measures, any scheme having a tendency to relieve the evils they had, when in opposition, so feelingly deplored, they congratulated themselves upon the high prices of agricultural produce. The hon. member Mr. Longworth had alluded to the recent date at which the Government was formed, as one reason for the omission in the speech of reference to any new measures to be submitted. He presumed that the Government had been formed, but at present the House and the country had no official intelligence of its construction. True, he could infer, from the remarks that had fallen from two honorable members, Messrs. Haviland and Longworth, that they belonged to the late Government; and to them, therefore, he addressed his congratulations on the style of the speech. He would ask who were in the Government? Who was the leader? As no one rose to answer, he repeated his questions—as he still got no reply, he could but attribute the silence to the proud self-conceit with which their new honors had inspired them. Did the Liberal party, when power became theirs in 1851, sit in the House three days, leaving the Opposition in ignorance of the names of the individuals composing the Government and filling the offices? Such a state of affairs as the present was reserved for the year of grace 1859. As he knew but the two honorable members of the Government to whom he could refer, as such he would ask one of them, hon. Mr. Longworth, what were the measures essential to the public service which the Government was ready to pass?

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH.—Such as are essential to the maintenance of the public credit.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN.—Was that all! after all the direful assertions of the ruin of the country, the urgent necessity of vigorous measures to avert impending destruction, they were prepared to introduce only the annual Revenue Bill, and the reason assigned for their showings is the lateness of the season. Truly their patriotism was at a low ebb. Let the House contrast their conduct with that of the Liberal party when it came into power in the year 1851. They took office on the 25d of April, eleven days later than the commencement of the

present session; yet they passed some 40 measures, many of them of a very important character. The speech contained reference to the Fishery Reserves Bill, the Loan Bill, the Land Question, and other matters. The paragraph on the subject of a Federal Union of the Colonies was a most important one; yet no opinion has been enunciated.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH considered that the assertion of the hon. member, to the effect, that he was ignorant of the composition of the Government, when in his own semi-official journal, *The Examiner*, appeared not only the names of the several members of the present Government, but the leader was also announced. It was not usual for a government to make such a statement until they had been asked. The hon. member had stated, in the commencement of a somewhat lengthy speech, that it was not his intention to go into a discussion, until the debatable questions were before the House, yet he had gone over a list of alleged grievances, one of the principal of which was that the Government had not announced any important propositions at so late a period of the season. He could, however, inform him that it was probable that the Government would introduce, during the present session, two or three Bills, having reference to the public finances, and if any others were necessary, at this particular period, they would be submitted.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN.—The hon. member affected surprise at his saying that he knew not who formed the Government, because in a certain non-official paper, under his control, a list of the members of the new Administration had appeared. But it was probably in the recollection of hon. members that two lists, widely differing from each other, had appeared in that journal, and how was he to know which was the correct one? As the hon. member appeared desirous that the question should be asked, he gave notice that he would do so when the Speaker was in the chair. No less than three hon. gentlemen had been named as leaders, viz: Hon. Col. Gray, Hons. Messrs. Palmer and Laird.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SATURDAY, 16th APRIL, 1859.

COURT-HOUSE AND LOCK-UP.

Hon. Mr. ALDQUS, by leave, presented a Petition of divers inhabitants of Casumpes, praying that this House will concur with the House of Assembly in granting a sum of money for the erection of a Court House and Lock-up in Casumpes.

Ordered.—That this Petition be referred to the special Committee appointed to report on all Petitions relating to Miscellaneous Subjects.

MONDAY, 19th April, 1859.

PRESENTATION OF THE ADDRESS TO HIS EXCELLENCY IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE SESSION.

At one o'clock the House waited on His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor with the Address in answer to the Speech at the opening of the Session; and, being returned, the Hon. the President reported that His Excellency had been pleased to receive the same, and to give an answer thereto, which was read by the Clerk, and is as follows:—

REPLY.

“Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council;

I thank you very sincerely for this Address, assuring me, as it does, of your cheerful co-operation in all necessary measures for the protection of the public interests; and I assure you that I most fully appreciate the very gratifying terms in which you alluded to my approaching departure and my administration of the Government of this Island.”