

THE  
**PARLIAMENTARY REPORTER;**

OR,

**DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS**

OF THE

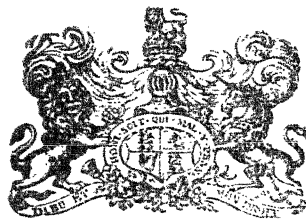
**H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y**

OF

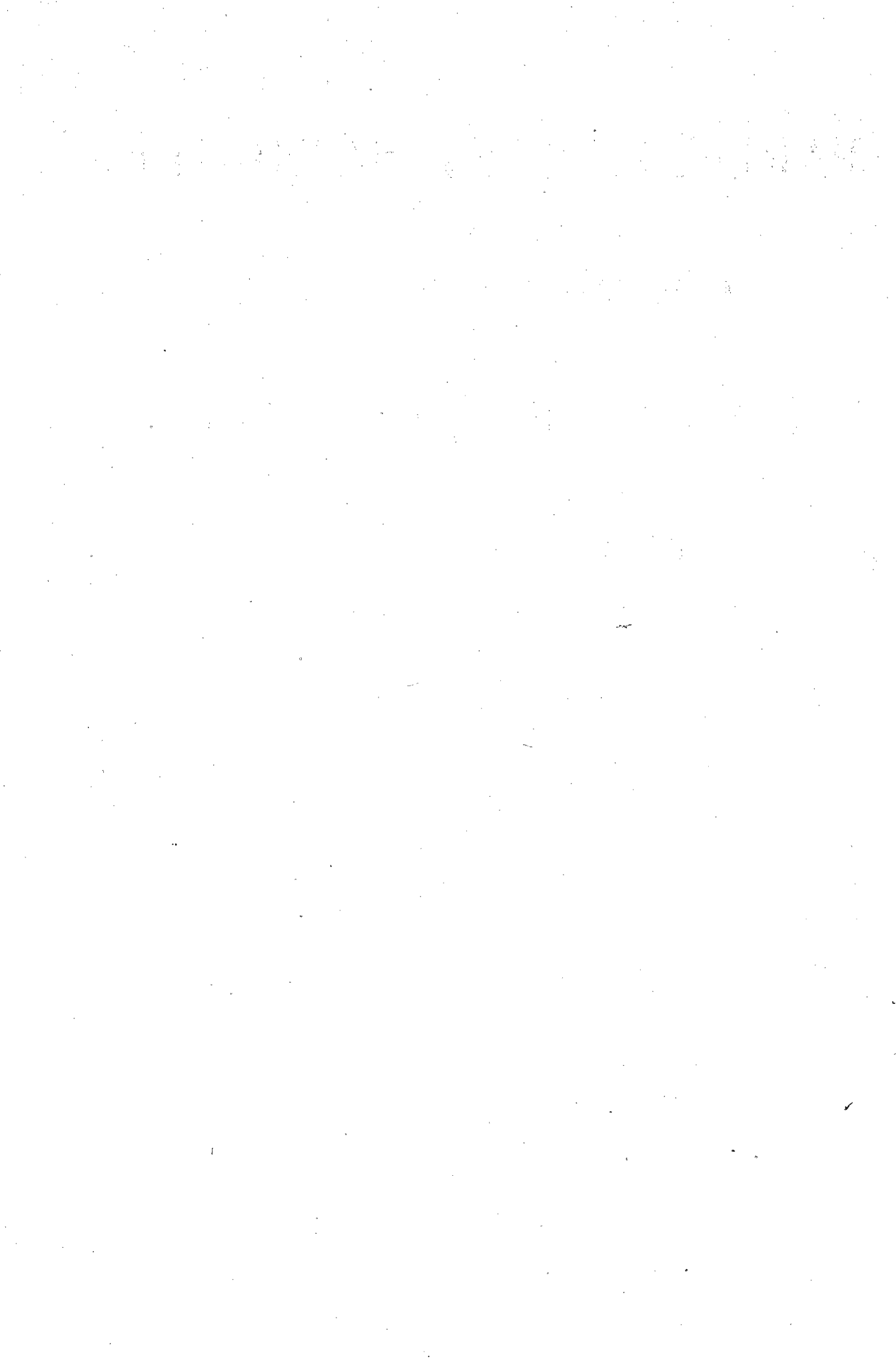
**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND,**

**FOR THE YEAR 1865.**

**BEING THE THIRD SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**



**CHARLOTTETOWN:**  
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1865.



THE  
PARLIAMENTARY REPORTER,  
SESSION, 1865.

### Meeting of the Legislature.

On Tuesday, February 28th, His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Dundas, came down to the Council Chamber at 3 o'clock, when he was pleased to open the Third Session of the Twenty-second General Assembly with the following

#### SPEECH:

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:*

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

I rejoice that I am enabled, at the commencement of another Session of this Legislature, to congratulate you on the general prosperity of this Island.

You will, I am confident, join with me in an expression of gratitude to Almighty God for the abundant Harvest, and the many blessings which have been bestowed on the people of this Province during the past year.

In compliance with the Resolution, which you passed last Session, I appointed Delegates to confer with Delegates appointed by the Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, for the purpose of discussing the expediency of a Legislative Union of the Maritime Provinces.

Correspondence on this subject, together with the Report of the Conference of the Delegates will be laid before you.

From these papers you will learn the origin of a second Conference, to consider the wider question of a general Union of the British North American Provinces.

On the invitation of the Governor General I nominated Delegates to proceed to Quebec to attend this second Conference.

In appointing Delegates, I deemed it expedient, on both occasions, to select them from each of the political parties in the Legislature.

Copies of the Resolutions adopted at the Quebec Conference will be submitted to you.

Despatches from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, on this important subject will also be laid before you.

From this correspondence you will perceive that Her Majesty's Government have given to these Resolutions their most deliberate consideration, and have expressed their general approval of the proceedings of the Conference.

For this, the most momentous question ever submitted to you, I ask your earnest consideration.

I have received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies a communication respecting the Militia Law.

The Colonial Minister has observed with satisfaction that a Volunteer movement has arisen in this Colony, which reflects much credit on the loyalty and spirit of its Inhabitants; on the other hand, he has remarked that a Law exists among the Statutes of the Island which declares that the Militia shall not be called out, except in case of war, civil commotion, or other sufficient emergency.

You will, I confidently hope, give your careful attention to a measure which will be proposed to you, and which is framed with the view of remedying a state of affairs characterized by Mr. Cardwell as having no parallel in British North America.

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

The Public Accounts of the past year will be laid before you. It affords me much satisfaction to observe that the Revenue exceeds that of any previous year, and is considerably in excess of the Expenditure.

The Estimates for the current year will also be laid before you. They have been framed with due regard to economy.

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:*

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

The People whom you represent are so thoroughly capable of appreciating the importance of Agriculture, that I would suggest for your consideration the expediency of giving some further encouragement to the promotion of the scientific culture of the Soil and to the improvement of Stock.

In full reliance on your zeal for the welfare of the Colony, I now commit its interests to your care.

The members of the House of Assembly having returned to their own room, His Excellency's Speech was again read from the Speaker's chair; after which, the Hon. J. C. Pope announced to the House, that since the last session of the Legislature, in consequence of the resignation from the Executive Council Board of the Hon. Col. J. H. Gray and the Hon. E. Palmer, His Excellency was pleased to appoint him President of the Executive Council, and the Hons. T. Heath Haviland and K. Henderson to seats in the Executive Council, in the room of the Hons. Col. Gray and E. Palmer.

The usual Standing Committees for the Session were then appointed; the most important being as follows:

Committee to prepare an address in answer to His Excellency's Speech—Messrs. Brecken, Ramsay, Haslam, Yeo, Green, Duncan and Montgomery.

Committee on Public Accounts.—Messrs. Yeo, Haslam, McLennan, Duncan, Coles, Warburton and Conroy.

Mr David Laird was appointed Reporter to the House, and after some discussion relative to the expediency of the appointment by the House of a Summary Reporter, Mr. Archibald McNeill was appointed to that office, his duty being to furnish, each day, a printed Summary of the daily proceedings of the House.

The order of last session, relative to the postage of Members' letters, was then renewed, and the House adjourned until 3 o'clock to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, March 1.

Mr Brecken, Chairman of the Committee appointed to prepare an address in answer to His Excellency's Speech, submitted a draft Address—received and read.

Ordered, that said Address be referred to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Coles suggested the propriety of procuring for the information of Hon. members copies of the Royal Gazette, containing the Despatch relative to the Militia Law.

Hon. Mr. Longworth, Chairman of the Committee on expiring Laws, submitted a Report; ordered to be committed to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow. The Hon. gentleman then stated that as several Committees were then busily employed, preparing Reports, he would, therefore, move that the House do now adjourn till 10 o'clock to-morrow. House accordingly adjourned.

THURSDAY, March 2.

The Colonial Secretary, Chairman of the Committee to receive tenders for printing the Parliamentary Reporter, submitted the Report of the Committee—Messrs. Ings, Hughes, and G. T. Hazard, had tendered. That of the latter, being the lowest, was accepted.

Hon. Leader of the Government submitted the annual Report of Dr. Mackieson, Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum—received and read. House adjourned till 3 o'clock, p. m.

AFTERNOON.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES, Chairman of Committee to receive tenders for printing the Journals of the Session, reported that tenders had been received from Messrs. Hazard, Ings, and Hughes, and recommended that the tender of Mr. Hughes, being the lowest, be accepted.

Ordered that the Report of the Committee be adopted

#### DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

On motion of Mr. Brecken the House went into the order of the day, viz, Committee of the whole on the Draft Address in answer to His Excellency's speech. Mr. Yeo in the chair.

The Chairman first read the whole Draft Address, which is as follows:

*To His Excellency George Dundas, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Island Prince Edward and the Territories thereunto belonging, Chancellor, Vice Admiral, and Ordinary of the same, &c., &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:—

1. We, Her Majesty's faithful subjects, the House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, beg respectfully to tender our thanks for the Speech with which your Excellency was pleased to open the present Session.

2. The general prosperity of this Island, the abundant harvest, and the many blessings bestowed upon the people of this Colony during the past year, demand our grateful acknowledgments to Almighty God.

3. We thank your Excellency for having, in compliance with the Resolution passed last Session, appointed Delegates to confer with Delegates appointed by the Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, respectively, for the purpose of discussing the expediency of a Legislative Union of the Maritime Provinces, and we shall be happy to receive the Correspondence on this subject, together with the Report of the Delegates.

4. We shall be pleased to learn the origin of the second

Conference held at Quebec, to consider the wider question of general Union of the British North American Provinces, to attend which, your Excellency, on the invitation of the Governor General, appointed Delegates selected, as were the Delegates to the former Conference, from each of the political parties in the Legislature.

5. We beg to assure Your Excellency that we shall not fail to give our most earnest consideration to the Resolutions adopted at the Quebec Conference, upon the momentous subject of a General Union of the Provinces, and also to the Despatches from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, relative thereto.

6. It is gratifying to us to learn that the Volunteer movement which has arisen in this Colony has received the approbation of the Colonial Minister, and we will give our careful attention to any measure which may be proposed to us with the object of remedying the defects in the Law relating to the Militia of the Colony, characterized by Mr. Cardwell as having no parallel in British North America.

7. It is with pleasure we learn that the Revenue for the past year exceeds that of any previous year, and that it is considerably in excess of the Expenditure; and we thank Your Excellency for the assurance that the Public Accounts for the past year, and the Estimates for the present, will be laid before us.

8. The great importance to this Island of Agriculture, commends it especially to our notice, and we shall attentively consider the expediency of giving some further encouragement to the promotion of the scientific culture of the Soil, and to the improvement of Stock.

The first four paragraphs of the Address having been again read, were agreed to without discussion. When the adoption of the 5th paragraph was moved, Hon Mr COLES addressed the Committee to the following effect:—

There is no doubt, Mr Chairman, that this House will give due attention to the subject of the paragraph which has just been read, and I wish that the Government had done likewise. They have received the Report of the Conference held at Quebec, and, that being the case, they should have met the Legislature with a decided declaration of opinion on the subject of the Union of the Colonies. On a question of such importance—the most momentous that ever was submitted to the consideration of the Legislature of the Island—a question involving the interests of all the North American Colonies—I assert that the Government should have given a decided expression of opinion, and I am sorry that they have not taken the responsibility of declaring their policy; instead of doing so, they have brought the subject before us as being non-political. While I admire the man who maintains an opinion of his own, and admit that, in political parties, the several members must often yield their individual views, yet, when a great general principle is involved, as in the present question, the people have the right to know what are the opinions of the Government which they placed in power. When that great supporter of the Conservative party in England, Sir Robert Peel, differed from his colleagues on a great public question, he took his own ground, and was respected by men of all parties for his independent spirit. It may be said that under this scheme of Confederation, the principles of Responsible Government are maintained, but the people will view it with caution, if not satisfied with the terms. One gentleman has published the statement that a majority of the Government is opposed to the Union; but if that be a faithful expression of opinion, their acts are inconsistent with it; no Government takes its opponents into its confidence. In New Brunswick a member of the Executive resigned his seat and office, rather than remain to listen to the plans of a policy he did not agree with. We have a similar case nearer home, and no man of honor will consent to act as a spy. Here we have the Government putting into the situation of their only legal adviser a red hot opponent. I mean to convey no imputation on that gentleman; but I blame the Government for professing one set of opinions and appointing to so important an

and of gentlemen who entertain views entirely opposite. The Government are playing fast and loose, and are not agreed among themselves on this great question. The other day the leader had several teams employed in removing a building which they did by pulling together; but had he set them to work in opposite directions, he would have failed in his object. This is like the position of the Government, and this is what I disapprove of. If the members of Government are not a party entertaining the same political views, in what position are we placed? If the majority of the Council are opposed to this measure, they have to trust to their opponents in the House, the Col. Secretary and the Solicitor General, if the latter be re-elected, to carry out their views. I, for one, have no confidence in the non-departmental system, and these gentlemen are the only officials here. Last year the Government treated this subject very cautiously, the then Leader asserting that the duty of the delegates was but to report the proceedings of the Convention. I myself said that the Union would be no benefit to the people of the Island, and voted against the delegation. But the question now comes up in a new shape. We have a new constitution signed and approved of by members of the Government, and our position would have been very different if we had for consideration merely the report of what had been done. The present position of the Government is such that it is our duty as representatives of the people, to express our opinion on their conduct. The fact that they have an Attorney General who is not a member of the Executive, and the recent appointment to that body of two gentlemen of opposite sentiments, require that the expression of our opinions should accompany the paragraph before the Committee, before it goes forth to the public. We have had so many changes in the Government of late, that it is hard to say whether it is now a new Government, or merely the old one with a new head. Were it based on constitutional principles, it would have been reconstructed, every member going back to his constituents. It would have been better if the Government had waited for the opinion of the Legislature, before filling up the vacancies as they have done. So much has appeared through the press on the subject of Confederation, that I shall not occupy the time of the Committee by harping on it. I will put my opinions on record by moving a resolution which embodies my views on the policy of forming a Government, some members of which sanction one line of policy, and others the reverse. Whoever may be in power, it is but right that they should show their colors. I now move the following amendment:

"But we regret that your Excellency should have appointed, as one of your legal advisers, a gentleman, who, as a Delegate, has declared himself 'a red-hot Unionist,' upon the terms agreed on at the Quebec Conference."

**Hon. Mr. POPE.**—The hon. leader of the Opposition, Mr. Chairman, must be very eager to show his hostility to the Government when he would propose such an amendment to the Address as that which he has just submitted. It has nothing to do with the real subject before the Committee; the paragraph under consideration does not express any opinion either in favor of or against a union of the Colonies. He seems to be in great haste to declare his opposition to the proposed Confederation, but if he would go and read his own speech delivered at Ottawa on the question it ought to bring the blush of shame to his face. He has moved a vote of want of confidence in the Government, and assigns as his reason for this procedure that he has heard certain members of the Executive state that they were in favor of Union. When the Despatches and other papers on the subject are laid before the House, and the question comes up in due form, it will be fully dealt with. If the hon. member, however, wishes an assurance as to the course the Government will pursue, I can tell him that we have no intention to force this matter upon the House or people—that the Government is not in favor of the scheme, and therefore it was not submitted as a Government measure. When it comes up properly they will not hesitate to give an expression of opinion on the subject. The hon. leader of the Opposition may suppose that some of the supporters of the Government will not approve of the appointment of one who advocates Union to a seat in the Executive; but I can assure hon. members that there is no disposition on the part of the Government to take advantage of the country on the question. No decisive action in favor of Union will be taken until the opinion of the people is obtained at the polls.

**Hon. Mr. HENSLEY.**—This subject of a Union of the Colonies being one of the most momentous which has ever come up for

consideration before this House, it does strike me as very irregular that it has not been made a Government question. They should, in view of the great interests which it involves, have come down with a decided policy, instead of a negative one as they have done. It is impossible to ascertain from the views of members of the Government expressed outside of this House, or from the Address before us, what course they intend to pursue. I have some objection to the resolution proposed by my friend the hon. leader of the Opposition; I consider it too personal. I have nothing against the gentleman alluded to in that resolution on personal grounds; on the contrary I have a very high respect for him. If persons are going to be particularly objected to for their views, I hold that the hon. member has almost as good a reason for opposing the Government because the Hon. Colonial Secretary, who is also an advocate of Union, is allowed to retain his seat at the Executive board. Before the discussion is over I may submit a resolution, with no personal allusions, to test the Government on the general question of the proposed Union of the Colonies.

**Hon. Mr. COLES.**—I have no personal objections to the gentleman who was the hon. member for Georgetown. I merely referred to him, because having declared himself so decidedly in favor of Union, his appointment might seem to indicate that the Government were disposed to support the scheme.

**Hon. Mr. DAVIES.**—It would have been rather a strange proceeding to have inserted in the address anything decided on the subject of Union. There is a great difference of opinion on the question, and it would certainly be premature to pronounce upon it until all the papers containing information on the subject are laid before the House. I, for one, am rather in favor of a Union of the Colonies; but I am opposed to the terms contained in the Report of the Quebec Conference. We ought to equidistant towards our defence, and therefore I would not object to the expense of the proposed Union on this ground; but it would be unfair to burden us with the cost of constructing railways, and making canals in Canada from which we would derive little or no benefit. When the Despatches on the subject, however, come down will be the proper time to discuss the merits of the question. I cannot agree with the hon. leader of the Opposition, that we should have appealed to the people if we could not construct a Government unanimously opposed to the Union scheme.

**Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH.**—Before we come to a decision on the Union question, we should possess full information on the subject, and from whom can we obtain this information more satisfactorily than from the Delegates themselves who attended the Conference? These hon. gentlemen, however, at this stage of our proceedings, are not in a position to consistently enter into explanations on the subject of their deliberations. We therefore should wait and not come to a vote on this question until the Report of the Delegation and the correspondence relative thereto are laid before us. The hon. leader of the Opposition seems to be desirous of amusing himself, or perhaps feeling the pulse of his own party by his experimental and rather singular motion; for it is evident that he has not consulted his party. One of his supporters, the hon. and learned member for East Point, is dissatisfied with the resolution which he has proposed, and intends, it appears, to submit one himself, expressive of his own views. The hon. leader of the Opposition censures the Government because they have not defined their policy and assumed the responsibility of dictating to the people on this grave and momentous subject, which affects alike the interests and well being of all classes, races, and political parties in this Colony. It would, in my judgment, be premature for the Government of this Island at this early stage of our proceedings, and before the other Provinces had given their voice on the subject, to anticipate the action and decision of those Provinces, and to declare their opinion on the proposed scheme of Confederation. In Nova Scotia, where every member of the Government is in favor of the measure, they have not made it a Government question. If this was deemed a prudent course in Nova Scotia, certainly it would have been impolitic for the Government of a small Colony like this to have taken a more decided step. Our proper course is to make the matter an open question, and thereby allow all parties the opportunity of discussing the subject freely, and of recording their opinions upon it according to their unbiased judgment. I, for one, am determined to do no act to prejudice the constitutional right of the people to decide on this great question, as I conceive it to be our duty to return to the people intact the rights and the constitution with which we were entrusted, and which we were bound to uphold when we were elected to this House. This is

my view of the subject, and it has also been ably and well laid down by the hon. leader of the Government, that the people ought to be consulted before a decision should be given in favor of the Union scheme. We have, now, however, as a House, no date to work upon, and therefore I repeat that it would be premature at present to enter upon a discussion of the subject, or come to any resolution bearing upon it.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—This is the very point at which I am alluding, namely, to draw out an expression of opinion from the Government. Should a dissolution of the House take place, how are the people to know what is submitted to them unless the Government say yes or no. If I only knew their policy perhaps I would give them my support. It is evading the question to say that we are not informed on the subject, for almost every child between Ottawa and Charlottetown knows all about it—even to nice calculations on the cost of the Intercolonial Railway. The hon. member who last spoke, has, I understand, declared his views on the Union scheme at a public meeting; and after expressing himself as decidedly opposed to it, I am astonished that he, as a member of the Government, should give his sanction to the appointment of a gentleman to be one of his colleagues, who has announced himself to be a "red-hot Unionist." I contend that it was the duty of the Government to declare their principles, and then appeal to the people at once, and not to wait until the House was in Session some time before they agreed upon their policy—then perhaps only to put off the question. In Canada they deemed the matter of such importance as to grapple with it at the very opening of the Session. If we should delay giving a decision upon the question here until the House dies out, it will not be treating the Canadians fairly, who are desirous to have the measure carried immediately into effect. It was the duty of the Government, instead of acting as they have done, to have aimed at leading public opinion, and then taken the case to the polls. It is a very easy course for a Government to pursue, merely to slip along without advancing their views on questions of the greatest importance to the country. There is another subject occupying a share of public attention—a Union of a different description to that under consideration, which has been passed over in silence in His Excellency's speech. I allude to the Tenants' Union, and I am partly disposed to censure the Government for not declaring their sentiments in reference to this organization, as its principles may have to be tested at the next general election. But I will not enter into that subject now. The Government of New Brunswick have taken decided action on the question of Union; Hon. Mr. Tilley has declared himself in its favor and appealed to the people. If Confederation be rejected in that Province at the polls, will he retain office? No, Mr. Chairman, I believe he has too much principle to attempt anything so unconstitutional. Allusion has also been made to Nova Scotia; but from what I know of the gentleman who is leader of the Government there, I think it is not at all probable that he will shirk the question. It will come up in the Legislature, and if he is unable to carry it I believe he will appeal to the people. Several members of the Government of this Island have expressed sentiments at public meetings adverse to the proposed Union, but as the Hon. Col. Secretary and the Hon. Solicitor General are in favor of the measure, I suppose their colleagues have refrained from expressing an opinion in the Address lest these gentlemen should be offended. But they are not so careful about wounding the feelings of some of their friends. The Hon. Attorney General has been wedged out of the Executive Council on a difference connected with this question, and an effort made, at his expense, to smooth down matters for the return of the late leader of the Government to his former position.

Hon. Col. GRAY.—Mr. Chairman, I am of opinion that the conclusion of the hon. member's remarks might have been spared. I would have preferred to have taken no part in this discussion, but when referred to and misrepresented, I cannot be silent. Perhaps the hon. member may not be acquainted with the merits of the case to which he has alluded. Let me, then, state that the difference between an hon. gentleman, not a member of this House, and myself, was unconnected with the question of a Union of the Colonies. It was quite a different matter altogether. If the hon. member who has introduced this unpleasant subject would refer to the files of some of the public journals, he would find the reasons which I assigned for resigning my position as president of the Executive Council and as a member thereof. The case had nothing to do with a Union of the Colonies. It might have occurred in any other circumstances. It affected myself personally, and also the interests and honor

of the country apart from the question of Union. The hon. leader of the Opposition has referred to two points which though first discovered he has since connected—the subject of a Union of the Colonies and a Government question respecting an appointment to office. I am at a loss to understand how the hon. member for East Point intends to propound his views on the subject; perhaps he will present his objections to the Address in a more connected form. Surely hon. members cannot have so soon forgotten that the Government appointed delegates, according to the resolution of this House last session, to confer with other delegates, on the subject of a Union of the Maritime Provinces; and also at a later date on the invitation of His Lordship the Governor General, that delegates were appointed to consider the broader question of a Union of the whole of the Provinces. This is a matter calculated to effect the interests and welfare of every subject in British America irrespective of party, race or faith; and consequently to divest it as much as possible from a party question, three members of the Government, three members of the Opposition, and one independent member of this House, were appointed to proceed to Quebec as delegates. This delegation was nominated on precisely the same grounds as the first was appointed. When the request came from Canada for this Colony to send delegates to confer on the question of a Union of the whole of the Provinces, surely it was not necessary to call the Legislature together to consider the propriety of acceding to the request. If this were the case of what use would the Executive be? It would, indeed, be a do-nothing Government. There was no occasion to seek new powers from the Legislature; the two delegations were for precisely the same purpose, only the latter was to consider the subject on a grander scale. The one scheme was for uniting Provinces comparatively unimportant; the other was for consolidating the same Provinces into a confederation which would form a state as large as the entire Continent of Europe. If I had thought that this subject was to have been made a Government question, had I so much love, politically speaking, for the hon. leader of the Opposition; or for the hon. gentleman on his right, the member for St. Peter's—as well as another hon. gentleman from the other end of the building who has generally been opposed to my views—that I should have appointed them on this delegation? My friendship for them on political grounds was not so great that I would have urged their appointment had I thought that the subject which the delegation met to consider was to be a question on which an effort would be made to defeat the Government. I encountered no little opposition in procuring the appointment of my political opponents; but if there be any blame attaching to it, I assume it all. I believe, however, that there is not a member of this House who does not appreciate and approve of the motives which influenced the choice. But, Sir, I have recently learned that there are three great commandments for politicians—of which I was entirely ignorant when I entered political life. The first of these is for the politician to take good care of himself and his pocket; the second is to crush his enemy; and the third is to attend to the good of the country. And, Sir, I fear that the third is sometimes wholly forgotten in the zeal to carry out the other two. (Applause.) Acting on these rules, therefore, it is fair game for the hon. leader of the Opposition to endeavor to trip up the Government on any pretence whatever. I think, however, it would have been more prudent in him to have deferred bringing up this question until it came before the House in due form. The delegates appointed were required to report to the Legislature, which I as their chairman am prepared to do; but at this stage of the proceedings, until this Report can be laid before the House, it is premature to discuss this subject. At Quebec I expressed the opinion that this was a question for the people to decide; when I returned here, however, I found the statement had gone forth—like many more which were untrue—that this question was to be carried without an appeal to the people. I immediately wrote a letter to the different newspapers in the Colony stating some of my views on the subject, and assuring the people that the measure could not be sanctioned without an appeal to them. The hon. member has referred to the course pursued by the Government of Nova Scotia on the question. They have adopted there the plan which I thought we ought to follow out in this Colony. I understand it is the intention of the Government of Nova Scotia to submit the Report of the delegates to the House of Assembly, and if but a majority of that body were in favour of the scheme, that then there would be an appeal to the people. I have not consulted with the members of our Government—nor could it be expected that I should—as to what

course they purposed to adopt; but I consider that it is their duty to submit the Reports to the House, and then will be the time for this honorable body to deal with them on their merits. The question has assumed such grave features of late on account of the action of the Home Government, that it may be necessary to deal with it in a practical manner. It is difficult to say what despatches from the Secretary of State for the Colonies may be laid before us in the course of a month. There are some hon. members here, doubtless, of far greater political sagacity than I can pretend to, who will probably enlighten this House on the best course to pursue in the case. There may be facts connected with it submitted to our notice of which we are at present uninformed; so it is impossible to determine what steps it may be imperative on us to take. If I mistake not His Excellency stated in his speech that the papers on the subject will be laid before the House. It will be time enough then to judge of the matter. As chairman of the delegation I had my own share of the work to perform, and I do not desire to be called upon to enter into explanations until the question is brought up in proper shape. With reference to the appointment to which the hon. leader of the Opposition objects, I will refrain from making any observations at present, for it would perhaps necessitate a reference to another gentleman to whom I do not now wish to allude. I dare say the Government were actuated by the best possible motives in making the selection which they did. It is no easy matter, as I can testify from my experience during the last two years, to procure able assistants. I suppose the Government would scarcely have ventured to offer the appointment to the hon. member for East Point, with any hope of receiving a favorable reply. (Laughter.) I regard the hon. gentleman who has been appointed as every way well qualified for the situation he has been called upon to fill. I look upon him, Sir, as the father of this House—but in making this remark I am not certain that I am doing justice to the hon. member for Cardigan.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—Nor to one or two others on this side of the House.

