The Protestant

EXTRA.

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Saturday, May 18, 1861.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

[Continued from the Protestant, May 4.]

AFTERNOON SITTING.

ROAD SERVICE.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND, by command of His Excellency, presented to the House the Estimates of the expenditure of the Government for the current year. The House then resolved itself into a Committee of Supply—Mr. McNeill in the Chair. After making a few remarks, Mr. Haviland moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the sum of £6,000 be granted for the service of roads, bridges and wharfs, for the present year, including all special grants, and that the same be appropriated to each County in the following order:—

Queen's County, including Charlottetown and Royalty,	£1200	0	0
Prince County,	1100	0	0
King's County,	1100	0	0
Special grants for Queen's County,	300	0	0
Do. Prince County	650	0	0
Do. King's County,	650	0	0
Roads opened under the Compensation Act,	100	0	0
Contingent expenses of roads, bridges and wharfs, to be equally divided between the three Counties,	300	0	0

Hon. Mr. COLES said he thought the amount was not sufficient; that there was scarcely a sum sufficient voted to fill up ruts in the roads. He then referred to the number of petitions before the House, which prayed for grants for bridges, some of which were falling down, and remarked that if they were allowed to go down, it would take the revenue of one year to put them up again; and he considered it would be better to dispense with some other expenditures that a larger amount might be appropriated to the service of roads, bridges and wharfs. The sum proposed, when divided among thirty or forty districts, would give but a small portion to each, and if no more could be obtained he would prefer expending the whole amount on bridges and wharfs, as these large public works should not be allowed to go down. Mr. Coles then asked what had been done in reference to the Main Post roads which last year were to have been let by contract.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH said he agreed with the hon. member who had just sat down, when he spoke of the propriety of keeping up the public works of the Colony; but they should be just before they were generous. Before putting their hands to the public purse they should ascertain how much money they had at their disposal. The sum voted last year for the services just mentioned, was £5000, and the roads and bridges were kept in as good a state of repair as during former years when thousands of pounds more were granted for these purposes than the sum proposed this year. In reference to the Main Post roads, Mr. Longworth then stated that tenders were advertised for, but that the Lieut. Governor and Council were expressly directed not to enter into any contracts unless they considered it expedient to do so; and that tenders were received, but that they were so extravagant that the Governor and Council could not think of allowing the Statute to go into operation. No Government having the well-being of the country at heart would have acted otherwise. As regarded the state of the roads throughout the Island last year, he heard no complaints, so there was good ground to presume, or fairly to assume, that they were kept in good repair. Considering the large amount which was granted for Education—and the Educational grant was increasing—he thought a much larger sum could not be appropriated to roads and bridges. For various purposes large sums were necessarily drawn from the Treasury during the present year. The purchase of Proprietors Estates and the visit of the Prince were two of those which might be noticed.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON next addressed the Committee and complained of the amount placed at the disposal of the Legislature for the service of roads, bridges and wharfs, being too small. He then referred to two or three very important bridges in his District, one of which would require £150; and they had commenced a very important work which it would be impossible to complete with the small sum which would be apportioned to the District. He thought it would be far better to curtail expenses in other respects—such, for example, as giving £800 for Government House—than to allow important public works to go down by giving such a small sum to keep them in repair, and which was quite inadequate to what was required.

