

the hon. gentleman should censure the late Government.

Mr. HOWAT.—The hon. leader of the Opposition has thought proper to allude to me in connection with money votes. When the question of allowing the Government the privilege of initiating money votes was brought up in this House, I opposed it. Talk about caucus meetings properly adjusting money matters! there never was a greater delusion! (Laughter.) I was opposed to the initiation of those votes by the Government when the question was first introduced, and so was the hon. member from New Glasgow; and I am opposed to the principle still. I think it is a power which should never be placed in the hands of any government.

Hon. Mr. DUNCAN.—I am surprised to hear a farmer like the hon. member for Bedeque, opposing the stock farm. I was expecting on the contrary, as he is a member of this progressive Government, that he would be proposing a grant now of £1000 a year for that farm. He has referred to the petition praying for a remission of duty on certain factory machinery. If the prayer of that petition had been granted, it was found that the duty would also have to be taken off a great many other things of a similar benefit to home enterprise.

Mr. MACLENNAN.—I rise to corroborate the statement of the hon. member for Bedeque in regard to the share of stock which Prince County received from the stock farm. I hope as he is now a member of the Government, that he will carefully look after the interests of Prince County.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD.—I wish, Mr. Chairman, to ask the hon. Leader of the Opposition, if the stock farm was not employed as a shooting ground?

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—When I was at Halifax last summer, I was informed by Major General Doyle that unless the Government provided a shooting ground for the troops in this Island, they would have to be taken to Halifax for this exercise, and back again, at the expense of the Colony. And as no other suitable place could be found than the stock farm, we thought it better to give the troops the use of that farm, rather than put the country to the expense of several hundred pounds.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD.—The hon. member who has just spoken taunted me by saying that if there had been any mismanagement about the stock farm, the Commissioners in charge, my father among the number, were to blame. Now, I would ask what responsibility could be attached to the Commissioners, when Hon. Colonel Haviland and other members of the late Government, without consulting or notifying them, turned the stock farm into a shooting ground. If the Government permitted troops to go on the farm, and the dogs of the officers worried some of the young stock, I hold that they, and not the Commissioners, were chargeable with allowing the public money to be squandered.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—It was, Mr. Chairman, to save the public money that the

troops were allowed to go on the farm for shooting practice. Was the amount of the stock destroyed on the farm worth £500 sterling, for this is about the sum it would have cost the Colony to send the troops to Halifax? It is, however, the first time I heard that any of the stock were injured on account of Her Majesty's troops being permitted to go on the farm; and I believe if it were represented at head quarters that such was the case, remuneration would be offered for the damage sustained.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON.—I was a member of the Government at the time alluded to by the hon. member for Bedeque, and gave my consent to the stock farm grounds being used for military ball practice, from the conviction that it was the best course that could be adopted, in view of all the circumstances of the case. I regret to learn that any portion of that valuable stock were injured in consequence of the arrangement; but this is the first time I have heard of it. Am I to understand it as the opinion of the hon. member, that any Government should delegate an amount of power to a committee, which would make that committee entirely independent of the government that appointed it? If that is not his meaning, I am at a loss to understand him. The mistakes and faults of the late Government should be of service to the present party, as beacons to make them steer clear of the rocks and shoals which proved so dangerous to their predecessors, for they may depend upon it that the due performance of promises made by them at the hustings will be demanded by the people.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD.—I wish it to be distinctly understood that the powers of this Committee were over-ruled, and their privileges interfered with. I ask, is it right for any committee to be sacrificed, and their authority set aside, while they, as such, are held responsible for the consequences?

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—There was no time to consult the Committee.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD.—In the neighborhood of stock was no place for ball practice. The danger was twofold; the young stock were liable to be shot or otherwise killed, as, on such occasions, many persons would be out there on horseback, with dogs, and these latter, when collected together, were apt to destroy young stock.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—It is not every place that will do for ball shooting practice. Before even the grounds of the stock farm would be taken, two officers were sent out to see if they were suitable.

Hon. Mr. DUNCAN.—I expect everything will go on well this year; there will be no failures in anything.

The paragraph under discussion was then passed, as also were the 9th and 10th; after which the Committee rose, and the Chairman reported the Address agreed to without any amendment.

House adjourned.