Hon. Col. GRAY.—Well, I am right in saying that he has been longer a member than any on the Government side of the House. We are all here, I believe, comparatively young members. (Laughter.) I am safe in saying, however, that the gentleman appointed is one well entitled to the confidence of the country. I am not aware, at least, that the Government could have done better in the selection.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—I did not censure the Government for appointing delegates, but for saying that they are opposed to Confederation, and at the same time appointing a Unionist to a seat in the Executive.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—It is difficult to tell who is, and who is not a Unionist in this House. The hon. member who last spoke has, I understand, expressed himself in favor of a Union of the Colonies. At Ottawa he certainly made a speech approving of the terms of the Quebec Conference. As this is a question on which the people have not made up their minds, I do not see how the Government could be expected to lay down any definite policy in the matter. The hon. member for Belfast has set the case very fairly before the Committee, by stating that the time to discuss the question is when the Report of the delegates and the papers connected therewith have been presented to the House.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—I cannot allow the statement of the hon. member for Charlottetown to pass uncontradicted. I defy him or any other person to show that I, in the Conference or any where else, said that I was in favor of the terms contained in the Report of the delegates. All I said at Ottawa in favor of the Report was, that it was creditable to so many men that they had agreed so well in drawing it up. Hon. members may say that this is not a Government question; but I am determined to make it one, so that if it be taken the polls the people may have the matter fairly before them. Some may be disposed to say that the terms are not very favorable to this Colony; but they have confidence that the gentlemen at Ottawa will do what is fair. Now, I am of opinion that the people of this Island would not be satisfied to leave the matter in this way. To have hon. members acting like loose fish on such a question is dangerous. Had I been desirous to carry my resolution I would have put it in a different shape altogether. I do not wish them to vote against their declared principles. I believe the hon. member on my right (hon. Mr. Whelan) and the late leader of the Govern-

ment would vote to have the Report of the delegates confirmed by the Imperial Government. These are former old party ties to be settled, as it is not referred to in His Excellency's speech this Session—the first time which it has been omitted for years. I would perhaps have assumed the Government had they declared their principles. As it is at present, I do not understand their policy.

Mr. BRECKEN.—I had hoped, Mr. Chairman, that this question would have been met in the spirit of the third of the motives of politicians mentioned by the hon. member for Belfast—that of the general interests of the country—but, Sir, I now despair of that, seeing that the hon. leader of the Opposition has expressed his determination to degrade this high theme to the level of a mere party question. Never since this Island had a Legislature, never since the sun of civilization shone upon it, has a matter of such momentous interest, wherein such great principles are involved, occupied the attention of its parliament. The hon. leader of the Opposition has talked much about trimming sails to catch the varying breeze of popular favor, but I can tell him that example is better than precept. No one should regard a question of such magnitude in the light of his own personal interests or those of his party. Generations yet unborn are to be affected by the decision of this matter, and it is truly to be regretted that the hon. member has not thought fit to follow the example adopted by the Legislatures of the other Colonies, where party spirit has been merged in the treatment of this subject. In Canada we find gentlemen who had long been bitter opponents now agreeing as we are told the hon. and the lady shall do. In Nova Scotia, the leader of the Government and of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, and in the Assembly the ex-Attorney General, view this subject only as it regards the general interests of their country. Such example should not be without its effect on the hon. member. My own opinion is opposed to the contemplated Union, as I believe that we should not be as advantageously situated under it as we are at present. But, Sir, this is not the time to discuss the question, for how can hon. members form opinions on the matter until the information embodied in the correspondence shall be placed before them? I have not sought to know the course the Government may adopt on this question; but it is no imputation on their courage that they have not indicated their action in the address.—I think it would be more prudent to await the action of the other Colonies. I see by the debate in the Canadian Legislature that the Report of the Conference is regarded as a treaty. Perhaps that report may have been assented to by the hon. member himself. There may possibly be another Conference; if such should be the case and the hon. member should assist at it, I hope he will occupy a more comfortable position than I fear he does at present. As one of the seven representatives of this Island, he occupied at the Quebec Conference a high position, and he had a high and solemn duty to perform, and he should have discharged it untrammelled by considerations of mere party. If he was opposed to the Scheme, then was the time for him to have manifested his independence, and if he considered that the project would operate prejudicially to the interests of his country, he should have stated so. Sir, he should have recollected that it devolved upon him as a prominent public man of the Island, delegated to the mission on which he went, on account of his position, to have asserted and illustrated the reputation of his country for straightforward honest conduct. If our Island home be limited in area, if its population be sparse and its people poor in comparison to our neighbors, these circumstances rendered more incumbent on those who represented us to show that we were disposed to act without deception, and not to subject the Colony to the imputation of a breach of faith with our neighbors. As to what has been said by the hon. member with reference to the appointment of the Solicitor General it becomes not me, situated as I am, with reference to that gentleman, to discuss the subject as fully and freely as I might under other circumstances; but I do say that the constituency of Georgetown which he has for years represented, and from whom he seeks a renewed expression of confidence, is, although comparatively small, as intelligent as any in the Island. They have had ample opportunities of estimating his character for veracity, and when he openly avows his opinions in seeking their suffrages, they are best qualified to know what amount of credence is to be accorded to him. The hon. leader of the Opposition finds that the Land Question having been finally disposed of, no *locus standi* is left for him, and consequently he must lower the question of

the proposed Union to the lowest platform of party. There is no fear that the Imperial Government will constrain us to the positive adoption of the Union; and, if I supposed that the Government of the Island would force this measure without the opinion of the people having been taken upon it, I would vote for their impeachment. This question involves our political existence, and the principles for which the oppressed nationalities of the world have been and are struggling. There is no necessity for haste; if the other Colonies, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, decline to enter into the compact there is an end of it; if they shall consent to it, and we be forced to cast in our lot with them, we shall at least have the satisfaction of knowing that we have done our duty to our country.

Hon Mr COLES.—If we are to wait for the action of the other Colonies, and to follow in their footsteps, we may as well send to the Island copies of their proceedings and that we will adopt them. I repeat that this is a question on which the Government should declare their policy. In Canada and the other Colonies it is true that parties formerly opposed to each other have united on this matter, but it should be remembered, on the other hand, that there has been a combination of men who formerly took different sides in politics, in opposition to the scheme. In Canada M. Dorion is not found lying down beside his former colleague, Mr Brown. When I say that this is a political question, I do not mean to assert that the same party ties which formerly existed must necessarily remain. I object to the Government expressing themselves as opposed to a question of such importance as this, and taking into their councils a gentleman who has expressed himself most warmly in favor of it.

Mr BRECKEN.—I did not say that I would consent to any course which Nova Scotia or New Brunswick might adopt. I stated that it would be advisable to wait until we had ascertained their views; and surely the hon member must admit that if those Provinces decline to unite their destinies with those of Canada, there is not much probability that the latter will force Prince Edward Island into a union with her. I agree with the hon member that new political associations have arisen in the other Colonies on this question. In Canada, Mr Brown sits beside his old opponents, Messrs Cartier and McGee, and a similar fusion of parties may take place here. Public men have and do change their views on particular questions, and it may be that the hon member himself shall, at some future day, and himself the leader of a Union party; and, Sir, such a position would imply no discredit to him, if additional information should dawn upon his mind.

Hon Mr COLES.—With reference to the appointment of the Solicitor General, my objection is, that if that gentleman be returned to this House, and the question of Confederation be brought up during the present Session, he must either vote on it, against his own convictions, or against the Government of which he is a member and paid official.

Mr BRECKEN.—I repeat that if elected on his public avowal to his constituents that however strong may be the opinions he entertains on the subject of the contemplated Union, it is not the intention of the Government which he has joined to force it upon the people before they shall have had the opportunity of signifying their wishes on the subject, he can, without the slightest imputation of inconsistency, sit in the Executive Council and this House as Solicitor General of his party; and it is somewhat inconsistent with the character of a great liberal that he should advocate the principle of a representative of the people forcing his opinions upon those who differed from them.

Hon Col SECRETARY.—Mr Chairman, in the absence of all official information, this discussion is premature and irrelevant. When the proper time shall have arrived I will be prepared to discuss fully the appointment to which reference has been made, and the subject of the Conference at Quebec. The paragraph before us merely states that we will give due consideration to the correspondence when it shall have been submitted to us. When that shall have been done, we can, with propriety, discuss the matter, and not sooner.

Mr SINCLAIR.—Mr Chairman, I am of the opinion of those who believe that the interests of the people are not so safe in the keeping of a Government in favor of Union as of one opposed to it. When the hon member for Charlottetown, Mr Brecken, says that this question involves our very political existence, he necessarily implies that it is pre-eminently a question of a political nature—of such nature that the Government should express their opinion on

it, and not adopt the hide-and-seek policy which they are pursuing. The people can form no estimate of the Government, the acts of which are in opposition to their expressed wishes. On a question of such momentous importance the people have the right to the fullest information; and, Sir, we, the representatives of that people, find ourselves in a position very different from that which we occupied last Session when this question of Union was before us. We now find that instead of the cautious manner in which this matter was treated by the Government last year, that they consider themselves justified in acting without reference to the wishes or opinions of the House. The hon leader of the Government ridicules the idea of consulting the popular branch of the legislature on the propriety or expediency of the second conference, while we all know that the opinion of the House last year was almost unanimous in opposition to the Union of even the Maritime Provinces. It is in the recollection of hon members that the House dealt with the subject very cautiously; they were particular in limiting the authority of the delegates who might be appointed by the Government to the mere preparation and report of the preliminary details of such scheme as might meet the approval of the assembled representatives of the Lower Provinces. The following is the resolution submitted last year by the hon leader of the Government:—

“Resolved, That His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor be authorized to appoint Delegates (not to exceed five) to confer with Delegates who may be appointed by the governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick for the purpose of discussing the expediency of a Union of the three provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P. E. Island under one government and Legislature—the Report of said Delegates to be laid before the Legislature of this Colony, before any further action shall be taken in regard to the proposed question.”

And in the speech which that hon member made on that occasion he said:—

“Now, Sir, I cannot avoid expressing my opinion, that our neighbors are proceeding too hastily in this matter. I think the first point to consider is, Shall there be a preliminary plan? Is it advisable to have a Union at all? In the resolution which I have submitted it is proposed to appoint Delegates, simply for the purpose of discussing the expediency of a union of the three Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P. E. Island, under one Government and Legislature. This is as far as I deem to be prudent for us to proceed at present.”

Now, Sir, I assert that in the action they have taken the Government have exceeded their authority. They appointed another delegation having a very different object, and that delegation instead of merely agreeing to and reporting upon a preliminary plan, have subscribed and adopted the details of a constitution so definite as to have been viewed in the light of a treaty entered into by parties invested with full powers to bind the countries they represented; and we may be sure that we shall be reproached as having been guilty of a breach of faith, if we do not ratify their proceedings. Our legislative constitution will be a mere farce if the Government are allowed to do as they please irrespectively of the formally expressed opinions of this House. If it is the privilege and the duty of this House to criticize and pass judgment upon the acts of the Government, what is the use of calling us together after our rights have been taken from us by the Government? The hon member for Belfast (Hon Col Gray) took credit to himself for the composition of the Island delegation—that it embraced men of opposite opinions, gentlemen selected from each of the political parties in the legislature. That affords to my mind a very strong argument in favor of cautious deliberation, for there is always cause to fear that the prospect of honors and emoluments may be held out to induce unanimity of sentiment between parties who were previously opposed to each other.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH.—Mr Chairman, if the hon member is of opinion that all the leading men of British North America have united to sell the rights of the people, he should shew that the arguments they have made use of are unsound.



Mr SINCLAIR.—I said that the people should view the proceedings with caution.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH.—The inference to be drawn from the hon member's remarks is as I have stated, and the very arguments he uses shows the propriety of putting the question before the people. If it were introduced here as a Government measure, that very fact would have a tendency to influence the opinions of some on a matter which should be divested of all party views and spirit. I have heard no arguments to change my opinion that this should not be made a Government question. If, recognising its importance, all approach it resolved to view it calmly in all its bearings, we shall be doing justice to ourselves and the people to whom it is due that it should not be made the subject of party discussion. Full opportunity will be afforded for discussion when the correspondence shall be submitted, and the interests of the people will be better conserved by treating the subject irrespectively of party.

Hon Mr POPE.—As to the objection urged by the hon member from Princestown that the Government were not justified in despatching delegates to Canada without the previous sanction of this House, I may inform him that His Excellency did so at the request of His Lordship the Governor-General, who, as such, is Governor of this Island. With this request, of course, His Excellency the Lieut Governor felt it to be his duty to comply. The Government, I consider, is the Executive Committee of this House when it is not in Session, and must carry on the public business of the country. The desire of the hon member of the Opposition to embarrass the Government by this irregular discussion is easily seen, and his motives are duly appreciated; but he may as well wait till the papers are laid before us.

Hon Mr LAIRD.—It is hard to say when the proper time will be to consider this question. As it has now come up in the Address, though there are no other papers before the House on the subject, I hold that this is a proper time to give a right vote upon it. I believe the pretty general opinion throughout the country is, that the Government were a little rash in appointing one to a seat in the Executive who had expressed himself so strongly in favor of Union. The Government are bound to act according to the well understood wishes of the people, and in this case they have failed, consequently I cannot give them my support. Supposing the Government be called upon to send delegates to England to assist in preparing a measure relating to the question for the Imperial Parliament, if the Executive be composed of men in favor of Confederation, they will probably send Home "red hot Unionists." The Government have not consulted their own friends in regard to the appointment in question, and they have acted contrary to the wishes of the people, therefore I will oppose them.

Hon Mr KELLY.—Mr Chairman, in the Session of 1863, when the subject of this contemplated Union was for the first time mooted here; and last year when the question of the appointment of delegates was before us, I expressed my decided opposition to the whole scheme, and I have seen nothing yet to induce a change of opinion. It may suit some gentlemen in the Island who can afford to remove to Canada to advocate the merging of our political institutions into those of that country. It has been said by some hon members that the present is not the proper time to discuss the matter, as the paragraph in the address contains no expression of opinion upon it. Such may be the case, but I well recollect that when it was sought to effect the Union of my native country with Great Britain, the wily Lord Castlereagh used precisely the same arguments;

and although at that time he was defeated by an overwhelming majority, the next Session of the Irish House of Commons found him with his plans matured. Bribery and corruption had time to do their work, and did it but too effectually. I trust that hon members of this House will not follow his example, or meet the fate which overtook the betrayer of the rights of his country.

Mr HOWAT.—I suppose this discussion has been brought pretty near to a close, but I wish to offer a few remarks. I have opposed this Union of the Colonies from the first. When the question of Union with the other Maritime Provinces came up last Session, I objected to the appointment of delegates, but was told that it was only a matter of courtesy, and that those appointed were not to agree to any scheme, but only to report. Now, however, the case has assumed a very different form. It has been said that this should be an open question; if so, I suppose I may be allowed to differ with those whom I generally support. If Confederation takes place it will effectually do away with parties for our powers as a local Legislature will amount to little or nothing. I wish to oppose Union in every phase and shape in which it can present itself; without considering the interests of my party, I must stand by the country. I believe the appointment which has been so often referred to was an injudicious one; however much I may respect the gentleman in question, I think it was imprudent to appoint him; considering that he has declared himself decidedly in favor of Union. If, however, I can be assured that he will not hereafter advocate Union I shall be satisfied; but not otherwise, for I wish the Government which I support to be entirely composed of anti-Union men. I am in favor of the amendment; though I regret that a case has arisen in which I should oppose my party, yet I feel that this time I must do it.

Mr DUNCAN.—I wonder where we are to go to find an anti-Union party; it is not to the Opposition, for some on that side are strongly in favor of Union. I think it is quite out of place to discuss this question now, and for my part I will oppose the amendment. I shall not fail, however, at the proper time, to state my strong objections to the proposed scheme of Confederation.

Hon Mr COLES.—I did not expect that the hon member for Murray Harbor would support my resolution—he could not be supposed to agree with any person of liberal principles. Perhaps we cannot get an Anti-Union party in this House; but let us take the matter to the country, and probably then the hon member for New Glasgow, or the hon member for Tryon may be called upon to form a Government. I am sorry that I had to differ with the late leader of the Government, since he exerted himself to procure my appointment on the delegation.

Hon Col GRAY.—When did the hon member differ with me, for I never heard him express any difference of opinion at the Conference?

Hon Mr COLES.—I stated at the Conference when they refused my proposition with respect to the Land Question of this Colony, that they might as well strike Prince Edward Island out of the constitution altogether.

Hon Col GRAY.—I never heard any such declaration from the hon member in the Conference.

Hon Mr COLES.—The hon member, then, might have heard it, for not being very well pleased, I made the statement loud enough. I can tell him, also, of another point on which we differed, namely, the constitution of the Upper branch of the proposed Federal Legislature.

Hon Col GRAY.—I am unable to tell on what point we were not unanimous, for if there was one delegate at the Conference more ardently in favor of Union than myself, it was the hon member. I was not aware that there was any difference of opinion which was not mutual to the Island delegates.

Hon Mr COLES.—I can positively state that the hon member said in the Conference that in Prince Edward Island they were opposed to the principle contained in the resolution which I moved, viz., that the members of the Legislative Council should be appointed by the Local Legislatures.

Hon Col GRAY.—But I positively state that this was not the case. How could I say that the people of Prince Edward Island were opposed to such a principle, when their opinion was not taken on the subject?

Hon Mr COLES.—By the majority of their delegates who were present.

Hon Col GRAY.—The hon member well knows that each Province had one vote at the Conference; and as the leader of the Government, it was my duty to vote for this Colony. When four of our delegates were opposed to any resolution, I was required to say that Prince Edward Island was against it, and the contrary, if the majority were in favor of the proposition. This was the way in which the question was put; and a majority being opposed to the hon member's resolution, I had to say Prince Edward Island was against it.

Hon Mr COLES.—It is admitted then that there was a difference of opinion on this point. On the financial vote Prince Edward Island was unanimous; but this is not the question now before the Committee. With reference to the remark of the hon member for Murray Harbor that no Government could be formed on anti-Union principles.

Mr DUNCAN.—What I stated was to the effect that no Government could be formed on that principle from the present parties, without dismissing some of their supporters. The Government is not a Union Government; if it were I would not support it.

Hon Mr COLES.—The hon member apparently does not wish to censure the Government for what it has done in appointing a Unionist; but I think the case has been very well stated by the hon member from New Glasgow, that it is dangerous to have so many Unionists in the Executive, for if delegates have to be sent Home, they may appoint those who are strongly disposed to favor the proposed Confederation, and therefore commit the country to the scheme. There are several acts of the Government during the past year to which I object; but the appointment under consideration is one of which I entirely disapprove. When the question of Union comes up again perhaps my hon friend on the right, (Mr Whelan) will place the Government in an

awkward position by moving a resolution in favor of the scheme.

Hon Mr WHELAN.—My hon friend on the left (Hon Mr Coles) seems very anxious to draw me out on the present occasion. I, however, shall say only a very few words. This discussion I consider as altogether irrelevant, because the question of Confederation must come up again when the papers on the subject are laid before the House. I will not, therefore, enter into the merits of the scheme at present, though I am not at all disposed to evade any responsibility which attaches to me in the matter. I have no desire to act one part in Canada and another in Prince Edward Island. (Hear from Hon Col Gray.) Though the delegates from this Colony did not gain all they could wish, yet I was not disposed to throw aside a great question, and one which I shall be prepared by and by to show will be for the advantage of this Island. The amendment of my hon friend on the left, was brought forward, I imagine, to show his opposition to the Union scheme at the earliest possible period; and perhaps to show that he is still in opposition to the Government. With respect to the latter, I will ever stand true to my party, when the local policy of the Government is opposed to my well-understood principles; but on the question of Confederation, I cannot shut my eyes to the fact, which has presented itself to some of the greatest minds on the continent, that it is one of such momentous importance as to call upon me to act upon it without reference to old party predilections. Should the Government then be prepared to introduce a measure to give effect to the Report of the Quebec Conference, they shall have my hearty support. One of the reasons assigned by my hon friend for submitting the amendment before the Committee, was that he wished to show the people of the other Provinces that this House was not in favor of a Union of the Colonies. But I believe the course which he has taken will have the contrary effect to what he intended. He ought to have chosen another time to show his opposition to Union, for hon members on the other side of the House cannot be expected to support his motion, although they may agree with him in his opposition to Confederation; consequently the division on his resolution will be such as to lead the people of the other Provinces to suppose that the Confederation scheme is not very unfavorably received by this House. It is not my place or my intention to defend the Government, but it appears to me to be a most injudicious proceeding on the part of my hon friend to single out a particular appointment on which to censure the Administration. If we are to object to the policy of the Government, let us do it on general grounds. For my part, I may state that I approve of the appointment of the Solicitor General—not that I say it ought to have been made at this particular time; for I hold that the Government should have had firmness enough to tell their principal Crown Officer to resign, and thus save them the necessity of re-suscitating an office which has become obsolete and unnecessary. This is the course which I think they ought to have pursued. But to object to the appointment of the Hon Solicitor General, because he has expressed himself in favor of Confederation, is a proceeding of which I cannot approve. I rather hold it as one reason why he should be appointed. This view is strengthened by the fact, that the other gentleman appointed at the same time as the Solicitor General, is opposed to Union. With regard to the second appointment, I think the Government might have selected a person having stronger political claims on their party; but I will not censure them for the appointment on the ground of his opposition to Union. This question of Confederation is one which should be viewed in all its future bearings; and the Government will doubtless make known their policy respecting it, when the papers on the subject come up for consideration. Since Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies has recommended them to give the scheme effect, they

cannot well treat it with indifference, much less opposition. When the proper time arrives I will be prepared to enter into the merits of the whole question. I have had no opportunity, through indisposition, to express my opinions on the subject at any public meetings, except some held in my own district; and when it comes up here I shall regard it as my duty to assume all the responsibility which attaches to my conduct in the matter, as well as to deal with every feature of the question. I would be glad were my hon friend to withdraw his amendment, as I consider it to be too trifling a matter on which to divide this hon Committee.

Mr CONROY.—Mr Chairman, if party feeling has not been sunk on this question in this House, it has been pretty well laid aside in the country. At Tighish, a part of the district which I have the honor to represent, where the people are very much divided in their political opinions, my colleague and I lately attended a meeting, at which every one appeared to be opposed to the proposed Union. I never saw a time when newspapers were so much sought after, and the speeches delivered at public meetings so generally read. The speech of the hon Solicitor General was read in our part of the Island with great dissatisfaction; and his appointment to a seat in the Executive is considered, in consequence of his decided Union sentiments, to have been very injudicious on the part of the Government. I know that the country is dissatisfied with the appointment, therefore I have no hesitation in supporting the amendment proposed by the hon leader of the Opposition.

Hon Mr HENSLEY.—When I came into the house this afternoon, Mr Chairman, the resolution proposed by the hon leader of the Opposition was on the table. I would rather it had not been brought forward; or at least, that it had been put in another form; but as he appears desirous to press it, every member must say yes or nay. The question on which we are required to vote, is, Should the hon Solicitor General have been appointed to a seat in the Executive? Notwithstanding all the respect which I entertain for the hon gentleman alluded to, yet considering his extreme views in favor of Union, and the excited state of the country on the question, I consider the Government would have stood better with the people had his appointment not been made. When I previously addressed you, Mr Chairman, I stated my intention to submit a resolution expressing regret that the Government had not declared its policy on the question of Confederation. Though I have abandoned the idea of proposing a motion to that effect, yet I must state, that as this subject is one of the most momentous which has ever come before the consideration of the Legislature, I think the Government ought to have given some decided expression of opinion upon it. I believe there is sufficient information before the public to have warranted such an expression of opinion. It is all very well to say that a majority of the members of the Government have made speeches against Union; but they ought to have come out as a Government with some decided declaration in regard to the question. What information can be gathered from such speeches when we find them here contradicting each other as to the tendency of their remarks. Even some of the speeches given in Canada, we are told, are not to be understood in that sense which we would take to be their natural meaning. I will vote for the amendment; but in so doing I disclaim any personal objections to the hon gentleman to whom it refers. I have, on the contrary, a very high respect for him. The hon member for Murray Harbor has stated that he will support the paragraph, and not the amendment. I have heard him express strong sentiments on the question of Union—stating that the man who supported the scheme must be almost a lunatic. If he is not sorry that a person of this description should be appointed to a seat in the Government, then I have nothing more to say. (Laughter.)

The question was then put to the Committee by the chairman:

For Mr Coles' amendment.—Honourables Coles, Kelly, Thornton, Warburton, Hensley, Laird, Messrs Sinclair, Conroy, Walker—9.

Against it.—Hons J. C. Pope, Longworth, Col. Gray, Col. Secretary, Davies, Kay, Speaker, Whelan; Messrs Ramsay,

Bracken, Montgomery, Haslam, Green, McLennan, Duncan—15.

Progress was then reported, and the House adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, March 3.

The Committee on the consideration of the Draft Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech was resumed.

The 6th and 7th paragraphs were adopted without any discussion. When the 8th, which related to Agriculture and the improvement of Stock, was read,

Hon Mr COLES said if the Government were really anxious to improve the Stock of the Island; he considered the selection of animals (especially the horses) imported since last Session, was the very worst that could be made; and the sooner they were re-shipped the better for the interests of the Island. The horses, with one exception, were the ugliest that could be found, and their color and symmetry were by no means reprehensible. He regretted that four cart horses had been imported; it would have been far better to have imported two cart horses and one or two good blood horses. He then commented upon the defective and unprofitable manner in which the Agricultural Society was conducted, and strongly urged the necessity of re-modelling that Institution.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH thought that there was no departure on the part of the Government from the Resolution of the House last Session relative to the importation of Stock. It was then the almost unanimous opinion of hon members that the old Clydesdale breed were preferable to any other for the agricultural interests of this Colony. Some thousands of pounds were realized by our farmers from the sale of that description of horses; the breed of the old Columbus and the horses recently imported were selected from precisely the same Clydesdale Stock. He, too, was of opinion that it would be better had a thorough bred—or to use the ordinary expression, a Blood Horse—been selected; but the Government had a specific duty to perform under the Resolution of last Session, to which they had adhered. He also expressed his regret that the Model Farm system of breeding Stock had been abandoned, and hoped that sufficient experience had been acquired to convince all parties interested of the advantages which would result from the resuscitation of the Model or Stock Farm. The hon member observed that though he was not a practical agriculturist to any great extent, yet he was fully persuaded from his own experience, and the little attention he had given to the raising of Stock, that a local Institution, conducted upon the Model Farm principle, would prove highly advantageous, and be a great saving to the country. It was a bad system to be importing that which could be profitably produced at one half the cost, and of equal value, on the Island. The hon member said he was sorry to admit that the agricultural interests of the Colony had not received that encouragement essential to its prosperity; and he hoped some system co-extensive with the wants and necessities of the country would be adopted during the present Session.

Hon Mr COLES said he had no doubt that it would be a difficult matter to re-organize the Agricultural Society; for so long as politics were allowed to be introduced into its management no success would attend the Institution. At present it might be fairly considered a Government Society. The annual grant was expended in paying the rent of the building and the salary of the Secretary; and if the Government had no confidence in the Society, was it any wonder that the public took no interest in the matter? He regretted that farmers generally did not urge upon their Representatives the importance of giving more ample support to this most important subject.

Hon J. C. POPE hoped when this question relative to the dearest interests of the Island would be properly before this House, it would be taken up and discussed in that spirit of fairness and freedom from party interests which its importance demanded. He exceedingly regretted the abandonment of the Model Farm, and hoped soon to see a similar Institution re-established. It was unfair to reflect on the Government for the importation of the present Stock—which had been purchased in express compliance with the Resolution of the House of Assembly. He then proceeded to show that the

Stock had been selected by competent judges, and purchased in conformity with the instructions of the House, and that therefore the Government had discharged their duty.

Hon Mr DAVIES said that he had always understood the Model Farm had become defunct, as the result of mismanagement under the late Liberal Government. He would, however, favor the re-establishment of a similar Institution. He spoke of the heavy risk and expense incurred in importing live Stock from Europe, and of the great advantage that would result to the country from the raising of Stock in the Island. As a farming community we should throw aside all party politics when discussing the merits of this important matter. At the present moment he would purchase a hundred horses if they could be had suitable for market abroad at reasonable prices; but, it would not pay to export poor animals.

Mr DUNCAN was of opinion that the hon leader of the Opposition had his own Government to blame for the destruction of the old Model Farm. As regarded the Stock recently imported, two of the horses were prize colts, and Professor Dick selected the Stock. He hoped the next effort that would be made to promote the agricultural interests of the Island by means of a Stock farm, would prove more successful than the past.

Hon Mr WARBURTON could see no necessity for this debate at the present time. When the subject was brought more fully before the House would be the proper time to discuss the question.

Hon Mr COLES contended that political interference was the cause of the destruction of the Model Farm. The Conservative party wished to make it unpopular, and therefore opposed it. They also brought politics to bear on the Agricultural Society by the appointment of a Committee and Secretary contrary to its constitution.

Mr BRECKEN said politics had nothing whatever to do with Agriculture. Institutions of this kind should be managed by practical and scientific men, irrespective of their political opinions; and for the future he hoped this subject would receive that consideration and attention so essential to the best interests of the Colony.

The paragraph under discussion was then passed without a division, and the whole Address reported agreed to without amendment.

When the Speaker was about to put the question, Shall the Report of the Committee be received, Hon Mr Coles moved to amend the same by adding to the fifth paragraph the amendment which he before submitted in Committee.

The House then divided on the motion of amendment.

Yeas—Hons Messrs Coles, Kelly, Warburton, Laird, Hensley; Messrs Sinclair and Howat—7.

Nays—Hons Messrs Pope, Longworth, Col Gray, Davies, Kaye, Colonial Secretary; Messrs Montgomery, McLennan, Haslam, Green, Brecken, Ramsay, Yeo—13.