Mr. CONROY spoke to the same effect, and alluded to the bridge at Cascumpec, saying he would prefer having that bridge finished before having a Steamer calling at Cascumpec, much as he desired the latter. It would be of no special interest to himself, but the bridge was absolutely necessary for a large District. £1200 or £1300 had been already expended upon it, and for want of £200 more it was lying useless from year to year.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY next spoke against the inadequacy of the amount, and in answer to what fell from the hon. member from Queen's County about complaints being made in reference to the state of the roads, would say that he (Mr. Hensley) himself complained in writing about the matter; for tho' he had only travelled two or three times on the public roads during the summer, he met with a mishap on each occasion on account of bad bridges. One occasion was when going to Georgetown; when crossing a bridge it gave way, and had it gone down all the Lawyers in Charlottetown he believed would have been killed—not excepting the hon. member from Queen's County, (Mr. Longworth,) which would have been a great loss to the Island. (Laughter.) On another occasion, and shortly afterwards, when going to St. Eleanor's in company with Mr. Thomson, while they and other important persons belonging to the Commission were crossing a bridge, the horses fell through it, and three miles farther on they were compelled to take the horses out and to pull the wagon over by hand. Then the Commission were nearly annihilated thro' bad bridges. On another occasion the Chairman of the Commission took a above drive out into the country, and in crossing a bridge it broke, he was thrown out and his legs nearly broken in consequence. These examples showed that the grant last year was not sufficiently large. He was aware, however, that the finances of the country for the present year would not admit of a large sum being appropriated for the service of roads and bridges.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND said it appeared that from the smallness of the grant last year for the service of roads and bridges the Lawyers in going to Georgetown were nearly all killed, and had such a catastrophe occurred he supposed the country would not have shed many tears if the hon. member from the East Point should have escaped. £6,000 was perhaps an amount too small to grant for this service, but it was necessary for them to adopt the tailor's rule, to cut the garment according to the cloth. According to the Estimates brought down by the Government, no less than £43,000 were required to meet the necessary demands of the current year, and he would defy any hon. member to make a lower estimate. A few pounds might be shaved off a few items, but it would be very trifling. Last year the revenue was about £42,000, and before the present session of the Legislature closed probably they would dispose of the larger part of £50,000. He thought the House would not vote a large sum. If hon. members on both sides would come forward boldly and say it was necessary to increase the taxes, and would support the Government in raising them, then he would have some reason to give way and to go for increasing the vote.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON.—No!

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND.—The hon. member says *No*—he is willing to run us down hill full gallop, but when it comes to dragging up hill he prefers slipping his traces and strolling off to Salem in better pastures elsewhere. He rises in his place and would make the country believe if he had the helm of affairs the ship of state would sure be put before a howling breeze,—he would grant all that was necessary for roads, bridges, wharfs and everything else besides. More than one-third of the revenue of the Colony was devoted to Education, for which another for such a purpose there was not a parallel in the civilized world; and he (Mr. Haviland) was in favor of fostering education, for an educated people were more easily governed and knew how to cherish their rights; and hon. members should consider the liabilities and resources of the Colony.

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN was in favor of placing an additional tax on land, both wilderness and clear. He would go to the extent of 10s. per hundred acres for all lands, and in his opinion that was the only tax of which the people would not complain. Mr. Wightman then spoke of the public works in his District which needed money, and said he thought no less than £7,000 would keep up necessary communications for another year.

Hon. Mr. YEO said he thought £6,000 was a sum quite as large as the country could afford. Petitions were laid before the House from the hon. member's part of the country praying to be relieved from paying rent.

Hon. Mr. WIGHTMAN—The people would cheerfully pay taxes, but are unwilling to pay rent.

Hon. Mr. YEO—Where are the taxes coming from if rent is not paid? That was very unreasonable. If the sum proposed for the road service was too small, the Colony would have to be made up by statute labor. Anything put on to raise the revenue, such as an ad valorem duty, was spoken against; and, indeed, it would be not much to the purpose to do so in King's County, where it appeared there was so much smuggling. (Laughter.) But, judging from the Custom House returns, it was just as bad in Prince County. Speaking with justice or reason, the sum voted was as large as could be afforded, unless hon. members wished to see the country run headlong in debt. He thought the roads were as good last year as they were two or three years before.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON—No! no!

Hon. Mr. YEO—Yes. Yes! yes! from the North Cape to the East Point.