The Address was then carried, ordered to be engrossed, and a Committee appointed to wait on His Excellency to know when he would be pleased to receive the same.

Hon Mr Longworth, chairman of Committee on Expiring Laws, submitted a report, which was committed to a Committee of the whole House—Mr McLennan in the Chair.

After some time spent in said Committee, House adjourned.

#### AFTERNOON.

Mr BRECKEN, Chairman of the Committee appointed to wait upon His Excellency to ascertain when he would be pleased to receive the Address in answer to his Speech, reported that His Excellency would receive the Address at 12 o'clock to-morrow.

House in Committee resumed the consideration of report relative to Expiring Laws.

Hon Mr Longworth reported from the Committee several Resolutions which were respectively adopted by the House.

Committees were then appointed to introduce Bills in accordance with said Resolutions, after which the House adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow.

Saturday, March 4.

At the hour appointed the House waited on His Excellency with the Address, and on their return his Honor the Speaker reported the reply, which is as follows:

Mr Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I thank you for your Address, and for the assurance that you will give your careful consideration to the subjects on which I have asked your assistance and advice.

May your endeavors to promote the interests of this Island be blessed with success.

Hon J. C. ROZE, Leader of the Government, submitted the Blue Book for 1862, Returns of Union Bank up to 15th December, 1864, and Returns of Bank of P. H. Island up to 7th September, 1864.

Hon Mr Longworth, Chairman of Special Committee on Expiring Laws, submitted a Bill relative to the Seduction Act, and to make other provisions in lieu thereof as regards all future actions.

Bill received and read; ordered to be read a second time on Monday.

House adjourned.

#### AFTERNOON.

Hon Leader of the Government announced a Message from the Lieutenant Governor, transmitting copies of Despatches and Correspondence relating principally to the subject of a Union of the British North American Colonies.

Said papers were read by the Clerk, and their consideration made the order of the day for Friday next.

Hon Mr Coles suggested the propriety of having the documents just read printed, and copies thereof furnished to hon members.

Hon Leader of the Government concurred with the hon Leader of the Opposition; and, on motion, it was ordered that said Despatches and Correspondence be printed accordingly.

Hon Mr Coles gave notice that on Monday next he would ask the Government to lay before the House copies of any Despatch or Despatches from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to the Colonial Office, relative to the Militia Law of this Island. Also a copy of any Despatch or Despatches from or to His Excellency, in reference to the Bill passed last Session for settling the difference between landlord and tenant; and also copies of Petitions from the Tenant Union Committee and Tenantry of this Island to Her Majesty against the passing of said Act, and of any Despatches which might have accompanied them.

His Honor the Speaker then read a communication from certain publishers of newspapers in Charlestown, offering to publish the debates and proceedings of the House of Assembly, provided a sufficient sum be granted to remunerate said publishers for the necessary expense they would incur in performing the work.

House adjourned.

MONDAY, March 6.

Mr Haslam, chairman of Special Committee for the purpose, submitted a Bill to continue the Act relating to the running at large of Swine. Ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Hon Leader of the Government submitted the Returns of the Road Correspondent for the past year—referred to Special Committee on Public Accounts.

On motion of Mr Conroy, Mr Howat was substituted for him on the Committee on Public Accounts.

On motion of the Hon Mr Longworth, the number of the Committee on the Fish Inspection Bill was increased from three to five. Messrs Howlan and Green were added thereto.

On motion of Hon Mr Longworth, the Seduction Bill was read a second time, committed and reported agreed to.

Hon Mr COLES, in accordance with previous notice, asked for the Despatches, if any sent to the Colonial Office in connection with the Militia Bill, and the Bill for the settlement of the Land Question; also for those accompanying the Petitions against the allowance of the latter. The hon member having accompanied his request with observations touching the policy of the Government on the above questions, was declared by the Speaker to be out of order, as the documents asked for must be laid on the table before any discussion relative to their contents could be entertained.

After some discussion on this point, the Hon Mr Pope said the papers asked for would be submitted.

The Hon Legislative Council announced, by message, that they had appointed the Hons Messrs Palmer, McDonald and Ramsay a Committee of good Correspondence.

Hon Mr HENSLEY gave notice that on Thursday next he would ask for copies of any instructions which might have been given the delegates to the Conference held last autumn on the subject of a Union of the Provinces.

House adjourned.

THURSDAY, March 7.

On motion of the Hon Mr Longworth, the Bill entitled an Act to continue the Seduction Act was read a third time and passed.

Hon Mr POPE submitted the Accounts of the Commissioner of Public Lands, and also the Colonial Treasurer's Accounts for the past year; which documents were referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

On motion of the Hon Mr DAVIES, a Supply was granted to Her Majesty.

House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, March 8.

Hon Mr POPE presented the Returns of the Road Commissioners for the past year.

Mr HOWAR, from the Committee appointed last Session to whom were referred certain Petitions relative to the Tavern License Law, submitted a Report; received and read, and referred to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

On motion of Mr HASLAM, the Bill relating to the appointment of Hog Reeves, and to prevent the going at large of Swine, was read a second time and committed—Mr Green in the chair.

Mr HASLAM having explained the object of the Bill, remarked that some slight alterations were made to the present Act; one of which was to the effect that a majority of the electors of any School District, and not two-thirds of them as heretofore, should have power to make application for the appointment of two Hog Reeves annually; also that Hog Reeves, performing their duties in compliance with this Bill, should be entitled to the sum of four shillings, instead of 2s 6d, per head, for all Swine seized and taken up by them under the provisions of this Bill.

After some brief remarks from the Hons Messrs Hensley, Coles, Longworth and Warburton, the Bill was reported agreed to.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY, one of the Committee of last Session appointed to report on the Spirituous Liquor License Law, presented a petition from divers inhabitants of P. E. Island relative to the subject of Liquor Licenses. Petition received and read, and referred to the House when in Committee on the report which Mr Howat submitted on the same subject.

Hon Mr WARBURTON, in accordance with previous notice, asked for Returns of Prince of Wales College, and also Returns

of the Grammar Schools at Charlottetown, Summerside and Georgetown, for the past year.

Hon Mr POPE replied that the documents in question were being prepared and would be submitted.

Mr McLENNAN presented a petition from divers Merchants and others, praying for a Charter for the purpose of establishing a Bank at Summerside. Said petition was received and read, and the following gentlemen appointed a Committee to bring in a Bill relative thereto, viz:—Messrs McLennan, Hensley, Green, Longworth and Davies.

Hon Mr HENSLEY said that as he understood the question relative to which he had given notice, would be answered without any further motion, he would now ask for any instructions which might have been given the delegates to the late Conference on the subject of Colonial Confederation.

Hon Col SECRETARY replied, and said that the delegates who attended the Conference held at Charlottetown last Autumn, were appointed in pursuance to the Resolution of this House passed last Session, and that those gentlemen were the same, with the addition of two to their number, who attended the Quebec Conference. He then produced and read a copy of a letter which had been forwarded to each of the delegates, notifying them of their appointment. He (the Col Sec'y) was not aware that any other instructions were given to the delegates.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH moved that the House go into Committee to take into consideration the Savings Bank Law, with the view of making some slight alterations in the Act of last Session.

The House went into Committee accordingly, Mr Yeo in the chair.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH then submitted a Resolution to the effect that it is expedient to amend the Law relating to the Savings Bank, with the view of enabling depositors to receive interest for monies deposited to commence from the first day of each month subsequent to such deposit, and not from the first day of each quarter as now provided by the Act. Resolution reported agreed to, and the following gentlemen appointed a Committee to bring in a Bill in accordance therewith, viz:—Hons Messrs Longworth, Pope and Hensley.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH, chairman of said Committee, then presented a Bill to alter the Law relating to the Savings Bank, which Bill was received and read, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

House adjourned.

AFTERNOON.

Hon Mr POPE submitted the Warrant Book for the past year; referred to Committee on Public Accounts.

Hon Mr POPE also submitted certain Despatches and correspondence relative to the Land Bill of last Session and the Militia Law of this Island; also correspondence relating to certain Petitions of Tenants of this Island, praying the disallowance by Her Majesty of the above Bill, for the settlement of differences between Landlord and Tenant; all of which documents were ordered to be laid on the table.

Hon Col SECRETARY presented the Writ of Election with the Sheriff's return of the Hon T. Heath Haviland as Member elect for Georgetown; after which Mr Haviland was introduced to the Speaker, and having taken the usual oaths, resumed his seat, vacated by his acceptance of the office of Solicitor General.

On motion of the Hon Col SECRETARY, the House went into Committee to take into consideration the repeal of the Oyster Bill of last Session, with the view of making other provisions in lieu thereof—Mr Yeo in the chair.

Hon Col SECRETARY then submitted a Resolution to the effect that said Bill be repealed in order that more extensive facilities be given to parties disposed to cultivate Oyster beds and encourage the growth and production of Oysters. Resolution reported agreed to, and the following gentlemen appointed a Committee to bring in a Bill in accordance therewith, viz:—Hon Colonial Secretary, and Messrs Green and Howlan.

House adjourned.

THURSDAY, March 9.

Hon Col SECRETARY submitted a Bill to repeal the Act regulating the Oyster Fishery of this Island, and to make other provisions in lieu thereof. He then explained the nature of the amendments which he desired to have enacted; the object of the amended Bill would be to prevent the taking of Oysters during the spawning season, and to give persons the right to plant Oysters in certain localities. After which it was ordered that the Bill be read a second time to-morrow.

On motion of the Hon Mr LEWIS, the Bill to amend the Law relating to the Savings' Bank of this Island, was read a second time, committed and reported agreed to.

House adjourned.

AFTERNOON.

On motion of Mr HOWAT, the House went into Committee on the Report of the Special Committee, appointed last Session to consider the expediency of amending

### THE LIQUOR LICENSE LAW.

Mr GAZZAR took the chair of Committee.

Mr HOWAT said as far as he could understand the prayer of the petitioners on this question, they desired that it might be rendered necessary on the part of applicants for Tavern Licenses to obtain the consent of a majority of householders at a public meeting called for the purpose; and also that store licenses should be placed under the same restrictions as tavern licenses. The Committee considered that even though a public meeting was called, it might be difficult to obtain an unbiased expression of opinion, owing to the excitement frequent on such occasions. It, in all probability, could be better obtained at people's own firesides. In regard to store licenses there was difficulty in whichever way it was viewed; the Committee, however, had recommended that the quantity should be raised from a pint to a quart. Some might object that this was affording people an occasion to take a "bigger drink," if he might be allowed the expression. It was thought, however, that so many would require to join together to drink a quart, that this quantity would be seldom purchased except for home use. With respect to the renewal of licenses, which the petitioners desired to be placed under the same restrictions as the granting of them, the Committee had recommended, as in their opinion a better way, that two-thirds of the householders in a district should be empowered to prevent, if they saw fit, a tavern keeper within their bounds from renewing his license. This was as far as the Committee could go, for they did not think it would be fair to place it in the power of a mere majority to take the license from a party who might just a year before have gone to considerable expense in fitting up his house for the purpose. In drawing up their report, the Committee had the able assistance of an hon member, who was favorable to the Temperance cause. The petitioners, he (Mr H.) believed, were moving in the right direction, and he would give them his aid to the extent of the recommendations of the report.

Hon Mr HENSLEY, as another member of the special Committee, might be expected to offer some remarks on the report. The last speaker had very fairly stated the object of the petitioners. One of their requests was that a majority of householders should be required to sign every year in favor of a tavern being kept open in their district, before the license could be renewed. The Committee were desirous to accede to the prayer of the petitioners, but they could not go its whole length. They thought it better to let the people decide at home than to require them to attend meetings for considering the granting of licenses, where there might be unseemly disputes. The Committee also thought it unfair that a tavern keeper who had gone to the expense of providing a house, should have his license taken from him at the end of the year, by, perhaps, one or two persons changing their opinion; but two-thirds of any number of householders who had consented to the opening of such a house in their midst, could hardly be supposed to request the closing of the same unless it was conducted in a disorderly manner. Intemperance was the cause of a great many evils, and therefore he thought that the Sons of Temperance were not open to censure for so frequently coming before this House by petition praying that the traffic in intoxicating liquors might be more restricted, and thus to some extent subjecting them-

selves to the taunt that they wished the Legislature to be always tinkering at the laws relating to the subject. Some said that it was necessary to have taverns for the benefit of travellers; but it was possible to have houses for the accommodation of the public without the sale of liquors. What travellers required was a place where they could get a good meal and a bed; it was not necessary that they should be able also to procure liquors. Sons of Temperance sometimes travelled from home as well as others, and they did not seem to suffer from their abstinence principles; he generally saw them as hearty and healthy as any other class in the community. There seemed to be rather an anomaly in the present Act; parties selling small quantities had to submit to the approval of a majority of householders in the district, while those who sold a pint were placed under no such restrictions. True, it could not be drunk on the premises; but it was easy to get a company of two or three who could buy a pint, and then go outside and drink it without much trouble. It was difficult to make a distinction between the quantity that should be allowed to be sold in this way, and prohibiting its sale altogether; but the Committee acted as they considered for the best, in recommending that it should not be sold in less quantities than one quart.

Hon Mr DAVIES, being also a member of the special Committee, supposed he must say a few words in favor of their report. He agreed with what had fallen from the hon member for East Point, and also from the hon member for Tryon. Rather than comply with the whole prayer of the petitioners he would go for prohibition altogether. If the householders in any school district deemed it advisable to prohibit its sale within their bounds, by the recommendation of the report this power was placed in the hands of two-thirds of their number. This arrangement, together with increasing the quantity to be sold under store licenses to a quart, he thought would pretty nearly carry out the views of the petitioners. As long as there was a desire for liquor in the country, it could be obtained in an illegal manner, if not otherwise; consequently he thought it better to place its sale under moderate restrictions than to go the whole length of the petitions before them.

Hon SOLICITOR GENERAL congratulated the Committee on their very able report, considering that they had had the matter in hand for two sessions. The license question was like the land question, one that never seemed to be settled. There was one part of the report to which he objected, namely, that two-thirds of the householders in a school district should have it in their power to close a tavern. He thought if the principle were admitted that where the people of a settlement had consented to the opening of a tavern, two-thirds of them might shut it, there never could be any respectable houses of the kind on the Island, for who would invest capital to build and furnish a good house on such an uncertain tenure? Through ill-will, or some other cause, a few who had agreed to the opening of a tavern, might combine with those who had at first opposed it, and thus deprive the owner of his license, to his injury and that of the travelling public.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH said it was true that this question came up almost every year; but the object of those who introduced it was to get the laws regulating the sale of spirituous liquors so perfected as to give satisfaction to the public at large. He would not affirm that by adopting the report, the evils connected with the system would be fully met, but he thought it would be a move in the right direction. It was obvious that there must be places of entertainment where travellers could be provided for; but while this was kept in view nothing should be sanctioned which would prove a nuisance in the community. Petitions were presented to this House from year to year showing the great evils that resulted from licensing houses to retail spirituous liquors; and if the reasons set forth by these petitions proved that the present Laws on the subject were unsound, it was the duty of the House to apply a remedy. One of the objects of the petitioners had been to show that licenses were granted with too great facility. To meet their views in this respect it was enacted that the consent of a majority of the householders in a school district should be necessary to warrant the licensing of a tavern in their midst. So far as this law extended, it had been found to work well; but it gave no power to the parties who agreed to the opening of a tavern to close it

again should it turn out to be a nuisance. The petitions before the Committee prayed that the majority in a district might be empowered to remove an evil which they in a certain sense consented to initiate. There appeared to be an objection on the part of some hon members to grant this power, because in cases where only a small majority had agreed to the granting of a license, the new opposition of one or two individuals, influenced it might be, by personal motives would turn the scale, and prevent its renewal, to the injury of the tavern keeper who had gone to a considerable expense in furnishing a house for the purpose. In this objection he partly concurred, as he thought it would not be just to grant such power to a bare majority; but the report under consideration recommended that this power be given to two-thirds of the householders in a district. In his opinion such a provision would sufficiently guard the interests of the tavern keeper, for if a majority consented that he should receive a license, at the end of the year two-thirds would scarcely be found to come forward and petition that it should not be renewed, unless they had a good and sufficient reason for so doing. That part of the report he therefore considered to be based upon a sound principle. He thought there were several reasons why it would be undesirable to compel householders to attend a public meeting to give their opinion for or against granting a license; cases might arise in which it would be difficult to take the sense of the meeting. With respect to the quantity to be sold under store licenses, he thought the recommendation of the report to raise it from a pint to a quart a move in the right direction. Parties no doubt might club together to drink a quart as well as a pint; but it would take a larger number, and their conduct consequently would be more likely to come under the notice of the neighborhood. Upon the whole, therefore, he thought the report commended itself to the favorable notice of the House.

Hon Mr WARBURTON believed that all the legislation of this House on the subject had made the matter worse rather than better. He agreed with the hon member for Georgetown that if the recommendations of the report were carried into effect, we would scarcely have a respectable public house on the Island. So far as settlements were concerned there was no need of taverns; they were merely for the benefit of the travelling public. He believed that in his neighborhood there were some half dozen shanties where liquor was sold without license. This he believed to be the case, though he had not sufficiently positive information to act in the matter. It would be better even for the community to have licensed taverns, than this illicit traffic. As to store licenses being restricted to a quart, it would not mend the evil much, for very few bottles would hold that quantity, and the purchaser might be induced to drink what remained after the bottle was filled, and before he reached home, might, perhaps, drink the whole. (Laughter.) On this ground, he believed the Temperance people some years ago petitioned to have the quantity reduced from a quart to a pint, and here they were asking to have it raised again. He understood that a party who received a tavern license at Alberton, obtained it contrary to law; and if this could be done in one case it might be done in another. He did not, therefore, see the use of amending the law to make it more stringent, if the provisions of the Act as it stood were set aside.

Mr HOWLAN said he could scarcely agree with the recommendations of the report, for he thought it advisable that the matter of acceding to a license should be brought before a public meeting in the district. There the tavern keeper might have the opportunity of explaining how he intended to conduct his house, and the householders after having heard all the arguments on both sides would be able to form a pretty correct opinion as to the propriety of granting his request. As the law stood, parties could go round from house to house, and coax one, and offer another a pound of tea, and so on, and thus secure a majority; whereas at a public meeting such artifices could not be attempted. The case of a license being granted for a tavern at Alberton, contrary to law, was correctly stated by the hon member from Lot 11. A person at that place who wished to open a house of this description went round and procured several names; and finding that he had not enough, added a few more, and sent the papers into the Government. The license was granted, and it was found to be a difficult matter to break it. He (Mr H) would have been better satisfied with the report, had it provided for the calling of public meetings in districts to consider applications for licenses.

Mr CONROY thought public meetings would be no advantage, for he knew it was a difficult matter to get people to attend meet-

ings in the country. When a meeting was called for considering even such an important subject as the education of children, frequently not more than two or three persons in his neighborhood could be got to attend. He knew that there were several small shanties in his district where liquor was openly sold, and magistrates as well as others drove to them, and had their glass. He had sometimes visited one of them himself, but he had been informed that this was the case. The law should be made as stringent as possible, but he could not agree with some honorable members that a public meeting would be an advantage.

Hon Mr COLES did not think the suggestions of the report would have any beneficial effect. If magistrates and others interested to see respectable houses kept up, did not inform on those shanties where liquor was illegally sold, then they ought to be left to put up with the nuisance. He was rather in favor of the proposition to call public meetings; if the people did not choose to attend, it would just be like their neglect in cases of elections, they would have no person to blame but themselves. That two-thirds of a district should have the power, after a person had gone to the expense of providing a house, feather bed, stables, and other things required—to discontinue his license would be a great hardship. He contended that all that was necessary, was to have stringent laws in regard to how these houses should be conducted, and then to allow free scope as to their situation. It did seem to him very absurd that Temperance people should ask that licenses might be granted to sell a quart instead of a pint. He could not see that it was encouraging temperance to compel a man to take more than he wanted. If we were going to impose as many restrictions as were sought for, we might as well have the prohibitory law at once. He believed travellers had been put to great inconvenience because certain districts would not allow taverns to be licensed within their bounds. This House had no control over those who kept mere boarding houses, to see that they were provided with beds and other necessary accommodations.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH said that the hon leader of the Opposition seemed to have mistaken the prayer of the petitioners. They did not ask that stores should be licensed to sell a quart instead of a pint; they requested that store licenses should be placed under the same restrictions as tavern licenses.

Hon SOLICITOR GENERAL contended, with all due deference to the hon member for Queen's County, (Mr Longworth,) that there was no necessity for the powers which he wished to place in the hands of a two-thirds majority. If a tavern was kept in a disorderly manner, the Grand Jury could break the license. He (Mr L.) said there was no danger that two-thirds would improperly refuse an application to renew a license where a majority had formerly acceded to it; but we did not know what change might come over the spirit of their dream. A temperance lecturer might visit the district and prevail upon the people; and when the tavern keeper came to renew his license he might find a veto in the Secretary's office. Nor could he (Sol. G.) agree with the latter part of the report, that the quantity under store licenses should be extended to a quart. This would have the tendency of increasing the evil, and the temperance people in making such a request, had certainly committed a great mistake, for he supposed there were not a dozen bottles in the Island which would hold a quart. Should the purchaser drink what was over, it was likely that before he reached home he might drink the whole. Were the House to comply with the prayer of the petitioners, probably next year they would be seeking something else. He moved that the Committee rise without reporting.

Hon Mr LAIRD seconded the motion.

Mr BRECKEN was not of opinion that the Committee should rise without reporting. When a public house became a nuisance, surely those in its immediate neighborhood were the best judges in the matter. If a person opened a good house, the probabilities were, even should the recommendations of the report be adopted, that he would be allowed to continue it. Did it prove to be a nuisance, and result in destroying the morals of the district, certainly it was preferable that one person should be exposed to some sacrifice than that a whole community should suffer. He also thought that the method of calling a public meeting—though such meetings did not always arrive at a correct opinion—was perhaps the best to ascertain the views of a district in regard to an application for license. The whole subject was one of grave importance; the evils resulting from the too free use of intoxicating drinks were great, and it was right that legislation should place restrictions on the traffic.

Hon Col SECRETARY was in favor of any measure which would render the License Law efficient. As the Law now stood applicants for license were required to produce at the Secretary's office certain documents evidencing the consent of a majority of the householders resident within the school district in which the Tavern sought to be licensed, was situated; and also certain certificates from the nearest magistrates. Parties producing such certificates obtained licenses. It might happen that to these documents names were improperly attached; but as the Secretary possessed no means of detecting such signatures, he granted licenses as a matter of course, if the Law was *prima facie* complied with. He would not object to the system of calling public meetings, still he thought the Law was better as it stood.

Hon Mr HENSLEY had listened to all the arguments which had been urged against the report without being convinced that its recommendations were not just or desirable. He was sorry to hear from the hon member for Prince County (Mr Howlan) that people perhaps it was peculiar to his own part of the country could be so easily influenced as to be bought by a pound of tea, or the like. This was a contingency for which the Committee certainly did not provide. He would decidedly object to their rising without reporting. Some hon members had expressed themselves opposed to increasing the quantity under store licenses from a pint to a quart. He for his own part thought the suggestion of the report was an improvement; still he admitted that it would be better to place them under the same restrictions as tavern licenses.

Mr HOWAT was willing. A quart was thought too much, to divide the difference with the advocates of a pint license, and say three half-pints.

Mr HASLAM believed the object of the petitioners was to remove as much as possible from young men in settlements the temptation which taverns afforded them to spend their money and waste their time. In his district a year or two ago a person succeeded in getting a license by coaxing some to sign for it, intimidating others, and forging two or three names. An effort of the kind had since been made, but without success. A public meeting, however, he thought would be the best way to prevent imposition in this matter. There were Sons of Temperance in almost every district who would attend these meetings, hear the reasons urged in favor of applications for license, and discuss the subject.

Mr SINCLAIR thought this was the third time this question had been before the House. Those indefatigable individuals the Sons of Temperance had got up petitions time and again praying for increased restrictions on the license system. He was one of those members of this House who at first opposed granting to a majority of householders in a school district the power to prevent taverns being licensed in their midst. But as the House had admitted the principle that the people should have a voice in this matter, and be empowered to judge whether taverns were required in districts or not, it certainly followed that they ought to have the privilege of saying when it would be advisable to discontinue them. The petitioners asked that a majority should have this power; but the report recommended that it ought to be placed in the hands of not less than two-thirds of the householders in the district. This was surely fair if the first principle be admitted, and he would therefore support the motion for the adoption of the report.

The question was then put on Hon the Solicitor General's motion that the Speaker do take the chair, when there appeared,

For it—Hons Solicitor General, Speaker, Coles, Warburton, Laird, Thornton, Messrs Ramsay and Duncan—8.

Against it—Hons Messrs Hensley, Col Gray, Longworth, Kaye, Pope; Messrs Howat, Haslam, Brecken, Sinclair, Howlan, Conroy, Yeo, Montgomery—14.

The main motion that the report be agreed to was then carried, and reported accordingly. The following gentlemen were appointed a Committee to bring in a Bill in conformity thereto, viz, Messrs Howat, Hensley and Davies.

House adjourned.

FRIDAY, March 10.

On motion of the Hon Mr Longworth, the Bill to amend the Savings' Bank Act was read a third time and passed.

On motion of Mr HASLAM, the Bill to authorize the

appointment of Hog Reeves, and to prevent the going at large of Swine, was also read a third time and passed.

On motion of Hon Mr DAVIES, the Hon Solicitor General and the Hon Mr Hensley were added to the Committee appointed to bring in a Bill relative to Merchant Seamen.

#### OYSTER BILL.

Hon Col SECRETARY moved that the Bill relating to the Oyster fisheries in this Island be read a second time.

Hon Mr COLES moved an amendment that said Bill be read this day three months. He (Hon Mr Coles) said he could not see the necessity for legislation on this subject; he was of opinion that it might be truly said the time had not arrived for the enactment of laws to carry out the speculative theories of the Col Secretary. The Bill was calculated to create trouble and litigation, and he would oppose it.

Hon Mr LAIRD and Mr HOWAT supported the amendment proposed by the Hon Mr Coles, believing, as they did, that it would be inexpedient to legislate on this matter, on the grounds that, under the provisions of this Bill, privileges would be granted to parties obtaining licenses for the prosecution of this new branch of trade, which would, in their opinion, very materially interfere with private rights, and in many cases would operate against the farming interests of the country, by encroaching on the rights of farmers to procure manure mud for manuring purposes. They would, therefore, oppose the Bill going into Committee.

Hon Sol GENERAL said Oyster fishing was becoming a very important article of commerce, and should be fostered. He alluded to the success which followed the artificial cultivation of the Salmon fishery in Australia, and contended that the principles of the Bill should be recognized. He would, therefore, support the motion for going into Committee.

Mr HOWLAN said this was an important Bill, and every means should be employed to encourage this branch of industry, which, even now, formed a considerable item in the exports of the Colony.

Hon Mr HENSLEY supported the Oyster Bill of last Session, and saw no reason to change his views on the subject. The privileges which would be granted by the Bill, he contended, would not in any way interfere with private rights.

Mr BRECKEN said that the object of the hon member for Tryon, (Mr Howat,) being the protection of Mussel beds, it would be well to remark that Oysters would not flourish in Mussel beds, and would, therefore, never be planted where such beds for manuring purposes were to be found, consequently the interests of farmers would not be interfered with in the manner anticipated by that hon member.

Hon Mr DAVIES was of opinion that the time had arrived for taking action on this subject. The price of Oysters advanced last summer from 7s 6d to 15s per barrel. In France, he said, millions of bushels of Oysters were produced by artificial cultivation; the Government of that country took the matter up, and it now became a profitable speculation. True, the cultivation of the soil is of more importance than Oyster fisheries, and he would never support any measure that would interfere with the privileges of farmers to collect sea manure; but unless protection be given to persons disposed to embark in this branch of trade, no beds would be planted for the propagation of Oysters; already, Oysters exported were worth \$2½ per bbl, and so great was the demand for them that it was not unusual to see in Saloons and Hotels in the Provinces, P. E. Island Oysters advertised, when frequently none could be had in such places.



Hon Mr LONGWORTH would not for one moment support this Bill if he considered that it would restrict farming operations, or prevent the facilities afforded to farmers in procuring mussel mud or sea manure of any description. This, however, he did not apprehend, as care would be taken to prevent any encroachments on the rights of farmers. Formerly, he said, Oysters were very plentiful

in different localities on this Island, and formed a staple article of food for its inhabitants. At Wheatly River and Rustico there were at one time immense bodies of Oysters, and the banks of the river in those places still bore testimony to that fact. Encouragement should be given to persons wishing to prosecute this branch of trade, which, ere long, might form a very important article of exportation. The Bill, he said, was based on just and sound principles, and he would therefore support it.

Hon Col SECRETARY said that there were no Mussel beds in those localities where it was intended to plant Oysters. Those Mussel beds, he said, were great enemies to the growth of Oysters; the Bill need not, therefore, cause any alarm on that ground.

The question was then put on the amendment, which was negative on the following division:

Yeas—Hons Messrs Coles, Laird, Warburton, Thornton, Messrs Howat, Sinclair, and Walker—7.

Nays—Hons Col Secretary, Sol General, Kaye, Davies, Kelly, Longworth, Hensley, Pope; Messrs Montgomery, Ramsay, Haslam, Brecken, Duncan, McLennan, Sutherland, Green, Howlan, Conroy—18.

The Bill was accordingly committed.—Mr McLennan in the Chair.

The object of this Bill is to prevent the fishing or catching of Oysters in any of the Bays or Rivers of this Island, between the 1st day of June and the 1st day of September in each year, and to grant licenses for prosecuting Oyster fisheries, giving the exclusive right to parties, who may engage in this branch of industry, to fish Oysters, and to form new beds for the purpose of propagating Oysters in the following localities, namely: Richmond Bay and Dunk River in Prince County, and Hillsborough River in Queen's County. The boundaries to which such licenses shall extend are also so defined, and a clause is added to the effect that nothing in this Bill shall prejudice the right of any person to take from any River within this Island, any mud or mussel for manure, or to prevent the dredging or improving of any river for navigable purposes.

After some discussion in Committee, the Bill was agreed to with some amendments, and then reported back to the House.

On motion being made that the Bill be now agreed to,

Hon Mr COLES moved, in amendment, to leave out the word "now," and, at the end of the question, insert this day three months.

The House then divided on the motion of amendment, as follows:

Yeas—Hons Messrs Coles and Laird, and Messrs Howat, Sinclair and Walker—5.

Nays—Hons Col Secretary, Longworth, Davies, Pope, Sol General, Kaye, Kelly, Beaton, Hensley; Messrs Haslam, Ramsay, Montgomery, McLennan, Brecken, Green, Howlan—16.

The Bill, as amended, was then agreed to.

House adjourned.

SATURDAY, March 11.

Hon Mr POPE submitted to the House the Annual Return of Prince of Wales College and the Grammar Schools of this Island.

Hon Mr COLES asked when the Public Accounts would be brought down, as it would be necessary to refer to them when in debate on the Public Despatches relative to the Union question.

Hon Mr POPE said the documents asked for were in course of preparation, and would be submitted to the House at an early day.

Hon Mr HENSLEY introduced a Bill to repeal the Acts now in force establishing and regulating the rate of interest, and to make some provisions on the same subject. The hon member then stated that this Bill was simply a transcript of the Usury law repeal Bill of last Session, which, he regretted, had been rejected by the Legislative Council.

The Bill was then received and read, and ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday next.

Mr MCLENNAN, chairman of the Special Committee appointed to bring in a Bill to establish a Bank at Summerside, submitted a Bill which was received and read.

Ordered to be referred to the Committee on Private Bills.

Hon leader of the Government gave notice that he would, on Thursday next, move that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the whole, to take into consideration the various Despatches and Correspondence transmitted, by message, to the House this Session.

Hon Solicitor GENERAL, agreeable to notice, introduced a Bill to amend the Laws relating to the conveyance of property; the object of which, he said, was to simplify the mode of conveying property, and to make our laws harmonious more than they now do with those of Great Britain. The Bill was then received and read, and ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday next.

Hon Mr POPE submitted the Returns of the Bank of P. E. Island up to the 7th day of March, 1865. Ordered to be laid on the table.

Hon Mr POPE also submitted the Returns of certain Road Commissioners, not included among those previously produced.

Ordered that said Returns be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

House adjourned.

MONDAY, March 13.

Hon Mr LAIRD presented the Report of the Committee on private Bills, to whom was referred the Bill to incorporate a Bank at Summerside, which Report recommended that said Bill do pass, without the usual charge of fees.

On motion of Mr MCLENNAN, the Bill to be intitled "An Act to incorporate the Summerside Bank," was committed to the House in Committee of the whole. Mr. Sinclair in the Chair.

The hon member who introduced the Bill, (Mr McLennan) said he considered it unnecessary to offer any remarks commendatory of the nature and object of this Bill, as he did not suppose it would meet with any opposition from hon members on either side of the House. The object of the Bill was the establishment of a Bank at Summerside, having a capital of £15,000, with power to increase the same to £30,000—one-third of the said capital stock of £15,000 to be paid up, previously to the Bank going into operation—the sum of £5 to constitute a share. Persons eligible for the office of Director to have 30 shares, equal to £150 in said Bank.

After some time spent in Committee, progress was reported and the House adjourned.

House in Committee resumed the consideration of the Bill to incorporate the Summerside Bank, and after going through the same, clause by clause, it was reported agreed to with amendments.

Hon Mr COLES gave notice that, to-morrow, he would ask the Government to produce the contract for running a Steamer on the East River, and the tenders received for the same, with a copy of the advertisement calling for such tenders.

Hon Mr POPE, a member of Her Majesty's Executive Council, presented to the House the Auditors Classified Accounts for the year 1864, and the same were referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

These Accounts show that the Receipts of the past year have exceeded the Expenditure to the amount £8,500, and that the whole Revenue has been £66,300.

The following are some of the extraordinary items of Expenditure, viz :

Roads and Bridges,	£10,881	18	0
Light House at Sea Cow Head,	757	13	2
Colonial Building,	512	19	11
Delegates to Colonial Office in 1863,	493	8	1
Public Lands Purchased,	1,261	15	0
Agricultural Stock imported,	1,404	10	0
Cost of Delegation, including Banquet,	1,468	0	0

On motion of the Hon COLONIAL SECRETARY that the Bill relative to Oyster Fisheries be read a third time.

Mr McLENNAN said that when this Bill was in Committee of the whole House, he was in the Chair, and therefore prevented from expressing his views relative thereto. He was now, however, glad to say that the Bill was so modified and amended as to enable him to give it his concurrence and support; at the same time he wished it to be distinctly understood that he was opposed to giving any grants or exclusive rights to fish Oysters on existing Oyster beds. He was, however, assured by his hon colleague (Mr Green) who was better acquainted than he with the localities proposed to be granted, that there were no Oysters within the limits prescribed for Prince County in the Bill. It was but just and proper to protect parties who might be disposed to embark in the enterprize of causing the growth and production of Oysters in new beds, especially as the Bill guarded against any interference with farmers procuring Mussel mud. He would, therefore, support the motion made by the Hon Col Secretary.

Hon Mr COLES moved, in amendment, that it be read again this day three months.

For the amendment—Hons Messrs Coles, Thornton, Warburton, Laird, Messrs Sinclair, Walker, Howat—7.

Against it—Hons Col Secretary, Gray, Pope, Solicitor General, Davies, Kaye, Kelly, Messrs Conroy, Howlan, Sutherland, Duncan, McLennan, Ramsay, Brecken, Montgomery—15.

The Bill was accordingly read a third time and passed.

Mr HOWLAN introduced a Bill relative to the inspection of Pickled Fish. In submitting this Bill, the hon gentleman observed that it was unnecessary for him to explain its provisions, it being a copy, with some amendments, of the Bill of last Session on the same subject, which had been rejected by the Legislative Council. It was, however, a measure much required for the protection of those engaged in that important branch of our resources, the Fisheries of the Island, and he hoped the Bill would receive this Session, the hearty concurrence of both branches of the Legislature.

Mr MONTGOMERY said he feared the Bill would prove injurious to the owners of small Fishing Vessels who might feel disposed to proceed to some near port with small cargoes of fish. It might, therefore, be a hardship to such small traders to be compelled to have their fish inspected in accordance with the provisions of this Bill.

It was then ordered to be committed—Mr Sinclair in the Chair. After some trifling discussion in Committee, the Bill was reported agreed to.

Hon Col GRAY presented a petition from certain inhabitants of Squaw Bay, Lot 42, complaining of some of the provisions of the present School Act.

Ordered to be laid on the table.

Hon Mr POPE remarked that several petitions relative to the opening of new roads, had been presented. He would, therefore, recommend that a Committee be appointed, to whom should be referred the said petitions.

The following gentlemen were accordingly appointed a Committee on new Roads, viz: Messrs McLennan, Laird, Howat, Thornton and Conroy.

Hon Mr POPE then presented certain petitions relative to the opening of new roads.

Ordered to be submitted to the said Committee on new Roads.

House adjourned.

TUESDAY, March 14.

Hon Mr POPE moved a Resolution to the effect that the House would, to-morrow, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole on Ways and Means.

A message was received from the Legislative Council notifying the House that the Seduction Act had received the sanction of that Body.

Hon Mr DAVIES, Chairman of the Committee appointed to bring in a Bill relative to Merchant Seamen, reported a Bill on that subject. Said Bill was received and read.

The standing order, relative to the second reading of Bills on the same day, having been suspended, the Bill was read a second time; and, on motion of the Hon Mr Davies, was committed to a Committee of the whole House—Mr Sinclair in the Chair.

This Bill is intitled "An Act to make provisions for the regulation of Seamen shipped on board of any Ship or vessel owned in, or belonging to Prince Edward Island, where such Ship or Vessel shall be within the precincts of the said Island.

Hon Solicitor GENERAL explained the leading provisions of the Bill, and said it was compiled principally from the Imperial Act relating to the same subject.

After some time spent in Committee—during which the Bill, which was read clause by clause, elicited no discussion, save a few remarks on that clause in the Bill which provides that the payment of Seamen's wages shall not be contingent upon the fact of a vessel earning her freight—it was reported agreed to.

Hon Mr COLLES, according to notice given by him yesterday, asked the Government to produce the Tenders and other papers touching the running of a Steamer on the East River.

Hon Mr POPE submitted one of the two Tenders received by the Government for the running of a Steamer on the Hillsborough and Elliot Rivers. The other Tender, which being the lowest, was accepted, and was, he said, in the hands of the Attorney General, for the purpose of drawing up the necessary contracts, and would be submitted when that officer returned from Georgetown. He also produced the *Royal Gazette* containing a copy of the advertisement calling for said Tenders.

House adjourned.

Wednesday, March 15.

The Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Works was submitted to the House by the Hon Mr POPE—received and read.

Also the Reports of Dr H. A. Johnson, as Health Officer and Superintendent of Vaccination. Ordered that the latter be submitted to a Committee of the whole House this afternoon.

Hon Col SECRETARY gave notice that, to-morrow, he would move for a Committee of the whole House for the purpose of taking into consideration the expediency of introducing a Bill relative to the public Wharf at Summerside.

Hon Mr DAVIES submitted a Resolution to the effect that, to-morrow, the House do go into Committee of Supply.

Hon Solicitor GENERAL, agreeably to notice, submitted a Bill to amend the law for the better administration of Justice. The hon gentleman, in introducing the Bill, explained its principal provisions. He said that the Bill specified a more simple mode for suing Corporate Companies, such as Marine and Fire Insurance Companies, Banks and other Corporate Institutions; that it enabled Executors to distrain for rent due deceased testators or intestates, making the Executors liable for costs, when they sued improperly; that it authorised Jurors to give interest on Contracts in certain cases, and also in actions of trover and trespass, and the payment of monies into Court in certain actions of torts. The Bill also enabled parties to be sued who might have signed their initials only to Notes of Hand and other contracts, without giving their names at length. In submitting the Bill, he remarked that he hoped he had not made the same mistake as on Saturday, when he handed a paper, containing some notes on the law of Real Estate to the Clerk in place of a Bill, which some malicious writer in

the *Herald* newspaper of this morning, had falsely stated to be a speech on Confederation. The paper, he said, which he inadvertently gave the Clerk, belonged to a professional gentleman not a member of the House.

The Bill was then read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Mr BROKEN, in accordance with previous notice introduced a Bill, the object of which was to extend the Civil Jurisdiction of the Mayor's Court, in this City, to actions of Replevin, Assault, Slander, &c. and to enable actions to be brought where either party to the same resides within the limits of the city. The Bill also provides for the extension of the Criminal Jurisdiction of the said Mayor's Court, so as to abolish the restrictions which limits the jurisdiction of said Court to the sum of ten pounds.

Ordered that said Bill be read a second time to-morrow.

House adjourned.

Thursday, March 16.

On motion of the Hon Mr POPE, the House went into Committee of the whole to take into consideration the Report of the Superintendent of Vaccination, and the Memorial of the Health Officer for the Port of Charlottetown. Mr Sinclair in the Chair.

After some remarks from several hon members, in support of the suggestions contained in the above Report, all of whom concurred in the desirability of using every precautionary means for the prevention of the spread of Small Pox on this Island, and of affording increased facilities for Vaccination, the protective power of which had been fully explained in the said Report, the

Hon Solicitor GENERAL moved a Resolution to the effect that the Act to provide for Vaccination be so amended that the fee for Vaccination should be paid by the Government, and not by the parties vaccinated, and that the number of Health Officers be increased.

The following gentlemen were then appointed a Committee to bring in a Bill in accordance with said Resolution, viz:—Hon Solicitor General, Hon Mr Davies, and Mr Howat.

The Memorial of the Health Officer was then read, setting forth the inconveniences to which that officer had been subject, from the fact that he was not provided with a Boat, or any assistance, in the discharge of his important duties, and also complaining of the mode by which his fees were paid.

In the discussion which followed the reading of said Memorial, it was considered advisable that a boat should be procured and placed in charge of the Preventive Officers for the Port of Charlottetown, whose duty it would be, when called upon, to render assistance to the Health Officer, by enabling him to get on board vessels, where his services might be required, with as little delay as possible; after which the

Hon Mr POPE submitted a Resolution for the purpose of amending the Act 14th Vic., Cap. 5, in order that the fees allowed to Health Officers by said Act, be paid by Masters of Vessels, liable to pay such fees,

into the Custom Houses of this Island, instead of paying the same to the Health Officer.

Hon Mr POPE, Messrs Brecken and Haslam were then appointed a Committee to prepare a Bill in conformity with the said Resolution.

Hon Mr POPE, a member of the Government, presented to the House the Impost Accounts for the various ports of this Island, for the past year—Referred to the Committee on Public Accounts.

Hon Mr COLES asked for the Detailed Accounts.

Hon Col SECRETARY said they were prepared and would be laid on the table to-morrow.

Hon Sol GENERAL submitted a Bill to amend the Law relating to Libel. He said that as he purposed to explain the principles of the Bill at its second reading, he would not now detain the House with any remarks; he would, however, observe that the Bill was a transcript of an Act known as Lord Campbell's Act. The Bill was then read a first time and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

On motion of Mr HOWLAN, the Bill to regulate the inspection of Pickled Fish for exportation from this Island, was read a third time and passed.

Mr BRECKEN presented a petition of sundry inhabitants of Lots 24 and 33, Tenants on Winsloe Estate, which was referred to the following special Committee to report thereon, viz:—Messrs Brecken, Col Secretary and Laird.

Hon Col SECRETARY, pursuant to notice, submitted a Resolution to the effect that the House go into Committee to consider the expediency of adopting some regulations relative to the Wharf at Summerside.

The House accordingly resolved itself into a Committee of the whole. Mr Howat in the Chair.

A short debate ensued relative to the necessity of providing some means by which Wharfs, and Bridges which were used as Wharfs, should be made self-sustaining, by levying a small tax on Goods landed on, and exported from, such Wharfs and Bridges; after which the

Hon Col SECRETARY submitted a Resolution, to the effect that it was expedient to authorize the Lieutenant Governor in Council to lease the public Wharf at Summerside, and other Wharfs on the Island; and also to levy a tax on all produce or goods landed on, or exported from, different Wharfs and Bridges. Said Resolution was then agreed to, and the following gentlemen were appointed a Committee to prepare a Bill in accordance thereto, viz:—Hons Col Secretary, Laird and Coles.

Hon Mr POPE submitted a Resolution stating that no new matter, on which to frame a Bill, should be introduced to the House after next Thursday, the 23rd inst.

His hon the Speaker then read a letter from the Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association and Literary Institute, inviting his honor the Speaker and the hon Members of the House of Assembly to attend the weekly lectures of that Institute, held at Temperance Hall, after which the House adjourned.

FRIDAY, March 17.

Hon Mr DAVIES, a member of Her Majesty's Executive Council, presented to the House the Estimates of the Expenditure of the Government for the current year, which were read and laid on the table.

The House then went into Committee of Supply—Mr McLennan in the Chair.

On motion of the Hon Mr Davies, a Resolution granting the usual Salaries and allowances, provided by Statute, was adopted, and progress reported.

The following are some of the items of Expenditure for the current year, viz:

Model or Stock Farm,	\$2,500
Road Service, including Contracts already entered into for Roads and Bridges,	8,150
Special Grants for Wharfs and Bridges,	4,000
Volunteers and Militia,	1,000
For new Lighthouse at North Cape	500
Towards building a new Market House in Charlottetown,	1,000

On motion of Mr Brecken, the House went into Committee on a Bill to extend the Jurisdiction of the Mayor's Court of Charlottetown—Mr McLennan in the Chair.

Mr BRECKEN explained the two principal paragraphs in the Bill, which were, 1st, that the Mayor's Court should, in civil suits, have Jurisdiction co-extensive with that of the Courts for the recovery of Small Debts, in cases where either the Plaintiff or Defendant should reside within the limits of the City; and secondly, that the Criminal Jurisdiction of the said Court be extended, by abolishing the restrictions which, by law, limits its power to the sum of ten pounds.

Hons Messrs Coles, Solicitor General, Laird, Pope, Messrs Montgomery, Howlan, Howat, Haslam and Sinclair, spoke in opposition to these two paragraphs in the Bill, on the ground that the extended Jurisdictions asked for were inexpedient, from the fact that every necessary facility had already been given to suitors in City and Country. Additional Small Debt Courts had recently been established in different parts of the country, with the view of saving expenses incurred by persons having to travel long distances from their homes to attend Commissioner's Courts. It was, therefore, considered unfair to compel such parties to attend at the Mayor's Court in Charlottetown, while Small Debt Courts were established in the Districts of which they were residents.

That clause in the Bill was, therefore, disagreed to.

The paragraph asking for the extension of the Criminal Jurisdiction of said Court, by abolishing the restrictions which limits its power, was also rejected.

The Bill was then reported agreed to with several amendments.

House adjourned.

SATURDAY, March 18.

Mr BRECKEN, Chairman of the Committee to whom were referred the petition of the Tenants of the Winsloe Estate in this Island, submitted a Bill for the purpose of remedying the evils complained of.

The Bill was received and read, and referred to the Committee on Private Bills.

Hon Col SECRETARY, a member of Her Majesty's Executive Council, submitted the Detailed Accounts and Vouchers of the past year, which were laid on the table.

#### WAYS AND MEANS.

On motion of Hon Mr Davies, the House then went into Committee on Ways and Means—Mr McLennan in the chair.

Hon Mr POPE said he was happy to be enabled to inform the House, that no important changes were deemed necessary in the Tariff as imposed under the Act of last Session. The Island was in a very prosperous condition, and the people appeared contented, so much so that not the slightest complaint had been made to his knowledge, with regard to the taxes or burthens to which they were subject. Our Tariff was much lower than that of any other part of Her Majesty's possessions; and were it not that large amounts were required, this year, for Roads and Bridges, for the Militia, for the establishment of a Stock Farm, a Light House at the North Cape, and other important objects, he would be disposed to make the tariff still lower. Taking, however, into consideration the necessary expenditure of the Colony, and being of opinion that we could not reasonably expect as large a revenue during the present year as we had, last, owing to the fact that our exports during the last autumn were very much less, and the prices of our agricultural produce far below those of the previous year, it was considered advisable to make no material alteration. It was proposed, however, to admit Salt, duty free, now subject to 6d. per ton; and owing to an omission in the Act of last year, under which Port, Sherry, and all other wines costing £20 stg. per Pipe, were admitted on payment of an ad valorem duty of 10 per cent., when it was intended that they should pay 4s. per gallon in addition to 5 per cent ad valorem; an amendment would be made to the Revenue Bill, this year, to carry out the original intention. The Imposts collected at Bedeque and Georgetown were now becoming so large, that the per centage allowed by the Act would yield, more particularly at the former place, a greater salary than even that received by the head of the Customs department at Charlottetown. It was therefore intended to fix for the Collectors at those ports, salaries giving them £175 each. To this alteration he trusted there would be no objection. The practice which had heretofore prevailed of allowing the Collectors of Imposts throughout the Island to deduct from the duties received by them, the amount of their per centage, and of remitting the balance to the Treasury, had not been found to answer. It was therefore intended to amend the 75th clause of the Act, 19 Vic., Cap. 1, which provides a commission of 5 per cent on monies received, and to substitute fixed salaries for the Collectors.

Hon Mr COLES approved of the mode recommended by the hon Leader of the Government for the payment of the Collectors of Customs at Summerside and Georgetown. He was also glad that the Government had admitted the principle that salaried offi-

cial should be on the floor of the House. He likewise perceived that one gentleman had charged for the preparation of certain statistics—which might and should have been got up by the Government—30s per day for 20 days' work of 7 hours each, making a bill of £30 against the Government. If this practice were continued, it would be better for the Government to appoint a Financial Secretary at once. It was necessary to have a Solicitor General in the Government, since the Attorney General had been snubbed by his friends, and they required the professional assistance of an official legal adviser. But he observed that they had raised the salary of the Solicitor General to £200, which course they perhaps thought better than paying Queen's Counsel fees. Formerly the Colonial Secretary and Treasurer received, respectively, £400 per annum, and paid their own deputies, who left their offices with their principals. His party had introduced the system of appointment of deputies who should retain their offices irrespectively of changes of Government, unless they should actively interfere in politics against those in whose service they were engaged. Some were dismissed in consequence of having opposed the Government, and the excitement got up on their behalf was equal to that caused by the procession of yesterday (The Tenant League). Instead of getting the additional £50 for the Deputies in the Treasury and Secretary's offices by a side wind, it would be better for the Government to deal openly with the Act authorizing the appointment and fixing the salaries of the deputies in the public offices.

Hon Mr DAVIES.—The salaries attached to the public offices were small comparatively to those paid in the other Colonies. £200 per annum could not be considered an extravagant allowance for the Solicitor General, when it was borne in mind that more than the additional £100 had been annually paid in fees to Queen's Counsel while the office was in abeyance.

Mr CONROY was not surprised to find members of the Government stating that the salaries of the officials were too small, but it seemed not a little strange to find gentlemen of the Opposition doing the same thing, and he was induced to infer from their so doing that they were under the impression that the good time was coming when the reins of Government would pass to his side of the House, and that the increase of the salaries was desirable to be effected ere his friends came into power. It was easy to tell the direction of the wind by the passage of straws, and the present indications of the political atmosphere did not seem favorable to the Government. With respect to giving £100 additional to the Solicitor General, he was of opinion that the salary provided by statute was sufficient for the duties which that officer had to perform, and he believed that the party now in power found fault with the Liberal Government for giving even that amount.

Mr HOWAT, however reluctant to differ from the party he had always supported, felt that it was the duty of an honest Government to carry out the views they had expressed at the hustings. He had believed that they were returned to advocate retrenchment, and, after the pledges they had made at the hustings, the supporters of the Government would be placed in a false position when they should again go before the people, having violated their public professions. He felt it to be questionable whether he should yield to the pressure of political necessity. He was opposed to the salary attached by statute to the office of Solicitor General or other offices being increased. He recollected that the late Duncan McLean, than whom an

abler politician or more competent man was not in the Island, had told him that, so far from the officers being overworked, he could discharge the duties of any two of their situations, one during, the other after, office hours. The whole subject of the increase of salaries ought to be put plainly before the people at the polls.

Hon Mr HENSLEY had listened with pleasure to the remarks of the hon member from Tryon. He had expressed himself on the subject of public pledges to the electors in a straight-forward, independent manner, and his constituents should be satisfied with the consistent manner in which he had always advocated a system of retrenchment. He had remained true to his colors in that respect. If, on experience, it should be found that it was impossible to redeem pledges publicly made by candidates, all he could say was that it was a matter of regret that they had ever been made. According to his reading of them, the accounts did not shew that the fees which had been paid to Queen's Counsel for assistance to the Attorney General amounted to the additional sum proposed to be added to the salary of the Solicitor General. In the case of other officers who are required to devote their whole time to the duties of their offices, as the Treasurer and the Controller of Customs, it was but right that they should be remunerated to such an extent as would suffice to secure to them the means of living in a manner befitting their stations in society. Any extra expenses incurred for employment of additional legal assistance, last year, was principally occasioned by the absence of the hon Attorney General on his mission to England, and it would not be necessary to incur similar amounts every year.

Mr HOWLAN.—The resolution contemplated providing equal salaries for the Collectors at Georgetown and Summerside, which, in view of the difference in the amounts of revenue collected at the two places, would operate most unequally and unfairly in the case of the latter. The revenue collected last year at Georgetown was £2180—the amount received by the collector was £124; while the duties received at Summerside during the same period amounted to £4964, and the emolument of the collector at that place was £315. When, therefore, it was proposed to place both these officers on an equal salary of £175 each, the disproportion in their duties and responsibilities operated as a positive injustice to the latter. It was absurd, too, that the head of a department should not receive more than his subordinates; yet, last year the officer in charge of the Custom House at Summerside was in receipt of more pay than the chief of the department in Charlottetown, at which port no less an amount of revenue than £40,964 was received; and that officer had to perform the additional duty of Registrar of shipping. That gentleman had also to attend to the correspondence of his department. These figures showed that there was no system in operation of adjusting the remuneration to the amount of work performed. It seemed to him that a return to the former system, under which the heads of departments defrayed the salaries of their principals, would be preferable to the practice now prevailing. The number of officials was too great, and the machinery of government was consequently becoming more complicated. While the Auditors of Public Accounts were sufficiently paid for the discharge of their duties, he found that the Government had paid a gentleman for discharging functions which devolved upon the paid officials.

Hon Mr DAVIES.—It should be remembered that the duties which devolved upon the Controller of Customs at Charlottetown rendered his office the most onerous of any in the Colony. The accounts were submitted to the Auditors only a few days since, and one of those gentlemen being absent from Charlottetown, it was necessary to get assistance. The hon member from Casumpes had taken the impost accounts of Georgetown for one year, but he would find that the accounts of the revenue received at

that port during, say, the last five years would show that the salary proposed was not unreasonable.

Hon Mr POPE was not particular as to the sum proposed to be assigned to the Collector at Georgetown. The resolution had reference only to the shire towns of Prince and King's counties, and the consideration which induced the Government to propose the specific amounts was, that in the ports of Georgetown and Bedouque, although the business might and doubtless would fluctuate, the Collectors had to devote their whole time to it. They should, therefore, be reasonably compensated for the time which they would otherwise employ in private business. With reference to the observations on political honesty which had fallen from his hon. colleague (Mr Howat) he claimed to be as honest as that gentleman. He had never pledged himself to particular details, nor would he do so. If that hon. member were in the present, or any other Government, he would find it difficult to carry it on, if they who had been elected as its supporters should be constantly harping on every vote proposed. If the hon. member was prepared to sacrifice the Government, let him avow his intention to do so. He could assure him that he was not trusted by the Opposition, nor did he believe in any man clearing his skirts at the expense of his party. He (Hon Mr Hope) had always been willing to assume the responsibilities of his position without reference to consequences personal to himself.

Mr HOWAT had not, in the observations he had made, intended to cast any reflection upon hon members who might differ in opinion from himself. He had merely expressed his own views and in doing so he was but doing his duty to himself and his constituents. He felt bound to adhere to his public pledges; and he had been elected to support the Government, but only as far as he considered their policy to be right. He had objections to the revival of the office of Solicitor General, which seemed to indicate an intention of increasing the number of officials.

Hon Mr. COLES approved of the course adopted by the Government in paying specific salaries to the Collectors at Summerside and Georgetown. He had no objection to the amount proposed for the Collector at Summerside, but thought £175 too much for the officer at Georgetown. He suggested that £150 would be sufficient.

Hon Mr POPE had no objection.

Mr BRECKEN explained that the unusual amount paid to Queen's Counsel last year was caused by the absence of the hon Attorney General in England. The renewal of public contracts, the preparation of those between the Government and the Steam Navigation Company, and those relative to the construction of important public works had occupied so much of his time that he was of opinion that he had not charged enough.

Hon Mr COLES.—As the Attorney General while absent had been in receipt of his full salary, and had his expenses defrayed by the Government, he should have paid for the work alluded to.

Hon Mr LAIRD.—If the salary of any officer should be increased it was that of the Controller at Charlottetown. With reference to the appointment of Solicitor General, he had no objection to the gentleman on whom the office had been conferred, but for four years there had been no official on the floor of the House. He considered £100 quite enough for the office, and not having been consulted on the subject, he had no idea that it was intended to give more than that amount.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH.—It could not be expected that any Government could fill the principal offices of a country without affixing to them salaries proportionate to the time to be occupied in the duties of the office, and the talents requisite for the proper discharge of those duties. As a member of the legal profession, it might be supposed

that his views were tinged with a shade of self-interest in dealing with the subject of the salary of the Solicitor General. Such, however, was not the case; and if the necessity of having a law officer in the House were admitted, and the acceptance of the office imposed upon a member the necessity of re-election, it must be evident that £100 was too small remuneration for the services of a gentleman whose office required the possession of talents and education, which, he was happy to say, were combined in the present Solicitor General in a very high degree.

The resolution was carried, giving to the Collector at Summerside £175, to that at Georgetown £150 per annum.

Hon Mr HENSLEY, Chairman of the Committee appointed to bring in a Bill for the purpose of amending the law regulating the sale by license of Spirituous Liquors, submitted a Bill relative thereto; which was received and read, and ordered to be read a second time on Monday next.