Mr. OWEN said he would have been glad to have had £12,000 voted for the road service, but where it was to come from he could not see. The sum proposed must suffice for the present year. In the District which he had the honor to represent much would be required, as they had a large bridge to finish. Last year they had only their proportion out of £1700, and out of the monies apportioned to three road districts, they saved £126 for the new bridge. The amount this year would be sufficient to enable them to give £100 to each of their districts, after which they would have £650 left for special grants for the County. He thought £6,000 was sufficient for the present year, and that the roads were not in a worse condition than they were in last year.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON said he had no objection to offer to the division of the money, but objected to the amount. He then referred to the ad valorem duty put on some articles last year, and to the decrease made in the pay of Schoolmasters, and said that only for the hon. member from Tryon (Mr. Howat), who proposed £45, their salaries would have been cut down £1000, and the money taken to defray the expenses of the Government. He was opposed to taxation, and the only tax to which he would consent, would be an additional one on wilderness land.

Hon. Mr. COLES addressed the Committee again at some length, and referred to the effects produced by increasing the duty on Spirituous Liquors, to the Educational scheme, and to the financial state of the Colony.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND spoke again, and referred to the hon. member for Saint Andrew's Point (Mr. Wightman), who was always very anxious for large votes; but who liked to absent himself from Committees of Ways and Means. Mr. Haviland then replied to the remarks just made by Mr. Coles.

Mr. CONROY addressed the Committee. Referring to some items in the Estimates, he mentioned the sum expended in making preparations for the reception of the Prince of Wales, and said he considered it was most lavish, considering the resources of the Colony. He thought, too, that the sum spent on Government House was nearly sufficient to have built a new one. In his opinion the mention of increasing taxation would be most unpopular in the country.

Hon Col. GRAY said that it was not the proper time just then to take up the items in the Estimates seriatim, and make remarks upon them. He understood the question before the Committee was the amount proposed for Roads and Bridges, and not the accounts of the expenditures occasioned by the visit of the Prince of Wales.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND said he did not imagine when he moved the resolution in relation to Roads and Bridges, that hon. members were going to enter upon matters connected with the visit of the Prince of Wales. He, however, was under the impression that whatever was spent in that way, there was loyalty enough in hon. members to induce them to concur, and that none would say the expenditure was "most lavish," unless it could be shown there had been something grossly wrong in the manner in which the money was expended. It was humiliating to think that British subjects would complain, and that any one should endeavor to make political stock out of the expenditure of a few pounds, shillings and pence being spent in making suitable preparations for the reception of the Heir apparent to the British Throne. He believed the majority of the well-thinking people—of the hon and class of this country—would be well satisfied, and that they would not say the money was expended for that object. The money for which he was received was an honor to this small Island, and they had reason to be proud of it. Though nearly £3000 was spent, and though it was a sum large in proportion to the revenue than the £6000 expended by New Brunswick; still, common sense, or common reason would say that they should not have invited His Royal Highness, if they did not purpose to give him a suitable reception. Surely no person expected that the Prince would have been regaled with a potato and herring. Yet hon. members endeavored to entertain him in a manner which succeeded with the dignity of the province, the expenditure to outlaw "most lavish." On his account £1,500, or £7,500 New Brunswick currency was expended on Government House in Fredericton, N. B.; and £1,300, or a trifle in St. John, that the Prince might sleep in it one night, and £400 to bring the Volunteers to the City, that they might do him honor. It was quite impossible that a smaller sum could have been expended in this Colony. A pity it was that some hon members did not go outside the bar last year, when a sum was voted for the reception of the Prince of Wales.

Adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow.

D. Laird, Reporter.

Mr BEER moved the House again into the Committee of Supply. Debate on the road appropriation resumed.

Mr CONROY wished to reply to a personal attack made upon him by the hon. member for Georgetown last evening, for complaining that the sum proposed for the road service was too small, and characterizing the amount spent in making preparations for the reception of the Prince of Wales as a lavish expenditure. That hon. member had remarked that if the Legislature continued to be voted which votes of late years, there would require to be an increase of taxation, and the reason that was known the better. He (Mr Conroy) remarked that he thought the Colonists had had the true spirit in the expenditure of the Colony, that if it were not for such sums as so much for repairing Government Sitting, so much for the Volunteers, and so much for the reception of the Prince of Wales, the revenue would be found sufficient. Because he had spoken of the expenditure on the Prince's reception as being "lavish" he was charged with disloyalty for his sentiments.