Hon Mr POPE introduced a Bill, the object of which was to compel Masters of Vessels to carry Lights, mast high, on board their Vessels from sunset to sunrise. In submitting the Bill, the hon member alluded to the fact that collisions had frequently taken place in our harbors on dark nights because of the absence of such lights.

The Bill was received and read, and ordered to be read a second time on Monday next. House adjourned.

#### AFTERNOON.

#### DECIMAL CURRENCY.

On motion of Mr McLennan, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on a petition of Richard Hunt, Ronald Macdonald, and other inhabitants of Prince County, setting forth their belief that the adoption of the system of keeping accounts in Dollars and Cents in this Island in lieu of pounds, shillings and pence, would be found beneficial, as in the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Canada; and also, that it would be of advantage and more easy, if articles such as hay, straw, flour, meal, iron, coal, fish, &c., when sold or bought by the hundred weight, be fixed at or intended to be one hundred pounds, and praying the House to take the premises into favorable consideration.

Hon Mr HENSLEY asked if it was intended to make the adoption of the prayer of the petition compulsory, or merely to recognize the change in a permissive form?

Hon Mr POPE said that the Government did not intend, this Session, to introduce any measure for keeping the public accounts in dollars and cents. The Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick had gone no further than the application of the system to the public accounts, and we should not deal with the subject to any greater extent at present. While he readily admitted that the decimal system was far preferable, as a mode of keeping accounts, to that hitherto pursued, it would be advisable, in the peculiar position of the people of the Island, that the minds of the tenantry should not be imbued with the idea that the proposed change would effect any alteration in the amounts which they had to pay as rent. He would like an expression of the general opinion of the House on the subject; and, if it were in favor of the adoption of the scheme, Government might, next Session, introduce a bill in accordance with the opinions of hon members on that subject, and at the same time the question of the currency could be considered in all its relations.

Hon Col SECRETARY could see no advantage from a partial measure. There would be a difficulty in determining the value of a dollar, which in Canada and Nova Scotia varied from the rate in New Brunswick.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH alluded to the fact that we had on our Statute Book two several values of dollars. The gold dollar represented six shillings, while the silver coin was valued at 6s 3d. The notes of the Union Bank represented 6s 3d, while those of the Rastico Bank were based on the value of the gold dollar, 6s. An uniformity of rate would be a great convenience and improvement upon the present system. There was no doubt that the system of decimal currency was more simple than that in present use among us; but the introduction of a compulsory measure was a matter of questionable propriety. It would be

better that the people should gradually habituate themselves to its adoption.

Hon Mr DAVIES said that the people would readily acquire facility in the practice of the decimal system, the superiority of which over our present mode could be readily shown. The Union Bank had acted wisely in anticipating the time when the decimal currency would be adopted by the people of the Island.

Mr HOWLAN agreed in the opinion that the decimal currency was preferable to that in use in the Island. In the other Colonies the introduction of that mode of keeping the public accounts had been found convenient, and the people had readily adopted it in their private business. It was high time that our currency should be assimilated to that of our neighbors.

Mr McLENNAN alluded to the present confused state of our currency, and the desirability of introducing a uniform system such as obtained in the neighboring Colonies. He said that, as far back as the year 1860, an intimate friend of his, then an hon member of this House, advocated that measure; the chief argument against the principle then was, that "the time had not arrived" for the change which the system would effect in our monetary affairs; he hoped, however, that that stale and hackneyed phrase would not now be repeated in arguing this question. He spoke of the facilities afforded accountants by the decimal system, and recommended its use in the various public offices of the Colony.

Hon Messrs Hensley, Longworth, Coles, Solicitor General, Pope, and Messrs Duncan and Howat opposed any immediate action on the subject, but would support the appointment of a Committee, to whom should be referred the petition to report thereon, by Bill or otherwise, at the next Session of that House.

A resolution to that effect was then submitted and agreed to, and the following gentlemen were appointed a Committee in conformity therewith, viz:—Messrs McLennan, Davies, Howlan, Longworth and Hensley.

Hon Mr COLES gave notice that, on Monday next, he would ask the Government the reason why the petition of M. McLeod, praying for compensation for the Model of a Ship for the London Exhibition, was not complied with; also why no encouragement, by way of subsidy, was given to the Boston line of Steamers.

Hon Solicitor GENERAL submitted a Bill, the object of which was to pay the Custom House Officers at Summerside and Georgetown salaries, in lieu of fees, which was received and read.

Hon Mr POPE submitted, by message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, the Annual Returns of the Volunteer Department.

Hon Mr POPE also submitted the Tender, previously asked for, relative to the Contract for a Steamer on the Hillsborough; said tender was received and read. Ordered to be laid on the table.

Hon Mr COLES remarked that the Contractor should be bound to call at Hayden's wharf, and other wharfs on the North side of the river.

Hon Col SECRETARY said that if the tender was in accordance with the notice asking for such, and consistent with the law in that case, the Government could not be expected to demand any further services.

#### LIBEL BILL.

Hon Sol GENERAL in moving the 2nd reading of the bill in amendment of the law of libel, stated that it was a transcript of the Act known in England as Lord Campbell's Act. The rule which obtained previously to the passage of that measure was based on the principle that a defendant, in an action for libel, could not justify his conduct, because the composition, or rather, publication of libels was conducive to breaches of the peace, and that, consequently, the truth of the matter alleged to be libellous was irrelevant to the issue to be decided by a jury. The Bill also provided that the defendant should be at liberty to pay money into Court in anticipatory satisfaction of the amount of damages which a Jury might award, and which payment would be subject to the rules applicable to the adoption of the same practice in other civil suits. Any party desirous of instituting criminal proceedings for libel had his constitutional remedy of application to the Grand Inquest of the County preserved to him intact, but

the Bill provided that one result of an unsuccessful appeal to that tribunal would be the obligation on the applicant to pay his own costs. By the Bill, parties would be allowed to justify their statements, and an apology published in the journal in which the article complained of appeared, or in any other periodical publication to be selected by the party aggrieved, should be considered as a satisfaction to the plaintiff. The Bill also included a provision relative to parties guilty of sending letters, the purport of which was the extortion of money under threats of publication of defamatory matter.

Hon Mr HENSLEY expressed his approval of the Bill, which, he considered, was an advance in the principles of our local legislation. He thought it would be as well, in dealing with the question, to treat it in all its relations, and he would therefore embody his views on one part of the subject which was the professed object of the Bill, by submitting in Committee a resolution abolishing the practice of filing criminal informations in the cases of private individuals.

Hon Colonial SECRETARY would have much pleasure in supporting this Bill, and also the amendment which the hon member for East Point proposed to make. The present law which authorized the practice of filing criminal information in cases of private individuals was antiquated, and it was high time that it should be abolished. He had experience enough himself in the matter to know that the Judges of the Supreme Court would seldom act upon it if they could conveniently avoid the application. (Laughter.)

The Bill was then committed, and progress reported, when the House adjourned.

#### MONDAY, March 20.

Hon Solicitor GENERAL presented a petition from the inhabitants of Georgetown and Royalty, praying for an Act to authorize the letting of the Georgetown Common.

The said petition was received and read, and ordered to be referred to special Committee to report thereon by Bill or otherwise. The following gentlemen to be a Committee for that purpose, viz: Hon Sol General, Kaye and Thoratou.

On motion of the Hon Solicitor GENERAL, the House went into Committee to resume the consideration of the Bill to amend the law of libel. Mr Sinclair in the Chair.

On motion of the Hon Mr HENSLEY, a clause was added to the Bill, to abolish the practice of filing Criminal Information in cases of private individuals.

After some debate relating to this point, the motion was carried; after which the Bill was agreed to.

#### LIQUOR LICENSE BILL.

Hon Mr HENSLEY moved the second reading of the Liquor License Act amendment Bill. He explained that its provisions were in conformity to the Report of the Committee appointed last Session, and which had been adopted by the House.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time and committed.

In Committee, when the clause was read providing that Store licenses should not be granted for a less quantity than one quart, a motion was made to substitute the words "three half pints" for the word quart, which was opposed by several hon members, and on the question being put thereon it was lost.

Mr MONTGOMERY said that when the majority of any District gave their consent to the establishing of a Tavern, they would not give their consent to cancel the license of such a Tavern without a just cause. The amendment proposed by the Bill would very properly place a safeguard in the hands of the people, so that when, for the sake of peace and good order in any settlement or district, they thought proper to abolish any licensed Tavern within the same, it was but just and proper that they should have the power to do so.

Hon Mr HENSLEY suggested that if the matter had not gone too far, it would be well to so amend the Bill as to provide, according to the prayer of the petitioners, that Store licenses should be placed under the same restrictions as Tavern licenses in regard to receiving the sanction of a majority of the householders in School Districts, and he understood that his colleague intended to make a motion to that effect.

Hon Mr POPS said he opposed the motion for three-half-pint licenses, but would support an amendment which would leave the quantity to be sold under Store licenses at a pint, and which would place them, as suggested by the hon member for East Point, under the same restrictions as Tavern licenses.

Hon Mr BEATON then submitted an amendment to the effect that applicants for Store licenses should be required to obtain the consent of householders in School Districts, as in the case of Tavern licenses.

This amendment was agreed to; and on motion of the hon Mr WARBURTON, the clause in regard to extending the quantity under Store licenses to a quart, was struck out of the Bill. Progress was then reported.

On motion of the hon Mr POPS, the Bill to compel masters of vessels to exhibit a light when in harbors, was submitted to a Committee of the whole House—Mr Green in the chair.

And after some debate, progress was reported and the House adjourned.

#### AFTERNOON.

The House in Committee resumed the consideration of the Bill relating to lights on board vessels in harbors of this Island.

Said Bill, which provides that a good clear light shall be exhibited, at a distance not less than six feet from the rail of every vessel when in harbor, from the hour of sunset to sunrise, was read a second time and agreed to.

#### SUPPLY.

The House then went into Committee to consider further of a Supply.

Hon Mr DAVIES moved the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the following sums be granted and placed at the disposal of the Government for the following services, viz:—

Southport Wharf	£270	0	0
Fife's Ferry Bridge	300	0	0
Poplar Island Bridge	850	0	0
West River, Marshall's, Mabey's and Dog River			
Bridges	300	0	0
Repairs to three Bridges on St Peter's Road	300	0	0
Wilmet Creek Bridge and Causeway	300	0	0
Three Bridges on Tryon River	375	0	0
New set of Iron Floaters for Ferry Wharf, Ch'Town	250	0	0
Murray River Bridge	100	0	0
Wharf at Morris' Shipyard, New London	40	0	0
For building an L. to Summerside Wharf	300	0	0
New Glasgow Bridge	60	0	0
Bridge at South Pinette—a sum equal to the			
Subscription List	200	0	0
Squaw Bay Wharf, Lot 49	22	10	0
Oyster-bed Wharf, Rustico	30	0	0
Wood Islands' Harbor	300	0	0
Wharf at West Point	250	0	0
Hayden's Wharf, East River	50	0	0
Enmore River Bridge	30	0	0
Cooper's Wharf, Lot 13	30	0	0
Bideford Yard Wharf	25	0	0
Bridge at North Pinette	150	0	0
	£4032	10	0

He explained that these sums were for the large contracts undertaken directly by the Government under the management of the Superintendent of Public Works. It was considered highly desirable that the contracts should be given out at a season when timber could be procured with less expense than in the summer. The works to be undertaken this year were numerous; but not at all more than were required. Perhaps a better time could not be found to proceed with them, as the Public Accounts showed a good Revenue for the past year.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH said there was an item which would be required, for which only a trifle was included in this resolution, namely, a sum for renewing the Oyster-bed Wharf at Rustico. The Superintendent had been sent out to examine what amount the work would probably cost, and his report had not been received in time to have the necessary sum included in the Estimates. The whole expense was estimated at about £250, and the members for the district would be able to supply about



£100; therefore it would require a supplementary estimate to be brought in for the sum of £150.

Hon Mr KELLY thought there was another omission in the estimates. The Superintendent of Public Works had recommended a certain sum for a Bridge on the Pisquid River, which seemed to have been overlooked by the Government. The people of the district had subscribed £66 towards the object, and it was shown in the petition which had been forwarded to the Executive that the erection of the bridge would save the Government about £50 a year, in consequence of there being two schools, one on each side of the river, which might be united into one. But this was not the only advantage. It would save travellers six miles, who had now to go round near the head of the river. The proposed bridge would also answer for the purposes of a public wharf. He hoped, therefore, that the Government would grant the necessary amount. The Superintendent of Public Works had estimated the cost at £400, but he (Mr K.) thought that a less sum would be found sufficient.

Hon Mr DAVIES said it was no niggardly disposition on the part of the Government which had caused them to refuse the application. Several large grants had been made for that part of the country, and it was thought no special sum could be allowed this year for the proposed bridge. There was also another bridge on the Pisquid River; and in this Colony where there were so many arms of the sea, it was impossible that they could be bridged every few miles.

Hon Mr KELLY remarked that the bridge now on the Pisquid River, was near its head, and only cost about £10 altogether; in fact it might be said in one sense to cost the Government nothing, as the sum was given out of the money divided by the members for the district.

Mr CONROY said every district was not included in the special grants. None had been allowed for the district which he had the honor to represent; but he had no right to complain, as no application had been made. Next year, however, he intended to ask for a liberal grant towards improving the harbor at Tignish.

Hon Mr POPE had observed that there was no large grant for any work in the district represented by the hon member for Tignish; and he was glad to learn that this was not an oversight, as no application had been made. With respect to the application for the bridge at Pisquid, there were so many large works in that part of the Island requiring grants, that they could not all be proceeded with. About £12,000 had been allowed in all for roads and bridges, and it was quite as much as the country could afford in one year. Perhaps the hon member from Fort Augustus would be Chancellor of the Exchequer next year himself, and then he might put in a liberal sum for his favorite bridge. In such an event, he (Mr P.) was sure hon members on this side of the House would not object to the grant. (Laughter.)

Hon Mr COLES hoped his hon colleague would take the hint, and provide himself as well in that case, as did the hon leader of the Government this year; for there was no less than some £900 in the estimates for his own district.

Hon Mr POPE objected to the statement. Summerside was not in his district, and he hoped the hon member for that Town would resent the charge.

Hon Mr COLES supposed that Summerside was not in the district of the hon leader of the Government; but still he was interested in its prosperity. But there were some £800 allowed for his own district. Then the district of the late leader of the Government was liberally provided for, he (Mr C.) supposed to keep that hon member in working tune. Some £300 were set down for a break water at Wood Islands; and £350 for wharfs at Pinette. The grants for his own district were very small; he observed £50 allowed for a bridge at one place. He thought his colleague might proceed with the Pisquid bridge out of the district money and trust to the Government to supply the remainder. If the bridge would save £50 in regard to schools, the Government could be no loser, as that was the interest of at least £1000

Hon Col GRAY said it was a misfortune in this House that hon members forgot what was done in previous years. Last Session several applications came in from his district for works required there; but they could not be complied with on account of the necessities of the other end of the County. It was, then,

but fair that grants should be given this year to the part of the County which he had the honor to represent. His constituents had, he believed, subscribed towards the undertakings a larger amount than was allowed by the Government. This, he understood, was very unusual; and therefore, the people of the district deserved great credit for contributing so liberally towards public works in their locality.

The resolution was then agreed to, as well as some others on which no discussion arose. When the grant of £75 as salary of the Superintendent of Public Works was moved—

Hon Mr COLES said that he observed by the Public Accounts that the Superintendent charged 19s per day for his services in overseeing works, over and above his salary of £75. It would be better, he thought, for the Superintendent to have a fixed salary for his whole services, as he was certain that his charges in all must amount to above £300. Such an officer might have superintendence of all the roads, and then they would not be made in 35 different ways as at present. He was not going to say anything against the present Superintendent, as he believed that gentleman was a very efficient officer; but he thought it would be more advantageous for the Government to give him a full fixed salary and let him devote his whole time to public undertakings.

Hon Mr DAVIES said the time of the officer in question was pretty generally occupied with the works of the Government. He did not see, however, that there was any great objection to the plan of allowing him a small specific salary for drawing plans, and the like, and wages in addition when engaged in the work of supervision. If the whole sum coming to him in one year did amount to £300, it was scarcely as much as he could have earned by erecting houses in the city. He (Mr D) agreed with the hon leader of the Opposition that some other scheme should be devised for roadmaking in this Colony, as it might be said that we had no system at present; but the Government were not prepared to bring forward any proposition in the matter.

The resolution was then agreed to.

The vote of £60 for wharfage for the mail steamers in Charlottetown having been proposed, was opposed by the hon Mr. Coles, as being unnecessary, the Corporation of the City being obliged to keep berths for those vessels at the wharfs which had been ceded to them.

It was the general opinion that the Civic revenue would be augmented if the Corporation were relieved from the necessity of reserving stations for the steamers.

Mr Coles had no objection to the vote if the City were relieved from this obligation.

Vote agreed to.

The next vote was £20 for wharfage of the steamers at Point Brule. This was opposed by the Hons Messrs Coles and Hensley and Mr Howlan, on the ground that it was wrong in principle for this Colony to pay for accommodation of that nature in other Colonies. Against this view it was urged the amount asked was very trifling in comparison to the convenience afforded to the travelling public by being enabled to land at the wharf at Brule, directly from the steamers, which were, by the terms of their contract, only bound to convey the mails. The neighboring Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick had provided at the respective ports of Pictou and Shediac wharf accommodation for our steamers free of charge, and the Government of Nova Scotia had subsidized a line of stages between Brule and Truro, in connection with the steam communication between Charlottetown and that port, a route, the establishment of which had been long since advocated by the hon member, Mr Coles.

Resolution agreed to.

After which progress was reported.

Hon Solicitor GENERAL submitted a Bill to amend the Act to promote Vaccination; and also, in accordance with a resolution of the House, a Bill to amend the Act for constituting a Board of Health—both of which were received and read, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Hon Mr DAVIES, a member of the Government, presented a petition of certain inhabitants of Crapaud, setting forth the advantages which would result from the extension of Steam communication to that place, and praying for a grant for that purpose.

Said petition was ordered to be laid on the table.

Hon Mr COLES, pursuant to the notice which he had given on Saturday last, asked the Government the questions to which he then alluded.

Hon Mr POPE said that McLeod's Model of a Ship for the London Exhibition, was not such a work of art as merited the compensation asked for by the petitioner; and as to a subsidy for the Boston Steamers, he remarked that whilst the Government were prepared, on all matters, to afford every information that might be desired by any member of the House, they did not conceive it to be their duty to gratify the hon member, in answering a very improper question such as that put. He (hon Mr Coles) had no right to ask the Government the reasons why they had not done that or any other act. If the hon member would submit his question properly, he would receive a satisfactory answer.

Hon Mr COLES then gave notice that he would, to-morrow, ask for the Accounts of Sale of the Barrack Square.

#### LAND QUESTION.

The House in Committee on the despatches relative to the Land Question.

Hon Mr COLES.—Mr Chairman, It has been stated that the Bill known as the Fifteen Years' Purchase Act, might have been disallowed if a certain lady had gone to the Colonial Office with the view of opposing its sanction by the Crown. I should have thought that the Report of the Attorney General and the Correspondence which has taken place on the subject would have settled the matter so far as the tenants on the estates of those proprietors who consented to the Land Commission are concerned. I know full well that the great bulk of the tenantry entertain the idea that no advantage will accrue from the measure. Although the despatch of the late Duke of Newcastle may have induced some of the non consenting proprietors to submit to the operation of the Act, yet dissatisfaction is felt by some of the tenants at being "left out in the cold." The public mind is at present more agitated on the question of the Land Tenures than it ever was, and if rumor can be relied on, the Volunteer force may soon be required to maintain the supremacy of the law. I, for one, am willing to assist the Government in the settlement of this question. The principal difficulty will be found to arise from the different positions occupied by tenants whose landlords consented to the Bill and those who did not. The Bill of last year may make freeholders of a few tenants, but I know that the general complaint is that the terms are too high. On the McDonald estate the Bill operates with peculiar unfairness. One of the proprietors submitted to be bound by it, but others refused and a sense of injustice is caused by the different situations in which the tenantry on that property find themselves placed. The arrangement effected between Mr Haythorne and his Tenants has given satisfaction and will be found to work better than the measure of the Government. I shall be happy to assist in settling this question on a just basis.

Hon Col SECRETARY.—The hon leader of the Opposition has made a lengthy speech, and I am happy to say, considering the subject, upon the whole a very moderate one. I do not rise to reply to him, but simply to give an expression of opinion on the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill. The "consenting proprietors" did not, in my opinion, deal fairly with this Legislature, or with the people of this Island in regard to the Award of the Land Commissioners; but in their action relative to the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, they have certainly made amends. It is a measure which will confer great benefits upon a large portion of the people of this Island, and will injure no tenant. The hon member's objections as to the manner in which the Fishery Reserves were dealt with in the Bill, are not worthy of consideration. The Fishery Reserve question is mere matter of delusion. So also in regard to arrears of Quit Rents, if the collection of them were to be enforced the tenants of this Island would be the sufferers, and not the landlords. By the Bill as it

has been agreed to by the proprietors and sanctioned by Her Majesty, many thousands of Pounds of arrears of rent have been remitted, and the privilege given to hundreds of tenants to purchase the freehold of their farms on reasonable terms. The arrears swept away by the measure on Sir Samuel Cunard's estates alone, amount to nearly £20,000. It may be said that a large portion of these arrears could never have been recovered. This may be partly true, but thousands of pounds of them could have been obtained. Now, however, they will never appear against the tenant; Sir Samuel Cunard has not only assented to the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, but in my opinion has induced others to do so. The privilege of purchase under the Bill, I look upon as a very great advantage; and I am sorry that some ill-advised persons have placed themselves in opposition to the terms therein contained, as well as threatened to resist the execution of the law. They only injure themselves. This House possesses no power to compel proprietors to sell their lands; and it is folly for parties to league together with the expectation that they can intimidate the authorities. Their resistance is not to the proprietors, but to the Queen; and if Her Majesty possesses the power to enforce Her laws they will most assuredly be worsted. With respect to Mr Henry Palmer's case, I presume, that as the Colonial Minister was acting in a matter in which the property of individuals was concerned, he thought it his duty to see that those to be effected by the Bill had consented to it. I will not occupy longer the time of this hon Committee, but I cannot conclude without repeating that I believe the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill to be one of the best measures which ever passed through this House.

Mr HOWLAN.—Mr Chairman, I take a very different view of this matter from the hon Colonial Secretary when he states that the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill was one of the best measures that ever passed this House. Under the Land Purchase Bill, introduced by the hon leader of the Opposition, many tenants in the eastern part of the Island, as well as not a few in Prince County, obtained the freehold of their farms on easy terms, and were comfortably settled. It would also have been productive of greater benefits had its operation not been obstructed by parties who exerted their influence in preventing lands from falling into the hands of the Government. Then through the legislation of the party at present in power, came the famous Land Commission—one of the greatest humbugs which has ever arisen in the history of this Island. The Commissioners held their court for several days in the three Counties, took some eight or nine months to consider the case, and then gave in their Report, which, though costing some £1000, was declared to be illegal. Next came the farce of an Address to the Queen to allow the Award to go into operation, and then was played out the game of the delegation to England. Last year £376 were voted for the expenses of this delegation; and now we are asked to grant the further sum of £493; which with the cost of the opinion of Sir Hugh Cairns, and a few other items, will bring the amount up to about another £1000. Then, lastly, we have the Bill, which the hon Col Secretary terms one of the most beneficial to the interests of the Island ever passed in this House. And what do we see? Why the tenantry throughout the Colony are rising and saying they are not satisfied with its provisions, and refusing to pay rent. I do not approve of such proceedings but I am bound to say that there is some excuse for the people thus leaguering themselves together. Though I cannot countenance resistance to the law, yet I must admit that the tenantry have been deceived by the series of paltry games played out by the present majority, and therefore would not blame them for banding themselves together to obtain their rights in a legal manner. These people are evidently far from being satisfied with the action of the Government, and surely they are as capable of judging with respect to

matters effecting themselves as the hon Col Secretary. They have paid rent as well as they could, and now seeing no prospect before them of being relieved of their burdens, they have raised an agitation which may result in evil consequences.

Hon Col GRAY.—Mr Chairman, the hon member who has just addressed you does not understand the question. (Laughter) He has argued that because a measure which relieved the people of this Island of some £50,000 of arrears of rent, cost £2,000, therefore it has been no boon to the country. I believe, however, that £2,000 is rather an over-estimate of the cost of the measure in question. The failure of the Award to which he referred was not a matter respecting which he could attach any blame to this House. If the Commissioners had given a decision which was declared to be illegal, how could it be rectified by this Legislature? The House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island is not of much account at Downing Street. We are in a pitiable condition. When a lady who chose to write a letter—perhaps a three-cornered note—to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, nearly set aside all the legislation of this House on the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill,—and that too where only a few pounds were concerned,—surely we ought to realize how insignificant is the position which we occupy in this Colony. With respect to the petition of those who prayed for the disallowance of the Bill, I may state that I think it was very unkind on the part of a portion of the tenantry of this Island to step forward and seek to prevent others of their number from reaping the advantages which the measure was calculated to confer. It was unfortunate that the Bill could not be made to have a general application; but such legislation was beyond the powers of this House. I did hope that the proprietors who had not at first assented to the measure would afterwards have seen the propriety of acceding to it; they, however, appear unwilling to come under its operation. One gentleman, I understand, by the name of Haythorne, did in a certain manner come under its provisions. He sold the tenants on his estate their lands, I am informed, at 12s 6d per acre, the amount to be paid in instalments running over five years, and the back-rents bearing 6 per cent interest, to be paid last of all. There are bonds entered into, I understand, by which, providing even the last instalment be not paid, the whole may be swept away; probably, therefore, it will be a paying speculation. Under the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill the tenant may purchase his farm of 100 acres for a little over £83, and supposing he owes £50 of arrears of rent prior to 1858, his land, on account of the arrears which could be recovered being remitted by the provisions of the Bill, will actually only cost him about £33. But the tenants on Mr Haythorne's estate have agreed to pay 12s 6d an acre, together with the arrears of rent; so that their farms in the first place will cost £62 10s; and supposing any one of them owes £50 of arrears as we have stated in the other case, the whole which he will have to pay for his land will amount to £112 10s. Therefore I maintain that I am justified in saying that any hon member who states that better terms can be obtained under Mr Haythorne's agreement than under the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill does not understand the question. This Bill does not compel the tenants on the consenting proprietors' estates to purchase, and should they—to place themselves on an equal footing in this respect with the tenants on Mr Haythorne's property—desire to pay their arrears of rent, I have made inquiry and ascertained that these arrears will not be refused. (Laughter.) It would have been well had the Bill been more extended in its operations; but as it is, about 2000 of the tenantry of the Island may be benefitted by its provisions. We in this Colony are a feeble folk, as we have seen that a little pink edged note can counteract our influence at the Colonial Office. We must then be thankful for what we have obtained.

Mr HOWLAN.—It will be all right when we get into Confederation.

Hon Col GRAY.—I shall take occasion to show when we go into that question that the influence of nearly 4,000,000 of people would be quite differently felt at Downing Street from that of the 80,000 inhabitants of this Colony. The three-cornered note then, instead of nearly thwarting our legislation, would probably be thrown into the waste basket. We are nothing in the eyes of British statesmen; the 10,000 able-bodied men we have in the Colony might all be stationed on London Bridge. I understand the motives which induced the hon. leader of the Opposition to enter into this land question, and profess his sympathy for the tenantry. Before this hon. Committee rises, I believe I will be able to show how the sum required to purchase the lands of the proprietors may be secured. During the few years I have been connected with the Government much has been done to relieve the tenantry, thousands of them having become freeholders. I also give the hon. leader of the Opposition credit for enabling many to become freeholders while he was in power; and if the work proceeds as it has done, before many years the enfranchisement of the tenantry will be nearly complete.

Hon Mr COLES.—If, Mr Chairman, the expectations of the tenantry have been raised, and their anticipations have not been realized, it is not to be wondered at that dissatisfaction and discontent should exist. That expectations have been held out to the people of having a satisfactory settlement effected, cannot be denied; for in the letter of the delegates to England, under date of the 13th October, 1863, addressed to the late Duke of Newcastle, I find that, after making certain propositions, they write as follows:—

The proprietors who assented to the appointment of the Commissioners, and pledged themselves to abide by their recommendations, have refused to give their tenants the privileges which the Commissioners unanimously considered should be extended to them, and now seek to nullify the proceedings of the Commissioners, by urging against their legality objections which they might waive, but which they insist upon, thereby crushing those reasonable hopes of relief which the tenantry had cherished, and intensifying and extending the feelings of hostility towards the landlords, which, ere their endeavor to avoid the Award, were but too general and too bitter. Should the proprietors, in addition to repudiating the Award, refuse those reasonable concessions now required at their hands, the undersigned fear that disaffection among the tenantry will become very general, and that the due maintenance of good order will prove a task of no ordinary difficulty in a Colony the inhabitants of which exercise self-government, and where universal suffrage obtains.

And one of the delegates, the hon Colonial Secretary, in a letter to the Colonial Minister, dated 18th December, 1863, describes the state of many of the tenants in the following terms:—

The report of the Commissioners also further shows that, on Sir Samuel Cunard's estates, on Townships 44, 45, and 46, the majority of his tenants do not raise from their farms, more than barely sufficient to keep them from starvation, and this, too, on the assumption that six and a half persons can be supported on seven shillings sterling a week; and also that, taking the tenants throughout the Island, forty per cent do not procure from their farms a sufficiency of food.