Hon. Mr HAVILAND said he did not pay the term "disloyalty."

Mr CONROY maintained that he was charged with disloyalty. He considered he had a legitimate right to speak of the expenditure, and call it lavish if he chose, for if the matter was not to be discussed why were the accounts placed on the table. He asked what he had done that he should then be pointed at with the finger of scorn as being disloyal; he did not know what action of his life could justly cast an allusion. He would have received the Prince of Wales with all the enthusiasm of a loyal subject, though he might be of opinion that this small Colony could not afford to expend so much on his reception. When the Government of Great Britain was charged by the members of Parliament with lavish expenditure in the case of the Russian war, were they charged with disloyalty? No; but it served the purpose of the hon. member for Georgetown to charge Nicholas Conroy with disloyalty.

Hon. Mr WIGHTMAN said the hon. member for Georgetown had also made remarks in allusion to him, and he had given him no occasion whatever. When £800 were to be taken to repair Government House—nearly 1-7 of the money proposed in the resolution for roads and bridges, it was high time to speak of the lavish expenditure of the Government.

Hon. Mr HAVILAND supposed that this double attack was made for the purpose of frightening him, but he could assure the two hon. members who had just spoken that he was not so easily scared. If they pursued an incendiary course, they might expect to be shown up; and if they could not stand this, the sooner they retired from public life the better.

Hon. Col. GRAY said he had given a hint that the proper course to pursue would be to discuss each item of the estimates on its own merits; but the hon. member for Cardigan, and the hon. member for Murray Harbor, appeared to think it would be proper to take a portion of the sum named for Government House, and appropriate it to the road service. This, however, could only be a matter of opinion. If this Colony were independent of the Mother Country, the House might decide this case as they pleased; but he (Col. Gray) found by the Royal instructions that it was required there should be several rooms in Government House for public receptions, to be furnished at the public expense. If the Colony was required to furnish rooms for this purpose, it was evident that it must first provide a house in which the rooms should be. The Governor of this Island was the only Governor in these Colonies whose salary was paid by the Imperial Government; if then, His Excellency were to complain to the authorities at Home that the people here would not keep Government House in repair, a law might be passed there to compel this Colony to pay the Governor's salary—about £2000 annually. Lest the people here should be compelled to pay this amount, he (Col. Gray) thought it would be better to vote £800 at present to keep Government House in repair, than give that sum additional to the amount proposed for roads and bridges. The house at first had been very loosely built, and had not even a proper cellar. In 1856, the sum of £1816 was voted for Government House premises, all of which except £300 appropriated to the purchase of a piece of land, was expended upon the building and outhouses. Whether the hon. member for Tignish would call this a "lavish" expenditure or not, he (Col. Gray) could not say; but it was certainly strange that so soon after, another grant should be required. [The hon. member here read a message from Governor Daly to the Legislature a short time before he left the Colony, setting forth the untenantable state of Government House.]—Soon after this message was written, Mr Daly left the Colony, and the present Lieut. Governor arrived. The building at that time (summer of 1859) was slightly repaired with the small sum voted for that purpose, and in it in this condition, His Excellency struggled through the succeeding winter. In the spring of 1860, it being known that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales purposed to visit the Colony, it was thought high time to put Government House in a state of repair; and to show that the Government, in taking this step, did nothing unusual or improper, he (Col. Gray) would refer to the expenditure on Government House at Fredericton, New Brunswick in connection with the Prince's visit to that Colony. "Repairs and improvements on Government House, £1030; fitting up and furnishing rooms occupied by the Prince and his Suite, £2469, &c."—the items in all amounting to £4500.—Besides this, about £1337 were expended in fitting up a house for him at St. John. No doubt, New Brunswick was a wealthier Colony than this, but these were large sums compared with what was spent for a similar purpose here. Government House had been considerably fitted up internally in view of the Prince's visit, but much required to be done to put it and the outhouses in good a state of repair. And how much was asked for this? Only £600, for though £800 were given in the estimates, yet as £200 was the usual appropriation for Government House, the extra asked was only £600. If he (Col. Gray) had his desire, he would not vote a penny for the present Government House, but go for granting a sum to build a respectable brick house for the Governor's residence. He did not think that the hon. member for Tignish was justified in calling the expenditure in connection with the reception of the Prince of Wales a lavish one. The actual expense would only be about £2000, if all the furniture, &c., on hand was disposed of. This sum was not much to expend to give a reception to the son of their Sovereign. The Colony was bound to receive him in a proper manner, and could not plead that it was too poor to make any demonstration on the occasion. But the time this matter should be brought under consideration was not when the Committee were discussing the vote for roads and bridges. The reason that so small a sum had been set down for the Road Service, however was chiefly on account of their having expended so much on the Prince's reception.

Hon. Mr COLES.—The Government had done so.

Hon. Col. GRAY said he was glad to take up that expression, the "Government had done so;" if they had not they would have been unfit for the position which they occupied. The sum expended would scarcely amount to 5d. sg. for each individual in the Colony, and he was sure if a person had been sent to travel the country he could have collected the amount by voluntary subscription without any difficulty. He thought that considering all the advantages which the people of this Colony received from the parent country, they ought not to complain of the amount expended on the reception of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. It was through her that we possessed the glorious privileges secured to British subjects by the Bill of Rights, and enjoyed all the liberties and advantages guaranteed under the Constitution of Great Britain.

Hon. Mr THORNTON wished to call attention to the statement of the hon. member who had just sat down, that it was voting to the "lavish,"—yes he (Mr Thornton) would call it the lavish expenditure of the Government on the occasion of the Prince's visit, that a larger sum could not be granted this year for roads and bridges.

Hon. Mr M'AULAY said the Government had been assaulted by a severe bombardment; it commenced last evening, but it appeared as if the smoke would blow away and leave no damage behind. The hon. member for Murray Harbor, Mr Wightman, suggested that the taxing should be increased to meet the necessary expenditure. With respect to the tax on land, which was the only direct taxation in this country, he (Mr M'Aulay) could not conceive that it should be increased. What did not the land support? It supported the merchant, the mechanic was supported by it.