My Lord Duke, a country so largely peopled, as is Prince Edward Island, by tenants, in such unhappy circumstances, cannot advance.

The effect of arrears of rent upon the tenants of Prince Edward Island, is, in the report, thus described:

“The tenant finds it to his interest to improve no more than he can help. Improvement would only invite purchasers. It is rather for his interest to take all he can get out of the land while the opportunity continues. In fact it is Ireland on a small scale.”

My Lord Duke, wholesale evictions cannot, I presume, be resorted to. In Prince Edward Island many poor people, in va-

rious parts of the Colony, have expended their youth and strength in clearing the forest, and are now, in their old age, deserted by their grown up sons, who naturally refuse to improve land which is charged with arrears of rent, in many cases quite equal to its freehold value. These persons, with wives and helpless children, are dragging out a miserable existence in a country where snow covers the ground for six months in the year, and where the cow that supplies milk to the poor family, must be housed and fed for seven months of the twelve; and they cannot be thrust out into the highways to perish or become dependent upon public charity.

My Lord Duke, this picture is not an exaggeration. May I not add that a remedy for these evils is imperatively demanded.

High as may be the respect entertained for the legal rights of the land owners, there are cases in which they should give way to the requirements of "public policy."

Now, Sir, when we find such opinions expressed by members and officers of the Government, I hope they will do a little more for the tenantry than they have done. I do not question the fact stated by the late leader of the Government that the Act passed last year has wiped off £50,000 of arrears of rent, but, in view of the great degree of agitation on this subject which now exists, it is the duty of members of this House to talk in plain terms to the Government. While I am as much opposed as any man to any resistance to the laws of the country, I have no hesitation in saying that I, at first, approved of the Tenant League organization, on general principles. I was in favor of it, as I felt conscious that grievances existed which required remedy. I am sorry to say that the published declarations of the League have prevented many of the tried friends of the tenantry from connecting themselves with that association. I am willing to assist the Government in passing a measure authorizing the Government to guarantee two-thirds of the price of the farm of a tenant desirous of purchasing the freehold, he paying the balance. A measure of this nature need not entail additional cost in its working, for the Land Office is in full operation at present. If the rate were fixed at from, say, ten shillings to twelve shillings and sixpence per acre under a measure of this sort, the proprietors would be induced to sell, in consequence of the Government guarantee. It is not to be expected that they will dispose of their lands to individual tenants as Mr. Haythorne has done. As I consider that this question should not be made one of party, I shall give my support to the Government in the purchase of whole Townships on the terms I have suggested. It is the duty of the Government to assist the League if they proceed constitutionally, as the tenants of Mr Haythorne did in their dealings with their landlord.

Mr HOWAT.—Mr Chairman, the remarks which have fallen from the hon leader of the Opposition may be in accordance with the views of many hon members, but I cannot agree with the amount of guarantee which he proposes should be made by the Government. It might operate as class legislation, and monies might be drawn from the Treasury for the purchase of lands of inferior quality, two-thirds of the nominal price of which would be more than the proprietors could have ever obtained for them, and more than they would be worth. I shall not object to a measure of general application to the whole body of the tenantry. I voted for the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, believing it to be the best we could carry under the then existing circumstances; if I had supposed that better terms could have been obtained, I

would gladly have given my vote and influence to obtain them. When it is admitted that none but the proprietors who consented to the reference to the Commissioners are even morally bound to abide by their award, I do not think it right or just that the remaining portion of the proprietors should be placed on a different footing. Any Bill having for its object the compulsory right of purchase, will be useless unless the rate be specified at which tenants will be entitled to demand the freehold of their holdings from the proprietor.

Hon Mr WARBURTON.—Mr Chairman, the existence of the organization known as the Tenant League shows the dissatisfaction felt by the country with reference to the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill. I highly approve of the suggestion of my hon friend, the leader of the Opposition, that the Government should guarantee two-thirds of the price of the freehold, the tenant paying the remaining third. Under such an arrangement the property would be ample security for the reimbursement of the Government. There is no honest man conversant with the working of the leasehold system in this Island, who can feel anything but a desire for its abolition. I was, as is well known, the agent, for years, of an absentee proprietor, and during the whole period of my agency, I never was required to remit anything to my principal for rent. When I sold the estate, he received something from his property, and I, sir, by selling that property gave up no less than £200 a year; but I regarded not my own interests but those of the people, and I have never regretted the course which I then adopted. With reference to what has been said on the subject of the tenant League, I approve of any organization having for its object the obtaining of justice, but violent opposition to the established institutions of the country should not be sanctioned by any one who is conscious of the obligations by which society is held together.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH.—The hon member for Cascumpec has denounced the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, evidently without having proper information. He does not understand that though the terms of purchase may appear more advantageous on Mr Haythorne's estate, yet it is chiefly in appearance as that gentleman has stipulated that not only the arrears of rent shall be paid, but also interest thereon. If interest were to be calculated on the £50,000 of arrears remitted by the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, it would amount to a very large sum indeed. We have no evidence that any of the parties who signed the petition praying that the Royal assent might not be given to that measure, were tenants on the estates of the consenting proprietors; and another suspicious circumstance is that most of the signatures to those petitions put in circulation were written by the same hand; therefore, taking these points into consideration, we have good grounds to question the statements put forth by certain hon members that the tenantry regard the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill as no boon to the Colony. The hon leader of the Opposition has endeavored to show that the measure is not giving satisfaction; but, Sir, he himself found it a difficult matter to legislate where the interests of one party were to be materially affected. If a Bill had



of the Commissioners appeared, it was not so satisfactory as was expected; but how could the hon member who introduced the resolutions on the subject, or how could the Government of the Colony, be held responsible in the matter? Those gentlemen alone are responsible for the mistake which they committed, and not the Government of this Island. Then, again, with respect to the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, why should hon gentlemen opposite seek to blame the Government when the measure was made as extensive as could possibly receive the approval of the proprietors, and consequently the sanction of the Imperial authorities? I admit that the Bill is not sufficiently extensive, but this is no fault of ours. It, however, imposes no terms on the tenant; he may purchase or not as he pleases; but it binds the proprietor to sell at a certain rate, and it has been the means of sweeping away about £50,000 of arrears of rent. The remission of arrears alone I consider was a great boon; and I believe that before many years are past the most of the tenants on the colonizing proprietors' estates will have become freeholders, and the auctioneer will have to be called to sell the odd corners of these estates. I wish that the tenant system was done away with in this Colony, and nothing can be said against those who are endeavoring to get the best terms they can from their proprietors; but I hold that it is simply folly for tenants to publish in the newspapers that they will resist the law. The history of the three-cornered note, respecting which so much has been said, ought to teach us that nothing like resistance will be allowed. Notwithstanding the foolish statements in one of the Duke of Newcastle's despatches, I believe that the authorities will be expected to take action on the despatch received by the hon leader of the Opposition when in power, commonly termed the "bloody despatch"—which declared that if Her Majesty's laws were not respected, troops should be called from the neighboring Provinces to enforce them. A few temporary advantages may be gained by resistance, but law and order must ultimately triumph. What took place at East Point a few years ago? The tenants there allowed their rents to go into arrears, efforts were made to collect them, resistance was offered, and the tenants at last had to give way. So will it be with the Tenant Union, the promoters of which I take to be political schemers, who are endeavoring to ride into power, and when this is attained their tenant supporters may look out for themselves.

Mr HOWLAN.—I am surprised, Mr Chairman, at some of the statements which have been put forward in the course of this discussion. When the Government party take credit to themselves for the extinction of £50,000 of arrears of rent, they ignore the experience of the country which shows that all has been collected which could by any means be extracted from the tenantry. It has been said that the Government are not responsible for the feelings on the subject of the Land Question which at present agitate the country; but I hold that the Government, in sending a delegation to seek the confirmation of an Award admitted by themselves to have been illegal, pursued a policy, the natural effect of which was to excite expectations which we know have been sadly disappointed. The people waited patiently and quietly for the promised settlement of this land question, and it was not until they found that they had nothing to hope from Gov-

ernment, that we heard of such an organization as the Tenant League. With reference to the Bill passed last Session, generally designated as the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, it will not have the effect of cancelling judgments entered in the Supreme Court, of which we know there are many against tenants for arrears of rent. However much I, in common with others, may regret that an association has been formed to resist the payment of rents, I cannot shut my eyes to the fact that it has not been called into existence by political feelings; for we all know that many intelligent men of opposite party predilections have united in this association, in consequence of the frustration of the hopes raised by the present Government.

Mr HASLAM.—Mr Chairman, I am not in the least surprised at the remarks which have fallen from the hon member who has just sat down, for he and other members on his side of the House would oppose the Fifteen Years' or any other Bill which might be introduced for the settlement of the Land Question. For all the expense incurred in paying the way for the passage of that Bill, I maintain that the country has received such returns that I, for one, would sanction an equal outlay to secure similar boons to the people of this Island. Besides the remission of the large amount of arrears of rent, the Bill enables tenants to effect the purchase of the freehold of their farms, and I ask is not this a benefit? It has been sought to make the measure unpopular to the tenantry, but time will test the operation of it, and I have no fear of its practical results. I regret that the minds of the people have been prejudiced against it by those who, like the hon member, live, not by farming, but by farming. It is folly to suppose that such a question could be completely disposed of immediately. The only practicable course has been pursued—that of dealing with it in such a way as to provide for the necessities of the future.

Debate adjourned.

TUESDAY, March 21.

The Bill to incorporate the Summerside Bank was read a third time and passed.

The Bill relating to Merchant Seamen was read a third time and passed.

The Bill to regulate the salaries of the Collectors of Customs at Georgetown and Bedeque was read a second time; committed and reported agreed to.

Hon Mr COLES suggested that the Clerk be directed to have a few complete copies of the Parliamentary Reporter, from its first publication, bound up in volumes for the use of the House. The suggestion was generally concurred in by hon members.

Hon Mr WARBURTON, pursuant to notice on the Order Book, asked for a copy of the agreement entered into between the Government and the Professors of Prince of Wales College, and also for a report of certain proceedings which had recently taken place, resulting, as he understood, in certain expulsions from the College.

Hon Leader of the Government replied that no written agreement had been entered into with the Profes-

sors of the Prince of Wales College, and with respect to the latter question, he might state that there had been no expulsions from the Institution.

### USURY BILL.

Hon Mr. HENSLEY moved the second reading of the Bill to regulate the rate of interest, and to repeal the Usury Laws. The hon member explained the principles of the Bill, and stated his opinion that there existed a necessity for the adoption of the measure, which was similar to a Bill passed by the British Parliament in the year 1854, when the remaining laws in that country on the same subject were repealed. The Bill before the House was a mere transcript of the British Statute, and a similar law also obtained in Canada. The Bill provided that where no rate of interest was named, the rate should still be 6 per cent; if any other rate was fixed upon, it must be expressly stated in the agreement. Existing contracts would not in any way be interfered with by the measure.

It was also argued by the hon Solicitor GENERAL, and other supporters of the Bill, that the present law on this subject was evaded every day, by which the borrower had to pay, frequently, from 15 to 25 per cent for borrowed money; whereas, by abolishing the restrictions of the law, those who would not violate its provisions would throw their capital into the market, and thus money, like any other article of merchandise, would find its own level. In a new country like this free scope should be given to trade, and money should be as free from restrictions as any other goods or chattels, so that men of conscience, who would not evade the law, might be allowed to go into the market and compete with those who constantly evaded its provisions.

Mr. HOWAT said he had the same objections to the Bill as when it was introduced at the last Session of the House, and he saw no reason why he should change his opinion on the subject. He was suspicious of the quarter from whence the Bill emanated, and thought its principal object was to afford facilities to the money lenders of Charlottetown. He was of opinion the Bill would tend to increase rather than lessen the rate of interest which would be charged under its provisions; he would, therefore, move that it be read a second time this day three months.

Hon Mr LAIRD seconded the motion of the hon member, and also spoke against the Bill. He said he was not aware that any petition or application of any kind had come from the people in favor of passing such a measure, and would therefore oppose it.

Hon Mr COLES had also some objections to the Bill. The demand for money might become so great, that money lenders would be induced to call in their securities at once, and thus cause many parties considerable embarrassment. This was the view of the subject taken in the Legislative Council last year, and after hearing the explanations of the hon Attorney General in the Upper House on that occasion, he (Mr C.) had somewhat changed his opinions. He would, generally speaking, be inclined to follow out the precedents of the Mother Country, but did not set much value upon the example of Canada. The finances of that Colony had been in such a state that they had to resort to almost any means

of raising money. He, however, would not give a determined opposition to the Bill, as he had not voted against it last Session.

Mr HOWAT's motion having been put and lost, the House went into Committee on the Bill—Mr McLennan in the chair.

The Bill was then read a second time, committed, and reported agreed to, after which the Chairman,

Mr MCLENNAN, claimed the privilege of addressing the House on the subject of the Bill. He said that having occupied the chair, he was deprived of giving his views in Committee, but would now state that he was prepared to give the measure his hearty concurrence. He had done so last year, and he saw no reason why he should not support it now. The principle of the Bill, he said, was ably explained by the Hon Mr Hensley who introduced it to the House, and from his knowledge of that hon member, he did not believe that he would submit any measure to that House which would prove an injury to his own constituents, or to the country at large. He was of opinion that the repeal of the Usury Laws was in accordance with the principles of sound and enlightened legislation, and would, therefore, give it his support.

On motion of the hon Solicitor GENERAL the House went into Committee on the Bill to promote Vaccination—hon Col Secretary in the chair.

After some time spent in Committee, during which the purport of the Bill was explained by the hon Solicitor General, it was agreed to.

House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, March 22.

The Bill to regulate the Salaries of Impost Collectors at Summerside and Georgetown, was read a third time and passed.

The Bill to incorporate the Summerside Bank was also read a third time and passed.

Hon Mr POPE submitted the account of the sales of the Barrack Square, and other papers connected therewith.

House in Committee on Ways and Means.

In accordance with a resolution, the following gentlemen were appointed a Committee to prepare the Revenue Bill, viz:—Hons Messrs. Pope, Davies, and Mr Green.

Hon Solicitor GENERAL, Chairman of the Committee to whom was referred the petition of the inhabitants of Georgetown and Royalty, relating to the Georgetown Common, reported a Bill which was received and read. Ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

The Bill to enlarge the Jurisdiction of the Mayor's Court in the City of Charlottetown, was ordered to be read a second time; to which hon Mr Coles objected, and moved that the words "Criminal Jurisdiction" be struck out of the title of the same.

The Bill was then recommitted, and amended accordingly; after which it was read a second time and agreed to.

The Bill to amend the law to promote Vaccination was read a third time and passed.

The House then received several resolutions from Supply.

Hon Mr COLES moved that the resolution granting the sum of £20, for the payment of wharfage at Beale, be disagreed to, which motion was lost on the following division:

Yeas—Hons Messrs Coles, Kelly, Thornton, Warburton, Messrs Conroy, Howlan, Sullivan and Sinclair, Walter.

Nays—Hons Messrs Pope, Gray, Longworth, Solicitor General, Colonial Secretary, Kaye, Davies, Laird, Messrs Green, Howat, Brecken, McLennan, Ramsay, Montgomery, Haslam, Nov—16.

The House in Committee then resumed consideration of Supply.

CHARLOTTE TOWN MARKET HOUSE

Hon Mr DAVIES moved a resolution granting £1000 towards building a Market House in Charlottetown.

Hon Mr COLES moved an amendment to the resolution, namely, that the words "provided said Market House be not built on Queen Square," be added thereto.

He said he was not opposed to a grant for the purpose of assisting the City to build a Market House—the necessity for which was obvious to all—provided it was not built on Queen Square. He then spoke of the filthy condition of the said Square, which would always continue so, as long as a Market House was there. Some might say that, with a new building properly constructed, the Square could be kept clear of filth, but such would not be the case; it would, on the contrary, be utterly impossible to keep the Square free from the collection of mud and dirt which rendered it a disgrace to the place, as long as the Market House stood on its present site. The windows of the Building, in which they then sat, could not, in the heat of summer, be opened, that Public Officers might breathe the pure air of heaven, because of the stench which came from this public square, which should be a scene of pride and not a disgrace, to the City. He said the whole country should have a voice in this matter. The law authorized its being built on that Square, and unless contravened by a resolution of this House, it would in all probability, be erected there. He said that it would not do to leave a matter of such importance to the City authorities, who, it seemed, did not interest themselves very much on behalf of their fellow citizens.

Hon Col GRAY was prepared, as a general rule, to support the Government estimates, but thought he would to a certain extent testify himself were he to vote against the amendment submitted by the hon. leader of the Opposition. A few years ago, he (Col G.) had very decidedly opposed a resolution to grant a part of Queen Square for the site of a new Market House, and were he to support an unconditional vote, he might be deemed inconsistent. But it made very little difference to him where the Market House would be built; as it was, however, he avoided the Market Square as he would a pest house. He hoped that the hon leader of the Opposition would not press his amendment, as he (Col. G.) was inclined to support the

resolution, particularly since he had just learned that the finances of the Colony were in a flourishing condition.

Hon Mr HENSLEY—Although he disapproved of having the proposed building erected on Queen's Square, would support the resolution as introduced, he considered that the grant would be but an act of justice to the citizens of Charlottetown. He would prefer that Queen's Square should be kept clear of the encumbrance of a Market House, especially since the Barrack grounds had been disposed of to private individuals—an act which deprived the inhabitants of a most pleasant place of resort. The Act which passed the Legislature some years since, was merely permissive, and only provided that the said authorities might occupy a portion of the Square as the site of a Market House.

Hon Col GRAY said that the sale of the Barrack Square had realized upwards of five thousand pounds, the application of which to the public service gave benefit to the community of consideration; but an additional advantage resulted from the increased value of real estate in its immediate neighborhood, specimens of which he had been informed by a new house, rising in its vicinity had risen in value fifty per cent. The hon member would appreciate this argument when he should see the handsome style of buildings which were now in course of erection. At a public meeting which had been held to remonstrate against the disposal of the property, great stress was laid upon the convenience of its being this as a battery site. It would be possible for him to discuss points of law with the hon member, questions of economy with the hon member from Jersey (Mr Hume), or of shipbuilding with the hon leader of the Government, but as a military man he could tell them that a shot fired at an enemy's ship from a battery placed there would entail the destruction of the town.

Hon Sol. GENERAL said that the only question was whether the House would grant this money to aid in the erection of a Market House in Charlottetown. It would be money well expended, for it should be borne in mind that the proposed building would benefit not the City alone, but Queen's County, and at certain seasons of the year Prince and King's Counties. Some years since the question had been ably debated, and in the interval no change had come over the spirit of the dreams of many who had strenuously advocated the appropriation of a portion of Queen's Square. He would prefer that another site should be procured, but he felt he was willing that the people of Charlottetown should decide that question for themselves.

Hon Mr POPE had not expected the hon member (Col. Gray) to vote against the grant which left it optional with the municipal authorities to build the Market House where they thought fit. He was opposed to its being placed on Queen's Square, but representing a rural district, he had voted as the previous bill against his own predilections in deference to the wishes of the Corporation of Charlottetown. If the members for the City and those for Queen's County declined to take the grant as proposed, he had no objection to remove it from the Estimates.

Mr BRECKEN had suggested that the grant be given unconditionally, lest its passage should be imperilled. He was of opinion that the proposed building should not be placed in Queen Square, which had so long been disgraced by the present wretched structure. The idea formerly entertained by some of the advocates for placing it on the Square, viz. the anticipated depreciation of property, had been abandoned. He would like to see an appropriation for the enclosure and ornamentation of the Square, which would materially affect the opinions of those who might wish to have the Market house located on it.



Hon Mr LAIRD could see no reason for a change in the opinions he had previously entertained on this subject, the merits of which had been ably debated when it was before the House, some years since. After having given a site for the proposed Market House, he did not expect that application would have been made for a grant of money from the Treasury. Thinking that the selection of a site should be left an open question, he could not support the amendment. If it were decided to occupy a portion of Queen's Square, that piece of ground could scarcely be in a worse condition than it was at present.

Hon Mr DAVIES admitted that his opinions on the question had undergone a total change since the discussion on the granting of a site on the Square had taken place. The finances of the Colony at that time did not justify a vote for the purchase of a site. As an inhabitant of Charlottetown, he was willing to contribute from his own resources towards that object. The Square should be laid down in grass and ornamented in a manner which would add to the attractions for tourists which this city already possessed.

Mr MONTGOMERY supported the grant as proposed. The civic authorities might locate the Market House where they pleased. The particular site would not affect the people from the country coming here with their produce.

Hon Col GRAY hoped the hon member (Mr Coles) would not, after the expressions of opinion which had been given by the members for the city, press his amendment.

Mr CONROY.—Some years ago it was resolved that a site for a Market House should be given on Queen's Square. Having sanctioned that measure, he could not support the amendment proposed by the hon leader of the Opposition. The House had previously refused to guarantee the interest on the cost of the proposed building, and it was strange that the views of hon members had so changed that they were now willing to vote the principal. It might be that Government having advanced this amount, might be induced to furnish the means required for the completion of the building. He was in favor of striking out the item.

Mr HASLAM was in favor of the resolution, as introduced. To himself and his constituents it might be that Queen's Square was the most convenient site for a Market House; but he thought it inexpedient to clog the resolutions with restrictions. The civic authorities should be allowed to place the building wherever they might judge most convenient. In a question of this nature, it was evident that some would feel that they had not received an equal degree of accommodation with others; but such difference must exist, let the Market be placed anywhere.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH thought that the hon member from Tignish, (Mr Conroy), was in error in characterising the adoption of this vote as a deviation from the principle sanctioned by the House in the application made a few years ago, for a guarantee of the interest on the cost of a Market House. The Legislature was then called upon to guarantee some £4,000 or £5,000, and if the city failed in meeting its liabilities on this matter, the Government would have been liable to make good not only the interest but also the principal. This vote came up now in a totally different shape. It was simply a grant of £1000, and entailed no future liabilities on the Government.

Mr HOWLAN would oppose the grant. The proper site for a Market House was near the water. If such situation were selected, facilities would be afforded for keeping fish in a fresh state, which could not be obtained if the Market were located on Queen's Square.

Mr SINCLAIR said the House, some years ago, granted a site for a Market, but the building had not been proceeded with. He had fears that the £1000, if granted,

would be taken to purchase a site somewhere else, and then a further application for money would be made to complete the building. He would, therefore, oppose the resolution *in toto*.

The question was then put on the Hon Mr Coles' amendment, and negatived on the following division:—

Yeas—Hons Messrs Coles, Whelan, Thornton, Kelly, Beaton and Mr Walker—6.

Nays—Hons Messrs Pope, Gray, Longworth, Davies, Col Secretary, Kaye, Laird, Hensley, Warburton, Solicitor General; Messrs Haslam, Yeo, Howat, Ramsay, Montgomery, Green, Brecken, Conroy, Sinclair, Howlan, Duncan—21.

Hon Mr WARBURTON then moved that the Resolution for the grant of £1,000, towards building a Market House in Charlottetown, be disagreed to. Which motion was lost as follows:—

Yeas—Hons Messrs Warburton, Thornton, Beaton, Coles, Whelan, Kelly; Messrs Conroy, Howlan, Sinclair, Walker—10.

Nays—Hons Messrs Pope, Gray, Kaye, Col Secretary, Solicitor General, Longworth, Laird, Davies, Hensley; Messrs Haslam, Yeo, Howat, Duncan, Brecken, Montgomery, Ramsay, Green—17.

The original Resolution was then reported agreed to.

#### LAND QUESTION.

House in Committee on despatches—Debate on the Land Question resumed.

Mr CONROY.—I know not, Mr Chairman, that any new light can be thrown upon the oft-debated Land Question and its offshoot, the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill. If an expression of opinion as to the working of that Bill, be the object of this discussion, I may give mine, to the effect that the tenantry generally do not recognise any beneficial results from its operation. I am not prepared to deny that the remission of arrears of rent has been a boon in individual cases, but I know that I am expressing the sentiment of the great body of the tenantry when I say, that as a measure of general application, it has fallen short of the expectations raised in the minds of the people.

Hon Col GRAY.—Will the hon member allow me to ask, whether he himself has received no benefit from the measure to which he alludes?

Mr CONROY.—If I have derived any benefit from it, I can assure the hon member that, up to the present hour, I am unconscious of the boon, as far as my own interests are involved. I believe that it was as easy for me to pay the rent stipulated in my lease as to purchase the freehold under the Bill referred to. The Government will find that the Bill is most unpopular with the tenantry.

Hon Col SECRETARY.—Has it inflicted injury on any one?

Mr CONROY.—I have not said anything calculated to convey that impression; but if it be the object of the Government and its supporters to prevent, by these interruptions, the expression of my views, I am willing to sit down. I feel it my duty to state my opinions, and I presume that I have a right to do so. If the Land Commission had never been called into existence, the hopes of the people would not have been excited to the degree to which they have been raised. At St. Eleanor's intelligent men have expressed their firm belief that the Commission would abolish the leasehold system altogether. The general dissatisfaction which is entertained, with reference to the Bill, is but a natural result of the disappointed hopes of the people.

Hon Col GRAY.—The hon member is in error when he says that hopes of the extinguishment of the leasehold system were held out by me when I introduced the resolu-

tions which paved the way for the Royal Commission, or by the Government of which I was then a member.

**Mr CONROY.**—Although I do not often trouble the House with many remarks, I may remind her members opposite that I have already been interrupted two or three times, and if my remarks are so offensive to the majority, I am willing to resume my seat. With reference to the Bill of last Session, I have received intelligence which induces me to ask for information as to its practical operation in one of its details. If a party owed arrears previously to 1858, and had subsequently paid them, no credit was allowed for the amount when he came to purchase, under the Bill, the freehold of his farm. The constituency which I represent pay their rent as readily and as regularly, I believe, as any body of tenantry on the Island; but the desire to get rid of the leasehold system is general throughout the Island, as the principle of it is distasteful to the people. From a notice which I see on the Order Book, I am induced to hope that the present condition of the people may be ameliorated, and I will support the Government in any measure having that tendency.

**Hon Mr COLES.**—It was my intention, a few evenings since, to have moved a resolution on the subject of Governmental aid in the purchase of the freeholds of the tenantry; but as I perceive that the leader of the Government has placed a notice on the Order Book, having a similar object, it is no longer necessary.

(Laughter from Hon Mr Pope.)

**Hon Mr COLES.**—The hon leader of the Government may laugh, but I can tell him that this is not the first occasion on which his party have adopted my ideas and taken credit for them as their own. I will gladly give my support to the present, or any other Government in any measure which will enable the tenantry to become freeholders on reasonable terms. If a proprietor can, by the help of a guarantee from the Government, sell his lands at an average of ten shillings per acre, he will be in a better position than if he came under the provisions of the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill. I will aid the Government in carrying the measure of which notice has been given, if it should be based on the principle of the Government advancing two-thirds of the price of a tenant's farm, the amount of purchase of which should not exceed 10s. or 12s. 6d., per acre.

**Hon Sol GENERAL.**—I beg to, Mr Chairman, agree with those who assert that the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, as it is designated, has been productive of no benefits to the tenantry; and that no appreciable amelioration of their condition has resulted from that measure. The subject of the Land Tenures of this Island has occupied the attention of its Legislators ere the oldest now within these walls was born, and it may be that the yet unborn successors to our seats may find in the matter materials for the manufacture of political capital. The allusions which have been made to the Bill of last Session are as unjust in motive as untruthful in fact; and it is simply absurd to deny to the hon member for Belfast (hon Col Gray) the meed of credit to which his action in dealing with the general subject of the Land Tenures fairly entitles him. In 1859 he took his seat in this House, untrammelled by any pledges on the long vexed land question. On his own responsibility he tabled the resolutions which led to the appointment of the Royal Commission. That Commission comprised, as is well known, three of the most able men whom these Colonies could furnish for the discharge of the duties delegated to them. When the result of their labors was promulgated here, one of the Commissioners was burned in effigy, public feeling having been unduly excited against their report. But, Sir, when the temporary excitement, consequent upon the non-realization of expectations which should not have been fostered or entertained, shall have subsided, the people of the Island, reading by their sides the Report of the Commissioners and collating it with the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, will recognize that a boon of no small magnitude has been conferred on our population. The recommendations of the Royal Commis-

sioners would have had all the effect of an Award, binding all those who signified their submission to it, had they not, by delegating to others an authority entrusted to themselves personally, exceeded their powers. Had the gentlemen to whom I refer, fixed a definite rate at which proprietors should be compelled to dispose of their lands, much of the dissatisfaction at present existing would never have been experienced. It has been said that the state of the tenantry is at present worse than it was previously to the passage of this Bill. The converse of the proposition embodies the truth. The proprietors are in a condition very much worse than that which they occupied before the Bill of last Session became an Act on our Statute Book. It consists with my own knowledge, as agent for some, and professional adviser of others, of the proprietors, that very large amounts of arrears of rent have been, by the operation of this Bill, remitted. Hon members who assert that no class of the tenantry have been benefited by the Bill, state, either ignorantly or falsely, the reverse of fact. (The hon member here enumerated the respective amounts of arrears of rent which had been discharged under the provisions of the Bill, on several estates, with the management of which he was connected, as agent or in his professional capacity.) These figures show an amount of some £40,000, which the records of my own office prove have been given up. What amounts the experience of others can show as having been dealt with in the same manner I cannot, of course, give. But my statement is ample justification of the doubt I now give to those who assert that the Bill which was passed last Session has not been of general benefit to the tenantry. The cost of the Commission, even if it had been far greater than it was, would have been an economical expenditure of the public money, when it is recollected that so vast an amount of indebtedness has been removed from the shoulders of the people of this Colony. It may be said that the tenantry will not avail themselves of the provisions of the Bill enabling them to purchase their holdings at Fifteen Years' rental; but I am in a position to state from my own knowledge that many of the former tenants of Sir Samuel Cunard have become freeholders in virtue of it; and if any hon member will take the trouble to inform himself on the subject, he will find that in the Murray Harbor and other districts, parties, formerly tenants, have become freeholders and are now the independent owners of farms, well tilled, and having on them well furnished dwellings with appropriate outbuildings, purchased by the accumulations of their own industrious exertions, unaided by any legislative subsidy. Such a state of facts is a sufficient refutation to the assertion made by the hon member from Tynagh (Mr Conroy) that the tenants do not appreciate the Bill, and will not avail themselves of the rights which it confers. The hon leader of the Opposition, in his reference to the notice in the Order Book, indicative of the intention of the leader of Government to introduce a Bill sanctioning a Governmental advance of part of the price of the freeholds, and in his claim to the originality of that idea, must have had the privilege of peeping into the desk of my hon friend, or, "like the thief of fire from Heaven," he must have received his inspiration by some means not a whit more legitimate. I can assure him that he labors under a very grave mistake if he supposes that the principles of the measure to be introduced have been gleaned from his opinions. The policy of the proposed Bill formed matter of deliberation by the supporters of the Government last year, and its introduction was deferred until the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill should have received the Royal assent, as it must be evident that until that Act had become law, any further action would have been premature.