Hon. Mr COLES.—And the parson was supported by it. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr M'AULAY.—Yes, the parson was supported by it, and the schoolmaster was supported by it. Now, when so much was sustained by the land, was the tiller of the soil to be crushed by increased taxation? He could never consent to this crushing policy. The population of this Island was mixed, being composed of merchants, mechanics, &c., and it was unfair that all the direct taxation should be put upon the farmers. He thought the hon. member was scheming; he saw that the majority of the people in the country were satisfied with the party in power, and wished to deceive the Government into imposing a tax on land, that they might become unpopular. The hon. member for Cardigan, Mr Thornton, also wished to vote a larger sum for the road service, and when other items came up he would vote for them too, that the expenditure might be increased, and the Government rendered unpopular. The hon. member opposite, the new member for King's County, had also spoken on this question, and expressed his opinion that more should be done for the roads and bridges. With respect to that hon. gentleman, he might say that there was evidently a gale of hope among the ranks of the Opposition when he arrived in this House. He (Mr M'Aulay) had met him before in political life, and judging from the courtesy which had hitherto passed between them, he had no doubt they would still be on friendly terms. This gentleman travelling in the eastern part of the country came to a bridge which he could not pass, but he (Mr M'Aulay) had passed over it on the day following; however, he supposed his life was not so precious as that of a lawyer. The hon. member for East Point further stated that almost everywhere he travelled in that part, he found the bridges unfit to pass. Why, it was a wonder that a special vote of some £500 or £600 had not been asked for to enable the people of King's County to receive him with becoming honor, when he visited that part of the country, as in the case of the Prince of Wales coming to the Island! If the hon. gentleman wished to immortalize himself by his maiden speech in this House, he would advise him to have it printed, and published as an appendix to the next edition of Gulliver's Travels. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr COLES remarked that he supposed the hon. member for Georgetown wished to indulge in a little humor at the expense of a new member, but he (Mr Coles) had yet to learn that the speech referred to was the maiden speech of the hon. member for East Point. The tax on land alluded to by the hon. member who had just sat down, was for the purpose of Education, and should not be complained of. The hon. leader of the Government appeared to convey the impression that the whole increased expenditure for the past year was on account of the Prince's visit; but this was not the case, for independently of that altogether the expenditure for the year exceeded the revenue, and this too even after the sum paid for land was deducted. He (Mr Coles) believed when the vote for the Prince's reception was made, that it would probably cost between £2000 and £3000. But though the whole affair cost this much, some hon. members might be of opinion that several of the items in the expenditure were extravagant. He thought as good an entertainment could have been got up for less; however, there was a considerable sum expended in improvements on Government House which were much required. He would not complain of the expenditure in connection with the reception, as he believed the preparations gave general satisfaction. But the Government were not going to be allowed to make out that this expenditure was the only reason for the increase of the public debt, as the revenue would not have met the expenses of the year, leaving the reception out of consideration. The hon. leader of the Government referred to the amount voted for Government House and grounds in 1856, and seemed to say that the late Government had not expended the money judiciously. £300 of the sum were spent in the purchase of a piece of land, close to the Government House grounds, which was about to be taken for a purpose for which the Government thought it should not be allowed to be used. The rest of the money was expended in shingling the building, taking gas to it, and building a coach house. The instruction respecting Government House referred to by the hon. member, were not always carried out; Governor Smith lived for some time in the barracks. He (Mr Coles) however agreed with the hon. member for Belfast, that large sums had been expended on the present Government House, and thought with him that perhaps a brick one should be built. In regard to the resolution before the Committee, perhaps £1000 additional as proposed by the hon. member, Mr Wightman, would be too much; however, he (Mr Coles) would support the amendment, and if it was lost, and £6000 was all that could be obtained for the road service, hon. members would have to use a little more economy than usual in distributing it.

Hon. Mr LONGWORTH did not see that it was necessary to advert to Government House, when discussing the resolution for the road appropriation. A grand mistake was made when that house was built at first; it had been a difficulty to every Government that came into power. He thought the question was very fairly put by his hon. colleague, Col. Gray, in 1859, when he suggested whether it would not be better to apply a torch to the building. He (Mr Longworth) was of opinion that his colleague was correct in saying that the money voted in 1856 was not judiciously expended, for had this been the case, the present Government when they came into power would not have found it in an almost untenantable condition. He did not, however, charge the late Government with any design in the matter, but feared that the men employed did not do their duty. There had been no special vote for Government House since 1856, and he thought there was nothing extravagant in the Government now asking £600 to put it in a state of repair. He considered it was a small matter for hon. members on the opposite side of the House to object to necessary appropriations like this. Allusion had also been made to the expenditure in connection with the visit of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. He thought if the accounts were examined it would be found that the Committee had voted most economically. As had been remarked by the hon. member, Col. Gray, upwards of £4000 had been spent at Fredericton alone for the Government House there.

Hon. Mr WHELAN.—What was their revenue?

Hon. Mr LONGWORTH—The revenue had nothing to do with the matter. He believed that the Home Government would scarcely credit the statement, if informed that the whole sum expended on the Prince's reception here, amounted to only £2000. He would repeat again that he thought it unfair for hon. members of the Opposition to object to the amount set down in the estimates for Government House. To keep it in a state of repair, was a duty which they owed to His Excellency, and a duty which they owed to their country. The late Government spent £4000 upon the place while they were in power, and they had very little to show for the money. The present Government had so far only expended the usual appropriation of £200, as it was unfair to include in their amount the sum required to fit up the house at the time of the Prince's visit. There would have been no occasion to refer to these subjects at present, had it not been to reply to statements made by hon. members on the other side of the House.

Mr DAVIES said that in the debate last evening he had expressed his opinion that £6000 would be sufficient for the Road Service, and notwithstanding all that had been said he thought so still. The debate had taken a wide range, and reference had been made to Government House; and as he was a member of the Committee to attend to the fitting up of the building in 1859, he might be permitted to offer a remark on this point. He had said then that he thought it would be better to burn the house, and build another in which Her Majesty's Representative might live with some comfort. He thought it would be a saving to the Colony instead of voting so much every year to keep up the present building, to appropriate at once as much as would be required to erect a new one. Some £700 or £800 had been expended upon it in procuring furniture, &c., in view of the Prince's visit. He believed that the different articles purchased at that time were procured as cheaply as possible; several of them he knew were imported by Mr Brenan and himself, and no commission was charged upon them. About £600 more it was thought would put the building in a complete state of repair, and as this sum was all that was asked for by the Government, he thought the House should not object to it. It appeared that this Colony was the only one in which the salary of the Governor was paid by the Imperial Government. The people here, then, ought not to be backward in keeping Government House in repair, lest they should be required to pay the Governor's salary.

Mr SINCLAIR was in favor of keeping the expenditure within the revenue. He would be so disposed were he one of the members of the majority, and he considered it his duty to act in the same manner in the position which he occupied. Rather than that the country should be brought to a state of bankruptcy, he would vote for the sum which had come down in the estimates. But though the Government were economical in regard to the Road Service, they were not so with respect to the public offices. He thought also that the House should not be called upon to spend £800 for Government House, when only seven times that sum could be spent for roads and bridges. If more furniture had been procured for Government House at the time of the Prince's visit, than was required there now, let it be sold, and the proceeds be taken to repair the building. He (Mr Sinclair) was not going to object to the sum expended in giving a loyal reception to the son of their Sovereign. It was common when any vote came up for the members of the majority to attempt to show that it did not exceed the expenditure of the late Government. He believed that it was chiefly on account of the extravagance of the late Government, that they became unpopular, and he could not see that their conduct was any argument to support extravagant expenditure on the part of the present Government.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock.

D. Laird, Reporter.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

Hon. Col. GRAY by command of His Excellency, presented to the House the copy of a Despatch of Governor Dundas to the Duke of Newcastle, with enclosures containing statements of the Attorney General in relation to the objects of two Bills, viz: An Act to authorize grants of the shores of this Island;—and an Act to give effect to the Report of the Commissioners to be appointed on the Land Question.

Hon. Mr COLES moved that these papers be committed to a Committee of the whole House on Thursday next, which was agreed to.

Hon. Mr HAVILAND moved the third reading of the Bill to give summary protection to persons engaged in the publication of Parliamentary papers. The Bill was then read and passed.

The House again resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on supply.

Hon. Mr HAVILAND said some hon. members had harped much concerning the amount in which the Government had run the country in debt; but he would take the estimates and read the items seriatim, and tell them that had they been in their places instead of being in the gloomy shades of the Opposition, that the Public debt would have been as large if not larger. The Educational expenditure was increasing, for in 1859, the increase over the previous year was £579 11s 8d; and in 1860 the increase over 1859 was nearly £2000, and he was willing to go to any reasonable constituency and justify their conduct in placing that sum against the Colony. Farther, the present Government were charged with £47 for desks for the additional number of members made by the late Government; also balance of interest on the Worrell Estate £332; on Lot 11, £55; also with the balance of £500 on an old account of the late Queen's Printer; expenditure on account of the unfortunate Hughes case, £240;—it could be shown that they had not wilfully spent the public money, but only expended such sums as were necessary to maintain the credit of the Colony. When the late Government was in power, you would think, to hear some hon. members now, that they had not spent any money on Government House at all; but in 1851, they expended on it £846; in '52, £362; for '53 there are no Journals so the amount is not known; in '55, £567; in '55, £1500 odd, and one would have thought after making these large outlays, nothing would be now needed for that object. In '56, £555 were expended on Government House, and so on to the end of the chapter. He (Mr Haviland) fully agreed with some hon. members that if these sums had been faithfully spent such a large expenditure would not have been required to make extensive repairs last summer. He could not see what was to be seen for the £1500 expended in 1855.