**Hon Col GRAY.**—It having been admitted that the Bill which, last Session, passed the House, has had the effect of benefiting a certain proportion of the tenantry, they who now decry that measure place themselves in the position of those who should say, "Because you cannot benefit two, you ought not to seek the advantage of one; because you cannot elevate the social condition of one hundred, you should not advance the interests of fifty." And, Mr Chairman, with reference to the argument that the measure which it is proposed to introduce, what, I would ask, would be the use of supplementing a Bill not in existence, and which might never be in existence? I have been painfully conscious for years of the extent to which the minds of the tenantry, on the subject of the land tenures on the Island, have been abused. But a short time since, an individual from Scotland alluded to the Right Hon Lawrence Sullivan, the proprietor of, I believe, some four Townships in the Island, as "one Sullivan, the pretended owner of some land here," as though he were in the habit of going into the forest with an axe

on his shoulder. Sir, I may state that I, myself, am cognizant of cases in which the agents of proprietors refused to receive payment of arrears of rent, alleging, as a reason, the provisions contained in the Bill of last year. In vindication of my own course in dealing with the subject of the relations between Landlord and Tenant in this Island, I may be permitted to allude to the assertions which have been made, to the effect that I had promised the tenants any thing and every thing they desired. Sir, I made no promises of any kind on the subject, and, on one occasion, in answer to a question on the matter I expressly refused to pledge myself to any particular line of action, lest I might, at some subsequent period, be taunted with having violated my pledged word.

Hon Mr HENSLEY.—Mr Chairman, it appears that the same rules do not obtain in Committee as when the Speaker is in the Chair, for I have heard no resolution or motion to which hon members are speaking. I scarcely know, therefore, to what point I should direct my remarks. As no allusion was made to the Land Question in the debate on the Address this Session, I thought it had become extinct; but the present discussion seems to have revived the whole subject, perhaps to give it the final quietus. In this House I believe that I occupy a different position from any other hon member. When the Land Commissioners opened their court, I was retained to advocate the claims of the tenantry; and have since as a member of the House shown by my actions that I did not doubt the sincerity of the hon member for Belfast in asking for aid in endeavoring to carry out that Commission. When the question of confirming the Award came up, I voted for it, and against the most of my political friends, not because I considered that the Award conceded all that the tenantry should receive, but because it would establish a legal claim against the proprietors; and also for the reason that this House had entered into the scheme of the Commission voluntarily, and should abide by its decision. I hoped that the proprietors would have yielded some points in regard to the Award, and not have required a strict adherence to the rules of law; but they would not give way, and as the Home Government recognized their right to dissent from the decision of the Commissioners, the Legislators of this Island had no power to enforce it. Last Session we were asked by the Government to support the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill. I voted against it, because I thought the Duke of Newcastle had laid down a more feasible scheme. I have no desire, however, to censure the Government for passing that measure; we should rather strive to ascertain what more can be done to ameliorate the condition of the tenantry. The hon and gallant member for Belfast has informed us that probably other proprietors will give in their assent to the Bill. I admit that there might be some force in the remark, provided that all the proprietors in the Government had made themselves parties to the measure. If this had been done, the Government would have exerted a great deal more influence on the non-consenting proprietors. It is a matter scarcely worth discussing which party has accomplished most by legislation for the benefit of the tenantry; the question now is, can any further measures be devised to aid in eradicating the evils of the tenant system? With respect to Mr Haythorne's agreement with his tenants, I think we have no right to discuss such transactions in this House. I observe a notice on the Order Book to the effect that the Government purpose introducing a measure to assist the tenantry to buy up their lands. If such a measure be brought in I will be disposed to give it my support. Even those tenants who are not on estates affected by the operation of the Fifteen Years' Bill should receive assistance, provided they can obtain reasonable terms of purchase from their landlords. In regard to the proposition which the hon member for Belfast said he had to make for settling this question, we must wait until it be developed before we can speak on it definitely. But I presume he alludes to Confederation, and the allowance which we should receive under it, for the amount of debt in our favor. If it were possible to appropriate the principal of that proposed annual allowance for the purchase of proprietors' estates, it would be no gain, for we would then lose it for other purposes.

Hon Mr POPE.—Mr Chairman, I was pleased to hear the straight-forward statements of the hon and learned member for East Point, and shall be happy to have his support in carrying through the measure for a loan to the tenantry. The question before the Committee appears to be the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, and the Proprietors and the Tenant

Leaguers. With respect to the Fifteen Years' Bill we know it has been a great boon to the tenantry, even in regard alone to the amount of arrears of rent which it has remitted. It has been asserted here that these arrears could never have been collected. This, however, is an absurd view of the matter; as the proprietors would have taken very good care to secure them. When we consider that by the Bill at least £50,000 of arrears were swept away, I think it must be admitted that it has conferred as great advantages on the tenantry as any other measure which has passed through this Legislature. True, we have heard what was accomplished by the Land Purchase Bill; but I do not hesitate to state that I was opposed to it, and the first year I had a seat in this House I said that I believed £10,000 on the purchase of the Worrell Estate would be lost to the country at large. And here after the lapse of ten years I am prepared to repeat the statement. Therefore I contend that I cannot be charged with inconsistency in saying that the Land Purchase Bill, as first managed, would prove ruinous to the country. It was argued at one time that the purchase of Lot 11 would be self-sustaining; but its working has been very little more successful than that of the Worrell estate. The cost of these two estates was about £23,000, and taking the bonds in the Treasury at their face, and without taking into account the unsold lands, there is only £3,500 to meet the purchase money. There is a lawsuit pending in Chancery in regard to a claim on the Worrell estate, and before the accounts of these estates are closed up, I believe there will be over £10,000 sunk to the Colony. The principal purchases by the present Government I am happy to think, will prove self-sustaining, and will probably assist in making up the loss on some of the others. But, Sir, we have heard great complaints from hon members opposite as to the failure of the Award. It is due to the hon and gallant member for Belfast to say that he did his utmost to secure the success of the Commission; and if the Award was pronounced by the Home authorities to be illegal, the Government cannot be held responsible for the acts of the Commissioners. But on one occasion when it was discussed in this House, the hon leader of the Opposition said that he could not agree to 20 years' purchase as laid down in the Commissioners' report, but if 15 years' purchase had been stated, then it would have been worthy of support.

Hon Mr COLES.—I deny the statement.

Hon Mr POPE.—The words which the hon member stated were to that effect; but no dependence can be placed on his declarations. He has taken credit for suggesting the scheme, the notice of which is on the Order Book, but if the Government were to rely on his support they would find themselves mistaken. When the Selkirk estate was to be bought at 2s 2d sterling an acre, and some other estates at 4s per acre, he voted against their purchase rather than be found supporting the Government. And now when a measure is about to be introduced to grant a loan to the tenantry, though he may think it no harm to burden the country, yet I cannot admit that it would be just to base it on a principle which would be a tax on the tenants of the Selkirk estate, as they have procured the freehold of their lands in a manner which has resulted in no loss to the general revenues of the Colony. The hon and learned member for St. Peter's stated that he thought if the proprietors who are members of the Government were to come under the operation of the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, it would influence other proprietors to assent to the measure. I have already stated, and I now say it again, that I am prepared to place my lands under the operation of the Bill, and I believe the other non-consenting proprietor in the Government, who is a member of the Legislative Council, is prepared to do the same. This Bill would probably not have met with the approval of some of the supporters of the Government, had it not been in contemplation to introduce a measure which would enable the tenantry by a loan to avail themselves of its provisions. But it is purposed to make this measure general in its nature—not to confine its operation to the estates of consenting proprietors, but to assist tenants throughout the Island who can arrange for the purchase of their farms. The Government is willing to render assistance to the tenantry, therefore I am sorry to hear of the combination which has been formed by some misguided people against paying rent; and I regret also that hon members opposite should afford them encouragement by saying, though they do not openly countenance them, that on account of the manner in which the tenants have been treated, there is a great deal of excuse for

them thus banding themselves together. The laws, however, must be obeyed, and if there is not force enough in this Island to cause them to be respected, we will have to resort to the "bloody despatch" and procure assistance from abroad. The last shilling in the Treasury will be expended to maintain their supremacy. I deem it unnecessary to make any motion on the papers which have been read, and think that the chairman better proceed with the next despatch.

Hon Mr Coles rose to speak, but an altercation taking place between him and the hon Colonial Secretary, the hon Sol General moved that the Speaker take the chair. The motion was carried, and the Committee accordingly rose without reporting.

House adjourned.

#### THURSDAY, March 23.

Mr Howlan called the attention of the House to an error in the Parliamentary Reporter of last Session, relative to a Resolution submitted by him on the subject of the Union of the Colonies, in which resolution the word "expedient" was, by mistake, used for "inexpedient," which very materially altered the meaning intended to be conveyed by the said Resolution.

The Bill to enlarge the Jurisdiction of the Mayor's Court in Charlottetown, was read a third time and passed.

The Bill to amend the law relating to the sale by license of Spirituous Liquors, was read a second time and agreed to.

Hon Mr Longworth, from the Committee on Private Bills, submitted a report, recommending that the Bill relating to the Estate of the late John Hodges Winsloe receive the favorable consideration of the House. The hon. member then proceeded to explain the object of the Bill, which, he said, was introduced in compliance with the prayer of a petition of the parties interested. The Bill, he said, was designed to perfect the titles of a very considerable number of persons, without compelling them to resort to expensive proceedings in the Courts of the Colony. There was, therefore, nothing objectionable in its principles. After which it was ordered that said report be agreed to.

The House then went into Committee on a bill to alter the times for holding the terms of the Supreme Court in the different Counties of this Island.

Hon. Mr. Hensley explained that the alterations contemplated by this Bill were, that the commencement of the Hilary Term for Queen's County should be on the second Tuesday instead of the first Tuesday in January, as heretofore; and the commencement of the Winter Term, in King's County, should be on the last Tuesday in February, instead of the second Tuesday in March. These alterations, he said, were made with the view, if possible, of securing a better state of the travelling for Jurors and Suitors attending the Courts in question. The Bill also fixed the commencement of the June Term, at St. Eleanor's, to be on the second, instead of the first Tuesday of June, in each year, the latter day being inconvenient to the farmers, as it necessitated attendance at the Court before the seed time expired. The Bill was reported agreed to.

A message was received from His Excellency, transmitting a Despatch from the Secretary of State,

intimating that the Colony must be prepared, within a reasonable period, to assume the payment of the Salary of the Lieutenant Governor of this Island, heretofore paid from the Imperial Treasury.

Hon. Leader of the Government gave notice that he would, to-morrow, move the House into a Committee of the whole on the subject of the said Despatch; and on Saturday, that the House go into Committee on the Road Scales.

It was then moved that the Resolution for a grant of £1,000 to build a Market House in Charlottetown be agreed to.

To which the Hon. Mr. Coles proposed an amendment, that the words "provided said Market House be not built on Queen Square."

For the amendment—Hons. Messrs. Coles, Warburton, Whelan and Mr Walker—4.

Against it—Hons. Messrs. Davies, Kaye, Hensley, Solicitor General, Longworth, Pope, Laird, Beaton, Gray, Colonial Secretary, Messrs. Conroy, Howlan, Sinclair, Green, Duncan, Howat, Brecken, Ramsay, Haslam, Montgomery, Yeo, McLennan—22.

Hon. Mr. Warburton then moved that the Resolution be disagreed to.

For the motion—Hons. Messrs. Warburton, Coles, Whelan, Beaton, Messrs. Sinclair, Walker, Howlan, Conroy—8.

Against it—Hons. Messrs. Davies, Longworth, Hensley, Solicitor General, Pope, Kaye, Laird, Gray, Col. Secretary, Messrs. Green, Duncan, Brecken, Ramsay, Howat, Yeo, McLennan, Montgomery, Haslam—18.

Hon. Sol. General presented a petition from certain inhabitants of Georgetown, being counter to one previously presented by him from sundry other residents of the same place, praying that the House would pass a Bill to authorize the letting of Georgetown Common for ten years, in order that it might be improved. The petition was received and read, whereupon the hon. Solicitor General moved that the Bill already before the House, in accordance with the prayer of the first petition, be read a second time. He said he was only discharging his duty to his constituents by this course. He had placed both sides of the question fairly before the House, and it remained for hon. members to act as they thought proper in the case.

After some discussion, during which hon members generally expressed the opinion that it would be advisable to refrain from any action on the subject, Hon. Mr Coles moved an amendment that it be read this day three months.

For the amendment—Hon. Messrs. Coles, Warburton, Beaton, Whelan, Kelly, Davies, Laird, Longworth, Pope, Hensley; Messrs. Conroy, Howlan, Walker, Sinclair, Howat, Montgomery, Ramsay, Duncan, Haslam, Yeo,—20.

Against it—Hons. Messrs. Thornton, Kaye, Solicitor General and Mr Green—4.

The amendment was accordingly carried.

The Bill to amend the Law for constituting Boards of Health, was read a second time and agreed to.

FRIDAY, March 24.

Hon. Mr. Pope presented the Revenue Bill for the current year, which was received and read, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Hon Sol GENERAL—on whose motion the House went into Committee on the Bill he had introduced for the amendment of the law of real property—explained that the alterations effected by the Bill in the law at present existing, were the adoption of the principle that all conveyances of freehold estates should be deemed to lie in grant as well as livery of seisin; that all feoffments should be deemed void unless evidenced by deed, and the same rule should apply to the partitions or exchanges of estates other than copyhold; that no implication of warranty of title should attach to the use in conveyances of the words "give" or "grant." Also, it provided for the immediate transfer of the interest of the grantor to the grantee, although the latter should not be named in, or be a party to an indenture, so called, which need not be subjected to the formality implied by the term. By the Bill, the parties entitled to contingent and other estates, *in futuro*, might dispose of them by deed, and contingent remainders existing after December last should be effectual and valid, notwithstanding any merge of the previous estate. It invested the party entitled to the next reversionary interest in a leasehold estate, with the right to the property and privileges, subject to the obligations contained in the original lease.

After a somewhat professional discussion, in which Hon Sol General, Hensley, Longworth, Col Secretary, and Mr Brecken took part, the Bill was agreed to.

Hon Mr Longworth asked if it were the intention of the House to charge the usual fees on the Bill relating to the Estate of the late J. H. Winsloe, as he wished to move the House in Committee on that subject.

Hon Mr Coles said that as a considerable number of tenants were interested in that Bill, who, no doubt, would have to pay the fees thereon, if charged, he would, therefore, suggest that the fees in question would be, in this case, remitted; and as that House professed to sympathize with the tenantry generally, he hoped there would be no objection offered to his proposal.

Hon Mr Longworth concurred with the remarks of the hon Mr Coles, and submitted a Resolution, to the effect, that as the intention of the Bill was to carry into effect certain unexecuted agreements for the benefit of a large number of persons in this Island, the fees chargeable for the same be remitted by the House; which was agreed to.

Hon Leader of the Government gave notice that, to-morrow afternoon, he would move that the House go into Committee on the Despatches and Correspondence relating to Colonial Confederation.

Mr Brecken gave notice that, to-morrow, he would present a petition from his constituents, asking the House for a portion of the Government farm, to be used as a place of recreation for the citizens of Charlottetown.

House adjourned.

On motion of the Hon Mr Pope, the House went into Committee of the whole on the Revenue Bill—Mr McLennan in the chair.

The Bill was read clause by clause by the chairman. When the clause relative to the duties of Collectors of Impost was read,

The Hon Mr Coles remarked that it had been rumored the Collector at that anticipated City, Summerside, was discharged from his office for having performed his duty in seizing Goods that had been landed improperly at that place. He was of opinion that Governments should always be very guarded in interfering with any officer when in the discharge of his duty. It was also rumored that Goods which were taken from Charlottetown to Summerside, in Steamers, had caused trouble.

Hon Mr Pope said that he supposed that hon. member (Mr Coles) thought this a good opportunity for having a fling at the Government. If that hon. member could point out any defect in the law on the point in question, why did he not, if he could, propose an amendment? The hon. member (Mr Pope) then proceeded to explain the proceedings which had been taken by the Government, relatively to the conduct of the officer alluded to, who, he said, was not discharged for not having done his duty, but because he refused to comply with the law, and had expressed his determination to sell the goods seized by him, despite the admonitions of his best friends. The owner of the goods tendered the necessary securities, but he refused to accept of any bondsmen. The head of the Customs department was sent to Summerside to investigate the case, and he declared the Collector had no right to seize the goods.

Hon Mr Coles.—If the owner of the goods offered bondsmen, and the officer refused to accept of them, he deserved to be discharged.

Hon Mr Hensley approved of the action taken by the Government. They pursued a just and proper course in the matter, and the conduct of the officer in question was extremely reprehensible.

Mr Green remarked that though he was not disposed to find fault with the Government, yet he must say that, to his own personal knowledge, some of the goods seized by the officer had been removed.

Hon Mr Pope.—Any portion of the goods, which might have been removed, were taken with the consent of the Preventive Officer. If the conduct of that officer had been at all justifiable he would not have been discharged; but, unfortunately, he was actuated by private feelings, which he allowed to govern his actions in that case.

Hon Mr Coles said he did not wish it to be understood that he would countenance any such arbitrary and extraordinary conduct as that of which the Collector at Summerside appeared to be guilty. He then alluded to the propriety of allowing steamers to land goods without being delayed; they were known to remain but a short time in port, and often arrived at midnight.

Hon Col Secretary suggested the necessity of enacting a clause in the Bill making provision for landing goods from steamers.

Hon Sol General approved of adding a clause to the Bill, by which Preventive Officers would be empowered to take charge of goods landed from steamers at all hours. He was aware of the inconvenience and delay caused, especially to the Boston steamers, landing their freights at Charlottetown, for want of such a provision in the Act.

Hon Col Secretary then submitted a clause to the effect that all goods or merchandize, imported in steam vessels, might be landed by the master or officers thereof, without previous entry of such vessels, and without obtaining a permit to land the same, provided all such goods should, on being landed, be placed in the custody of a Preventive or other Revenue Officer; and such officer receiving the same should retain possession thereof, on behalf of the Collector of Import for the Port in which such goods should be landed, until the duties due thereon should have been paid or secured.

Said clause was then added to the Bill, which was reported agreed to.

Hon Sol General moved that the Bill relating to the law of libel be read a third time.

Hon Mr Whelehan remarked it afforded him much pleasure to second that motion. It was not usual, he said, to enter into the details of a Bill in that stage of the proceedings, but as he happened not to be in his place when the merits of this measure was debated, he would now state that it had his most unqualified approval. He complimented the Government from whom emanated this Bill, and the hon member who introduced it, for having removed one very disgraceful blemish from our Statutes.

Hon Mr Hensley said that when that Bill was in Committee, some hon members expressed their fears that a dangerous course was about to be adopted. To remove such doubts, he would allude to the remarkable fact that a Bill of similar import had very recently been introduced into the Imperial Parliament; in proof of which he read from the London *Times* newspaper, of the 25th of February last, an extract relating to that subject; after which the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The following Bills were also read a third time and passed, viz:

The Bill to constitute Boards of Health.

The Bill to alter the times for holding the Supreme Courts of this Island.

The Bill to regulate the sale by license of Spirituous Liquors.

Mr Brecken presented a petition from divers inhabitants of Charlottetown, praying that a portion of the domain attached to the Government Farm be set apart as a place of recreation.

Ordered to be submitted to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

On motion of Mr Longworth, the Bill relative to

the Winsloe Estate was submitted to a Committee of the whole House—Mr Howlan in the Chair.

Hon Mr Longworth explained the object of the Bill, which was to carry into effect certain leases and agreements held by tenants on the Estate of the late J. H. Winsloe, for the completing and perfecting of which it was necessary to introduce the Bill, which was read and agreed to.

House adjourned.

AFTERNOON.

Mr Brecken submitted a Bill to alter and amend the Corporation Law for the City of Charlottetown, which was received and read.

Hon Mr Davies presented a Bill for the purpose of amending the Union Bank Act, so as to change the time appointed for the annual meetings of that Institution.

Ordered that it be referred to the Committee on Private Bills to report thereon.

The House in Committee of Supply came to several resolutions.

MILITIA.

The grant of £1000 for the Militia Force, having been proposed.

Hon Mr WARBURTON suggested the propriety of the Government indicating the course which they intended to pursue on the subject, before the vote should be taken.

Hon Mr COLES said that under existing circumstances the Volunteer organization was the best which could be adopted. There was nothing to show that the amount given for that force was not adequate. The appropriation of it for the purpose of drilling officers who would thus be qualified to instruct the men, would be the most prudent and economical application of the grant. It was a waste of the public money to give £75 per ann. to an Adjutant General for no other purpose than to enable that officer to ride about the country.

Hon Sol GENERAL was surprised at the tenor of the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition, whose speeches had been the cause of the insertion of the provision in the Militia Act, prohibiting the calling out of the force at stated periods. He coincided, however, in his opinion as to the primary necessity of instructing the officers in drill. The object of the proposed grant was the establishment at Charlottetown, Summerside and Georgetown of drill schools at which officers of the Militia Force could be instructed in the practical details necessary to enable them to discharge the duties of their respective positions in the service. So inadequate was the appropriation for the Volunteer Force in this Island, to its requirements, that it was the only one of the British North American Colonies in which the Volunteers had to purchase their own ammunition. He thought that the proposition of this vote was, at least, a move in the right direction.

Hon Mr HENSLEY would have liked that the intended policy of the Government on the subject had been avowed. He would not hesitate to support the vote, as giving a ready answer to any accusations of

dereliction of duty in providing means of defence, which might be brought against the people of the Island.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH was glad that the Government in this matter would receive the support of the hon member who had last spoken, and trusted that they would receive his support in perfecting a measure co-extensive with the requirements of our situation. The sum was not adequate for all the defensive exigencies of our position, but in view of our limited resources it indicated our willingness to do our duty, as far as our means enabled us, to assume the obligations which devolve upon us as subjects of the great Empire to which we belong.

Hon Mr WHELAN had hitherto opposed the grant to the Volunteers, and would record his vote against the motion before the Committee, as our isolated condition and the consequent absence of centralized authority rendered such grants more waste of public money,

Mr BROKEN would approve of a larger appropriation, if for no other purpose than to impress upon the public mind in Britain the fact that we duly appreciate the benefit of living under the protection of her flag. When the hon John Sandfield McDonald introduced his Militia Bill into the Canadian Parliament, the supplementary aid of the Imperial Government was readily assured to the people of Canada. He might remind the hon leader of the Opposition that during his (hon Mr Coles') tenure of power he had put his hand into the Treasury, without the previous sanction of the Legislature, to import and maintain a band of mercenaries—the celebrated ragged regiment.

Hon Mr COLES was surprised that the hon member for the City should have applied the offensive term "mercenaries" to men whose faithful services had been recognized by Her Majesty's Government which had approved of their employment in the Colony in substitution of the military force formerly stationed here. The Bill authorizing the engagement of the body alluded to had passed the Legislature but had not received the Royal assent. The forty or fifty trained men who came here would have been more efficient in keeping the peace than the Volunteers.

The Resolution was agreed to.

A short debate also took place on the Resolution granting £100 as an addition to the salary of the Solicitor General; the principal feature of which discussion was that it would be preferable, and more satisfactory to make the salary of that officer permanent by Statute, and not leave it dependent upon an annual vote of the House; after which the Resolution was agreed to.

#### UNION OF THE COLONIES.

On motion of the Hon. Col. Secretary, the House went into the order of the day, viz: the consideration of the Report of the Quebec Conference, and the Despatches and papers relating thereto. The question, it was agreed, should be discussed with the Speaker in the chair; and the rule was suspended which prevents a Member from addressing the House more than once on the same resolution.

The Col. SECRETARY.—Mr Speaker: with your permission I shall initiate the discussion of the important

subject which is this evening to engage the attention of this House, by submitting the following Resolutions:—

1. *Resolved*, That the best interests, and present and future prosperity of British North America, would be promoted by a Federal Union, under the Crown of Great Britain, provided such Union could be effected on principles just to the several Provinces and Colonies.

2. *Resolved*, That the existence of immense Military and Naval forces in the neighbouring Republic, renders it specially incumbent on the people of British North America to take the most efficient precautionary measures by which their independence against Foreign aggression may be secured.

3. *Resolved*, That a Union, such as in times of extraordinary danger would place the Militia, the Revenues, and the Resources of the several Provinces, at the disposal of a General Parliament, is necessary in order to maintain the independence of British North America against Foreign aggression, and to perpetuate our connection with the Mother Country.

4. *Resolved*, That a Federal Union of British North America, based upon the Resolutions adopted at the Conference of Delegates from the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the Colonies of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, held at the City of Quebec, 10th October, 1864, as the basis of a proposed Confederation of those Provinces and Colonies, would, among other advantages, promote the development of the trade and manufacturing capabilities of these Provinces and Colonies, and advance the general prosperity, by inducing the substitution of a customs tariff, uniform and common to the Confederation, in lieu of the various Tariffs now in force in the several Provinces and Colonies.

5. *Resolved*, That the Report of the Conference of Delegates from the British North American Provinces and Colonies held at Quebec in October last, taken as a whole, contains a declaration of principles—as the basis of a Federal Union—which this House considers just to the several Provinces and Colonies.

6. *Resolved*, That this House, believing it is only by mutual concessions and compromises the several British North American Provinces and Colonies can ever agree upon those principles which shall form the basis of a Union, orders that the report of the Conference of Delegates from these several Provinces and Colonies held at Quebec in October last, be published throughout this Colony for the deliberate consideration of the people, on whom will devolve the acceptance or rejection of the proposed Union.

7. *Resolved*, That until the larger Maritime Provinces and Canada shall have mutually agreed upon terms of Union, it is inexpedient that the people of Prince Edward Island should be called upon to decide on the question.

8. *Resolved*, That in case the Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Canada, should at any time mutually agree upon the basis of a Union, the question be then forthwith submitted to the decision of the people of this Island.

I have submitted these resolutions together, in order that honorable members may at once be made aware of the views which the advocates of Confederation, upon the terms proposed in the Report of the Quebec Conference, intend to submit by resolution to this House. Although I have submitted these resolutions together, my intention is, to take the opinion of the House upon each.

Hon. J. C. POPE.—Mr Speaker, I wish to state that the Col. Sec. is somewhat out of order, as I gave notice yesterday that I would propose a resolution on the subject. Pursuing the course that he has done, he ought at least to have intimated that this was an open question, and that a free expression of opinion was expected upon it from hon. members on both sides of the House. I do not desire to obstruct the Colonial Secretary in his speech now since he has commenced, but merely to inform the House that the resolutions which he has submitted do not express the views of the Government.