Hon. Mr COLES.—Look at the Gas fittings £300; and the Coach House £500.

Hon. Mr HAVILAND.—The Coach House is a mere shell; any public contractor would put up one as good for £200; and admitting these sums to be correct, they come far short of £1500.

Hon. Mr COLES said the present Government should have given them credit for one half year's revenue. The late Government retired in April, and they gave up all the revenue to the present Government, to January following; that he believed £5000 were paid into the Treasury since the financial year closed. He understood they had received nearly £4000 from the Worrell Estate since they came into power, and £650 from Lot 11. Again, there were many hundreds of pounds paid on jails by the late Government for which they should have received credit. It was very fine to saddle them with the additional pay to members. That was what was called his hon. friend's "Good Friday Bill," to which he (Mr Coles) was somewhat opposed at the time it was introduced. The late Government spent from £8000 to £9000 a year on roads and bridges, when in power. The present Government said they had been saddled with £5000 more for Education, but that was not the fault of the late Administration, but was owing to their own management. The hon. member from Georgetown could not see what they did with the £1500, spent on Government House in 1855, but he mentioned the expenditures for Gas fittings and a Coach House, which amounted to £800, the sum in the Estimates of the present year. In addition, there were carpets purchased, and the drawing room was ornamented with pier-glasses. These items amount to £1000. Other things were mentioned also, the expenditures on the whole making £1500. Farther, the late Government had a Guard stationed at Government House at an expense of £120, or £130—four men doing actual service. The present Government kept one there, and paid him £50.

Hon Mr WHELAN next addressed the Committee at considerable length, and spoke as follows:—On entering the room, I heard from a stentorian voice "£500 for the Queen's Printer." About the time of the change of Government, April 1859, only half of the Financial year had expired. The present Government may be compelled to retire at the expiration of one half of the Financial year, and if so, the Government which succeeds will be obliged to pay the debts which were contracted by them when in power. The late Government of which I was a member, came into power in April 1851. At that period, J. D. Hazard was Queen's Printer, and held his office till August following, during which time he received £539 as Queen's Printer, and that amount was charged against the Liberal Government which then came into power; so the one case was a fair set off against the other. Allusion was made to the Bill which I introduced, called the "Good Friday Bill," the object of which was to change the number of Representatives in the Assembly from 24 to 30, and in introducing the measure, I may say that I was not under the control of any, but spoke in its favor in opposition to the views of my hon. friend, Mr Coles. He frequently expressed himself to the effect that the time had not arrived for making the change which the Bill contemplated. I must coincide with hon. members who have spoken on this side of the House, respecting the inadequacy of the amount voted for the road service for the current year. In the years '56, '57, and '58, when the Revenue was not so large as at present, and when the resources of the country were not so fully developed, we find from the Journals that much larger sums were voted for this particular service. Within the last four or five years too, the number of important public works has been augmented, which require a larger, and increasing annual expenditure. Our population, too, is increasing, and the extension of commerce demands a larger outlay to afford greater facilities for travelling. The sum which was sufficient ten years ago is not now adequate for this particular service. It will not do to offer the excuse that there are no means, that it is impossible to give more. It was your duty to have provided means to meet the public requirements. If the public debt is too large, the majority, not the minority, are responsible for its increase. They may tell us they have practised economy but the records furnish a damning refutation to that statement.