Col. SECRETARY.—Mr Speaker, I am satisfied that I am in order. I did not deem it necessary formally to declare to this House that the resolutions just submitted do not express the views of the Government. It is well known, Sir, not only in this House, but from one end of

the Island to the other, that the members of the Government, with two exceptions, are hostile to the proposed Confederation. The Report of the resolutions of the Quebec Conference does not come before this House as a Government measure. Confederation is an open question, and in this discussion I recognize but two parties—the one composed of the four or five members who are favorable to Confederation, and the other consisting of the six and twenty members who I believe to be opposed to Confederation. Mr. Speaker, I enter upon the discussion of the questions involved in the Report of the Quebec Conference, deeply sensible of their magnitude and importance, and of my utter incompetency to do them justice; but, Sir, in this House the number of those who advocate Confederation, which this Report contemplates, is so very small—consisting of some four or five only—that we cannot afford that even one should remain silent. In taking the lead in the discussion of this subject, I am encouraged by the consciousness that the gentlemen who will follow me, in support of these resolutions, are abler than I am to do justice to the great question to which they relate. It is generally known, Sir, that the Quebec Conference had its origin in the resolutions which, last Session, were passed by the Legislatures of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, authorizing a convention of Delegates for the purpose of conferring upon the subject of a Legislative Union of these Provinces. When the resolution, assenting to the Convention, of which I have spoken, was before this House last Session, I declared myself in favor of the Legislative Union which it contemplated, and at the same time expressed regret that the Legislatures of the neighboring Provinces had not proposed the larger scheme of Union, which should include all the British possessions in North America. Of the thirty members of which this House is composed, but two declared themselves in favor of a Legislative Union of these three Maritime Provinces, although several hon members expressed themselves as not averse to a Federal Union of all the Provinces. In due time Delegates from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, assembled in Conference in this Building. The Government of Canada had sent to this Island a deputation composed of the leading statesmen of that Province. These gentlemen were admitted to the Conference shortly after its proceedings were opened, and at their instance the Conference postponed the further discussion of the question of the proposed Legislative Union, in order to allow the Canadian Government to submit a scheme for a general Confederation of the Provinces of British North America. After a tour through the Lower Provinces the Canadians returned to Quebec. With the sanction of the Crown, and at the request of His Lordship the Governor General, the Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, sent Delegates to Quebec, for the purpose of discussing with the Government of Canada, the practicability of a Federal Union of the Provinces of British North America under the Crown of Great Britain. I have heard a great deal said against the Government of this Island for acceding to the request of the Governor General. I need not inform this House that the request of the Governor General, that Delegates should be sent to represent this Island at the proposed Conference, was one which the Government would not have been justified in refusing. Exception has also been taken to the constitution of the delegation. It was understood by the members of the respective Governments represented at Charlottetown, that the gentlemen who had composed that Conference should be members of the Conference to be held at Quebec. The Government of this Island considered it very desirable that at the Quebec Conference all political parties should be fairly and fully represented. I admit, Mr. Speaker, that at the time of the appointment of Delegates to proceed to Quebec, I was under the belief that should the Delegates appointed unanimously agree to recommend to the Legislature and people of this Island the adoption of the resolutions of the

Conference, such resolutions, being so recommended, would be accepted alike by the Legislature and the people. At the Charlottetown Conference this Island was represented by five Delegates. The party in opposition to the Government, in each branch of the Legislature, was represented by one member—by the Hon Mr. Coles of the Assembly, and the Hon A. A. McDonald of the Legislative Council. This Delegation, it was considered, did not sufficiently represent the Opposition in this House; therefore the Hon Edward Whelan, whose abilities and long parliamentary experience render him eminently a representative man of his party, was requested to join the Delegation to Quebec. The present Solicitor General was also requested to give us the aid of his knowledge and experience. Prince Edward Island, it will be seen, was fully represented at the Quebec Conference; and although the seven gentlemen who composed the Delegation declared, in Canada, the Report of the Conference such as they could recommend for the adoption of the Legislature and people of this Island, I regret to say, Sir, that very few, either in the Legislature or among the people, are at present disposed to adopt the resolutions of the Conference. The Conference assembled at Quebec, and the important subject, for the consideration of which the leading public men of five Provinces and Colonies had met together, was entered upon, in a spirit of patriotism, by gentlemen deeply impressed with the magnitude, and with the difficulties of the task which lay before them—the devising a constitution which should unite, under one general government, the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Colonies of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, in each of which is maintained a distinct and different tariff—a different currency—in short an entirely distinct government—and which contained in the aggregate a population approaching four millions. The Report now under consideration is the result of their labors. In all their deliberations, the Delegates kept in mind that it was absolutely necessary that mutual concessions should be made. The many difficulties with which they had to contend, could only have been surmounted by mutual deference and concession. The resolutions passed by the Conference were not, in any particular, in accordance with the views of the Representatives of each Province and Colony. Taken together, they embodied a constitution which, as I considered, received the unanimous support of the members of the Conference. Gentlemen with whom I was associated in the Delegation representing this Island, have, I am aware, since their return to the Island, denounced that which in Canada they approved. It is not my intention, Mr. Speaker, on the present occasion to call in question the right of these gentlemen to change their views; nor shall I charge them with inconsistency. I do not feel myself at liberty to allude to the course pursued by hon gentlemen at the Conference, nor to quota from their speeches delivered there. There is one very strong reason why the expressions of members, while at the Conference, should not be quoted. It is this. It was understood that the deliberations should be considered private. There is no record to which to appeal in the event of the correctness of statements attributed to hon members being called in question. I shall endeavor to deal with the resolutions as reported from the Conference, and not with the suggestions or amendments of any hon member made at the Conference previously to the passing of these resolutions. It has been objected that the deliberations of the Conference were conducted with closed doors. The reasons for such an arrangement are obvious. The admission of the public would, to some extent, have prevented that free and full discussion which was so desirable, while the daily publication of the expressions of members would have prevented unanimous conclusions. It has been urged against the Confederation of the Colonies, proposed in the Report of the Quebec Conference, that the scheme had its origin in the local difficulties of the Canadians. It is true that the sectional difficulties of Canada during the last year



occasioned a "dead lock." I cannot, however, discover any force in this objection. This crisis in the political affairs of Canada led the statesmen of that Province to consider their position, with a view to remedy evils which were such as to render impracticable the further government of the Province under the existing constitution. I need not enumerate the many reasons which induced these statesmen to propose a Confederation of all the Provinces. They realized, among other things, the position in which these Provinces stand in relation to the neighboring Republic, which, within the short space of four years, from being a purely commercial and agricultural people had become one of the greatest military and naval powers in existence. They had also received an intimation from the Imperial Government to the effect that the people of the Colonies would be required to contribute largely to the cost of Fortifications, and other means of defence, as a condition of England's undertaking to cooperate in their defence. The Colonies have heretofore left it to England to provide and maintain fleets and armies for the security of their country at the cost of the taxpayers of Great Britain; and, Sir, I can see nothing unreasonable in the people of the Colonies being, at this day, called upon to contribute of their ability, to the cost of their defence. As subjects of the Crown of Great Britain, we have a right to demand the protection of the Mother Country; but if we have this right, we are most certainly under the obligation to contribute of our ability to the maintenance of those fleets and armies which are necessary for the defence of the Empire of which we form a part. If, Sir, the existence upon our borders of a vast military and naval power, rendering it prudent for the Colonies to prepare means for their defence, together with other reasons, can be adduced to prove that Confederation is essential to the maintenance of our institutions, and that it will promote our common prosperity, it matters not what were the peculiar circumstances in which the project of Confederation had its origin; whether it arose out of the political dissensions between Upper and Lower Canada, or resulted from less important causes. The first of the Resolutions just submitted reads as follows:—

1. *Resolved*, That the best interests, and present and future prosperity of British North America, would be promoted by a Federal Union, under the Crown of Great Britain, provided such Union could be effected on principles just to the several Provinces and Colonies.

I would willingly have advocated a Legislative Union of all these Provinces, but such a Union was believed to be unattainable. The resolution just read, is identical with the resolution of the Quebec Conference, and will, I believe, be supported by a large majority of this House. The leader of the Opposition—the Hon. Mr. Coles—will certainly support me, so far as this resolution is concerned, seeing that the sentiment which it expresses was received by the Conference with acclamation. Union is strength, and strength in British America is certainly desirable. The second and third Resolutions are as follow:—

2. *Resolved*, That the existence of immense Military and Naval forces in the neighboring Republic, renders it specially incumbent on the people of British North America to take the most efficient precautionary measures by which their independence against foreign aggression may be secured.

3. *Resolved*, That a Union, such as in times of extraordinary danger would place the Militia, the Revenues, and the Resources of the several Provinces, at the disposal of a General Parliament, is necessary, in order to maintain the independence of British North America against foreign aggression, and to perpetuate our connection with the Mother Country.

To these, I apprehend, there will be no objection on the part of any honorable member. To defend our hearths and homes is, I trust, regarded by all as a sacred duty. It will, I assume, be generally admitted that the people of the British North American Colonies cannot defend

themselves against the power of the Great Republic upon our borders, should that warlike nation resolve to "gobble us up." Our safety, therefore, can only be secured by the powerful protection of the Mother Country; and in the event of a war with the United States of America, the resources of Britain, great as they are, would be taxed to the utmost, in order to save the Colonies from subjugation. England well knows this, and we may depend upon it that her statesmen are too wise, too mindful of the national honor to send out a few regiments, or a small fleet to suffer defeat. If we neglect to discharge our duty in providing for our safety, we may reasonably expect that England will withdraw her military and naval forces, and leave us to our fate. But on the other hand, if we show ourselves anxious to maintain our connection with England, and do that which is reasonably required of us, England will defend us to the utmost. It is to my mind very evident that we must choose between consolidation of the different Provinces and Colonies, and absorption into the American Republic. Consolidation,—the placing the revenues and the men of the several Provinces under the control of a central power would, in the event of a war, be absolutely necessary in order to the efficient organization of our colonial resources. In Britain as well as in the Colonies, the opinion is widely entertained, that our absorption into the Great Republic is inevitable. In the event of war between England and the United States of America, the battle ground would be the British Provinces. It has therefore been contended by some that in order to avert so great a calamity, the connection between the Provinces and the Mother Country should be severed by mutual consent, and that we should become an independent nation. Others, Sir, consider that it would be more to our interest to retain our connection with England, and to endure, if necessary, the horrors of war—that we should remain a portion of the Great Empire of Britain, continue to live under the glorious old flag, and our Monarchical Institutions. The latter is the prevailing opinion. There is an influential party in England who, I believe, desire to get rid of these Colonies on the ground that they are an expense to the Empire; and because colonists do not accommodate their Customs Tariff to suit the manufacturers of Sheffield and Manchester. I have yet to learn, Sir, that the people of this Island have not a right to enjoy all the privileges of Englishmen to an equal extent with either Mr. Cobden, Mr. Bright, or Professor Goldwin Smith. Our right to these privileges, I consider, exists in virtue of our allegiance, and cannot be affected by our neglect to patronize or encourage the manufacturers of Sheffield or of Manchester. I have said, Sir, that as British subjects, we have our rights; but let it not be forgotten, Sir, that we have our obligations; and that chief among these obligations is that which demands that we shall contribute our full share to the cost of defending the Empire. With the strength of England available for our defence, I fear not the subjugation of the Provinces, so long as the inhabitants remain loyal. The inevitable result of a war with the United States of America would be the occupation of large portions of our territory by hostile soldiery; but the strongholds open to the sea would be held even against the gigantic power of the United States. If we once separate from Great Britain, we need not depend upon England's assistance should we ever be so unfortunate as to become embroiled with our neighbours. The manner in which the English Government recently acted towards Denmark is calculated to teach us a valuable lesson. Under a general organization the four millions of inhabitants in the Provinces could supply a formidable military force. Without such organization—which would be the result of Confederation—the Provinces separately can do little or nothing. We have recently had a discussion in this House on the subject of our Militia. To train the Militia of this Island would require an annual outlay nearly equal to our entire Revenue; and were our Militia to be

rendered efficient, of what service would they be unless they were available for the defence of the frontiers of Canada or of New Brunswick? That our sons would be required to shoulder arms and march to the frontiers of Canada has been urged as an argument against Confederation. This Island is of no importance in a military point of view. It will never be a battle-field. A Gunboat or a Privateer might enter into any one of our numerous harbors do a great deal of mischief, and depart before our defenders could be mustered. Unless under a general organization our Militia will necessarily be useless. I am not aware, Sir, that I am the most inefficient officer in the service, although I have held a commission for a quarter of a century, and have never seen the company to which I am supposed to be attached. Although opposed to spending money uselessly upon our Militia, I am in favor of training every man in the Provinces capable of bearing arms, provided such training be conducted under a general organization, believing that readiness on our part for defence, would be our best protection against invasion. The fourth resolution reads thus:—

**Resolved,** That a Federal Union of British North America, based upon the Resolutions adopted at the Conference of Delegates from the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the Colonies of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, held at the City of Quebec, 10th October, 1864, as the basis of a proposed Confederation of these Provinces and Colonies, would among other advantages, promote the development of the trade and manufacturing capabilities of these Provinces and Colonies, and advance the general prosperity, by inducing the substitution of a Customs Tariff, uniform and common to the Confederation, in lieu of the various Tariffs now in force in the several Provinces and Colonies.

The most effectual means of advancing our prosperity would be found in a Union, such as is proposed in the Report of the Quebec Conference. A great deal has been said and written on the subject of the proposed Confederation by our Island statesmen, who have told the people of the disastrous effects the Union would exert upon our trade and manufactures. If the gentlemen, to whom I allude, have not instructed, they have, at least, amused the more intelligent of their hearers and readers. It is true, Sir, that our trade is chiefly in agricultural produce, that our manufactures are few, and that there are physical disabilities which will prevent us from becoming a great manufacturing country. For five months in the year we are cut off from communication with our neighbors, yet, Sir, our manufactures are capable of expansion, and under Union they would expand. At present the manufacturers of Leather and of Cloth are obliged to limit their operations. If they manufacture more than they can sell in this little Island they have to export, subject to a heavy duty. Yet even in the face of this duty we now export Island Manufactured Leather to New Brunswick. But, Sir, Union would develop the enormous manufacturing capabilities of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Great, Prince Edward Island never can become, her geographical position, her limited area, her small population, and the absence of all mineral deposits, preclude us from becoming a great country; but, Sir, the Provinces with which it is proposed that we should unite, contain every element of greatness; there is no reason, then, why they should not become a great and prosperous country, or why we should not share their greatness. It is argued that the Canadian Tariff would follow Union, and that the people of Prince Edward Island would, under its operation, be necessitated to pay an increased amount of duties. I do not believe such would be the case. It is true that the Canadian Tariff is very much higher than the Tariff of this Island. Tea and Sugar, imported under the Canadian Tariff, would probably cost higher than they cost at present; but, it is equally true that a variety of articles on which we now pay duty, would then, as the manufactures of the Confederation come to us duty free, and the saving which we should effect on these articles of Home Manufacture, would very materially exceed the excess of duty which we should pay upon foreign importations. It has been urged, that under Confederation, although we might obtain from within the Confederation many articles, the manufactures of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the Canadian Tariff would prevent such articles from being imported from Britain and the United States. But, Sir, if, under Confederation, the people of Prince Edward Island

should be able to procure British Colonial Manufactures cheaper than they can now procure similar articles from the United States or Britain, they would evidently be gainers by Confederation. The great wealth and prosperity of Britain are mainly attributable to the coal and iron which she possesses. The importance of the possession of iron was recognized many ages ago. When Cincinnatus exhibited to Solon his treasures of gold and silver, the Philosopher is said to have remarked to the King: "that whoever discover another should come who had better iron than he; he would be master of all his gold and silver." Coal and iron have caused Britain to become the workshop of the world. Where, is there, on the face of the earth, a country that possesses more valuable deposits of iron and of coal than Nova Scotia? She has an inexhaustible supply of the most valuable iron, coal, and limestone, in close proximity to each other and to navigable harbors, and in addition has an abundance of fertile land. Sir, Nova Scotia with all these advantages must become a great country. (Hear, hear.) Why, I would ask, as a British American, do we not make an effort to develop our boundless manufacturing capabilities? Were you, Sir, to go to the enterprising people of the neighboring republic, and to enter their manufactories, you would there learn the fact that a large number of their most skillful mechanics are men from these British Provinces; this Island has contributed her proportion of these valuable men; they year after year leave their native country and never return to it, because, Sir, there is, at home, no employment for them. (Hear, hear.) The sooner the Colonists set to work to establish manufactories, the better will it be for all of us. But, Sir, to this, Confederation is requisite. Tariffs between the Provinces must be abolished. The population of Nova Scotia is too limited to support extensive manufactures, and the same thing may be said of New Brunswick. In illustration, I may be permitted to state that the latter Province is capable of producing an unlimited supply of very valuable coal oil—an article on which we last year paid in duty nearly £1,000. The proprietors of the coal oil works produce the article only in limited quantity. They cannot send their oil to Nova Scotia or to this Island, by reason of the duty which, in each of the Provinces, is imposed upon its importation, and therefore their mines are only partially worked. Unite the several Provinces, as proposed in the Report of the Quebec Conference, give to Nova Scotia, to New Brunswick, to Prince Edward Island four millions of customers. If this should be done, our young men, who have become skillful artisans in the workshops of the United States, would find employment in their native Provinces. Sir, it is impossible to over estimate the manufacturing greatness which Nova Scotia is capable of attaining. The iron and coal of that Province are now exported to Europe and to the United States where they are employed in the manufactures of articles which we now import from these countries. The time is propitious for Confederation. We may reasonably hope for the restoration of peace in the United States. Intercolonial free trade would in the words of the resolution promote the development of the trade and manufacturing capabilities of the Colonies and advance the great prosperity, but intercolonial free trade is impracticable without Confederation. The proceedings of the Conference at Charlottetown and Quebec were watched with interest by the civilized world. The people of those countries of Europe which send emigrants to America have had their attention directed to the British Provinces. Let these Provinces become consolidated, and then emigrants to come from Europe, as well as many new in the Republic, will seek the British Provinces as a home instead of the United States, now so heavily taxed. I come now, Sir, to the 5th and 6th Resolutions:—

"5. That the Report of the Conference of Delegates from the British North American Provinces and Colonies held at Quebec in October last, taken as a whole, contains a declaration of principles—as the basis of a Federal Union—which this House considers just to the several Provinces and Colonies."

"6. Resolved, That this House, believing it is only by mutual concessions and compromises the several British North American Provinces and Colonies can ever agree upon those principles which shall form the basis of a Union, orders that the report of the Conference of Delegates from these several Provinces and Colonies held at Quebec in October last, be published throughout this Colony for the deliberate consideration of the people, on whom will devolve the acceptance or rejection of the proposed Union."

I am sorry to say, Sir, that I have no hope of carrying a majority in favor of the declaration, that the principles of Union contained

in the Report of the Quebec Conference are just to this Island. I believe them to be so. I declare myself in favor of this Report, while at the Conference, because I so believed, and, Sir, I trust I have too high a respect for myself to say now, that the principles of Union therein laid down are not just to this Island, because the great majority of the people regard them as unjust. The resolutions which form the Report, as I have already stated, are the results of mutual defence and concession, and in my humble judgment are such as we should eagerly accept. I have been told, Sir, that by advocating the adoption of the principles of the Quebec Report, I am placing myself in antagonism to the people of this Island, and especially to my own constituents. I, Sir, should consider myself unworthy of the confidence reposed on me, as a Representative of the people, were I to shrink from the full expression of my opinion upon a great subject deeply affecting the interests of the Colony, simply because my constituents, or the people of the Colony, are supposed to entertain different views. The views or wishes of my constituents upon any question, even, in themselves, have no influence upon my opinion. In the present instance, I believe Confederation would promote the best interests of the Island. I may be aware that my constituents think otherwise, and are opposed to Confederation. My individual opinion may remain unchanged, but a knowledge of the views and wishes of my constituents, would most materially influence my conduct. Popular opinion is proverbially changeable, and I expect ere long to hear many of those, who now denounce the Report of the Quebec Conference, admit that after mature deliberation, they have come to the conclusion that its principles are just. I regard the terms of the Report of the Quebec Conference—so far as they relate to Prince Edward Island—to be, in a financial aspect, just and even liberal. The average indebtedness of the Provinces generally, is equal to \$25 per head of the population. The debt of Prince Edward Island is, in reality, but little in excess of \$2 per head. By the terms of the Report we should receive annually from the General Government the interest of an amount equivalent to \$25 per head of our population—less the interest of our actual indebtedness—or in other words we should receive annually £30,000 currency from the General Government, over and above the interest upon our public debt. I shall, doubtless, be told that under Confederation our Tariff would be raised so as to yield a revenue equivalent to \$25 per head of the aggregate population of the Provinces, and that therefore we should pay annually, in extra taxation, a sum exceeding £30,000. I, Sir, contend that, under Confederation, we should, for reasons which I have already stated, pay less in duties than we pay at present, notwithstanding the higher Tariff. If I am correct in this view of the matter, it is clear that the £30,000 a year would be gained, as a consequence of Confederation. This £30,000 a year, together with the annual allowance of 80 cents per head of our population, estimated according to the census of 1861, and a few other items, would be sufficient for our requirements. (Laughter.) But, say the opponents of Confederation, "our population will, in a few years, be double what it now is, while our income from the General Government will not increase." I think I am justified in asserting that the expense of maintaining our Government would not be materially increased, although our population should be doubled. The allowance of 80 cents per head is fixed alike to all the Provinces. When the population of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland, shall be increased to 7,000,000 or 8,000,000, those Provinces will receive no more than 80 cents per head of their population in 1861. In all the British North American Provinces, Revenue is derived chiefly from Customs and Excise. When the population of the Confederation shall be double what it now is, the consumption of articles paying duty will be vastly increased, and the revenue proportionally augmented. Reduction of taxation would follow, as a matter of course. The great Public Works of Canada will by-and-by be completed, her Strongholds fortified, her Canals widened and completed, and her Lakes and Rivers rendered navigable; and, Sir, I consider myself fully justified in assuming that the increase of population throughout the Confederation, and more especially in Canada, will be so rapid, the consumption of duty paying articles so great, that at no distant day the rate of taxation per head, required for the maintenance of the General Government, will be less than is now paid in Prince Edward Island, the least taxed of the Provinces. In Canada, Roads, Bridges, and other local works are not provided for from the general Revenue, as in Prince Edward Island. The alleged excessive local taxation

in some of the municipalities of Upper Canada, has been adduced, in order to terrify the people of this Island, and cause them to oppose Confederation. The people of Prince Edward Island would not be, in any degree, affected by the local or municipal taxation in Upper Canada. If taxation for local or municipal purposes be excessive in Canada, does not this fact warrant the assumption that the people of Upper Canada would be our allies in the work of keeping, as low as possible, the general taxation, by which alone we should be affected. Mr Speaker, let it be assumed that there are disadvantages to which Confederation would subject us. Assume, Sir, that we should have to pay for our Tea and Sugar one penny per pound more than we pay at present, and a halfpenny a yard more for Calico. Do not such disadvantages fade into insignificance when contrasted with the benefits which would result from Confederation? The old Colonies—now included in the United States of America—in little more than half a century, under Confederation, became one of the most prosperous nations on the face of the earth. Those Colonies entered upon their Confederate existence possessing fewer advantages than we now enjoy. Why should not we emulate their example? Why shall we not unite our resources, and enter upon the career of prosperity which is clearly open to us? What Confederation did for the older Colonies, it would do for us. We have Railways, and Steamboats, and machinery which they had not. We have a country in many respects equal to theirs. Are we prepared to admit that our people are inferior to the old Colonists, or to the Americans of the present day? We have hitherto imported tubs, and buckets, and wooden wares, from the United States. Have we not wood wherewith to manufacture these articles? Why should we send to the United States, or across the broad Atlantic for the simplest iron castings, seeing that we export from Nova Scotia to those countries, both coal and iron? Confederation would prove our best security against foreign invasion, and preserve to us our Monarchical Institutions. I feel, Sir, that I am approaching what my eloquent friend, the member for Charlottetown, Mr Bracken, is pleased facetiously to designate the "glory argument." I attach great importance to this glory argument. I desire to live under Monarchical Institutions, and the glorious flag of old England. Sir, there are in this House honorable members who smile when the glory argument is mentioned. Their fathers made great sacrifices in order that they might enjoy those privileges which are the inheritance of British subjects. In the Maritime Provinces are now to be found the descendants of men who left the United States upon the declaration of Independence, abandoning their property and the homes in which their children had been born, impelled to do so by the "glory argument." The American loyalists were attached to Monarchical Institutions. They valued their privileges as British subjects; and rather than become Republicans they made the greatest sacrifices, and sought new homes on British soil, in the wilderness in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. But, Sir, to return to the commercial argument. Confederation would give us better markets than we now have for our agricultural produce. Halifax, Boston and St John would become great and populous cities, the emporiums of trade and manufactures; and, with these capitals we have, even now, daily communication. In these cities we should find ready and greatly increased markets for our produce, and consequently should be better able to bear increased taxation, than we are at present to pay the taxes to which we are subject. Confederation would also give us the Inter-colonial Railway, with its many advantages. But, Sir, one at least of the opponents of Confederation—a gentleman high in position in this Island—has argued as a reason why we should not accept Confederation, that the Inter-colonial Railway would injure the people of this Colony. It would, says the gentleman to whom I allude, be the means of bringing under cultivation large tracts of wilderness land in New Brunswick, the produce of which would compete with the productions of this Island. The Inter-colonial Railway, argues the same authority, "would afford great facilities for supplying the St John and Halifax markets with grain and other agricultural produce to be brought from Upper Canada." These, Sir, are specimens of the arguments which have caused the people of this Island to regard Confederation as a project which would ruin them. Imagine, Mr Speaker, the farmers of the far West, by means of this railway supplying the markets of St John and Halifax with "grain and other agricultural produce"—potatoes?—to the prejudice of the people of Prince Edward Island. In the markets of Upper Canada the prices of grain, and other agricultural products

are usually higher than in Prince Edward Island, and the nearest of those markets, is at least one thousand miles further from St John or Halifax, than is any portion of Prince Edward Island.

7. *Resolved*, That until the larger Maritime Provinces and Canada shall have mutually agreed upon terms of Union, it is inexpedient that the people of Prince Edward Island should be called upon to decide on the question.

Prince Edward Island is the smallest of the Provinces or Colonies, and no action which this Legislature may take, will, in the smallest degree, affect the great question of Confederation. If New Brunswick and Nova Scotia reject Confederation, we shall not be allowed to avail ourselves of the privileges which Confederation would confer upon us; on the other hand, should New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland adopt the resolutions of the Quebec Conference, the Opposition of Prince Edward Island would be of no importance, we should in the latter case be obliged to enter the Confederation. It must, therefore, be evident that, until the larger Provinces agree to Confederation, it will be inexpedient to appeal to the people of this Island upon the question. The concluding resolution proposes:—

8. *Resolved*, That in case the Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Canada, should at any time mutually agree upon the basis of a Union, the question be then forthwith submitted to the decision of the People of this Island.

I, this afternoon, observed that the countenances of several of my colleagues in the Government, wore a more than usually pleasing expression. The occasion of this happiness was a telegram which had been received, announcing the defeat of the Hon Mr Tilley the leader of the government of New Brunswick, and of several of his colleagues. This, my friends, regard as the defeat of the Confederation scheme in that Province, and they are happy. I, Sir, deeply regret the result of the recent elections in New Brunswick. I dread the consequences. My honorable friend, Mr Tilley, informs me that, although "beaten," he is not "conquered." I, Sir, would much prefer to share defeat with that gentleman, in the great cause in the advocacy of which he has fallen, than participate in the victory which his opponents imagine they have gained. No honorable member should, in my opinion, object to the resolution just read. I hold, Mr Speaker, that, circumstanced as we are, and knowing as we do that nine-tenths of the Electors of this Island are opposed to confederation, it would be improper in us to pledge our constituents to the scheme of Confederation. On the other hand, Sir, I contend that this House, acknowledging, that the people should be consulted, before any such proposition shall be accepted, is not justified in declaring that the people will not accept Confederation. The subject will, hereafter, receive more deliberate consideration than has heretofore been given to it, and I confidently look forward to a great change in public opinion. There are several subjects in the Report upon which I have not remarked. These will be dealt with by the gentlemen who will follow me, and at the close of the debate, I shall endeavor to reply to some of the many objections, which I believe will be urged against Confederation.

Hon J. C. POPE.—Mr Speaker, I submit that the Hon Col Secretary, in moving the House into the consideration of the subject now before you, has manifested a very great want of courtesy towards myself, as a member of this House. It is a well observed rule that any member having given notice of his intention to move in any matter, shall, as a matter of course, have the privilege of introducing the subject of which he has given the notice, and of opening the debate; and it is not expected that any other member shall, as the Col Secretary has done, watch an opportunity of moving in it; but having done so, it was his duty, as a member of the Government, to have explained to the House that it was not a Government party question, and one on which the Government generally took a very different view from that entertained by himself. The conduct of the Colonial Secretary is calculated to place the Government, of which he is a member, in a false position, and looks to me as if he wished to put himself right, as a delegate, with the people of Canada. Knowing well the strong feelings entertained by all the members of that Government except two, and by the people of this Island generally against a Federal Union of the Provinces, he should, I think, have pursued a different course. He has, to say the least of it, acted most unbecomingly, and I must now return the compliment by moving that the whole of the Resolutions submitted by him be struck out and the following substituted:—

"1. *Resolved*, That Prince Edward Island, being entirely

dependant on its Agriculture and Fisheries, has nothing to export for which Canada can furnish a market. That while such is, and ever must be the relative commercial position of this Island and Canada, the products of our soil and Fisheries find in the extensive markets of our parent country, the United States and the West Indies, ready and profitable customers. The proposed Union, while admitting the produce and manufactures of Canada into this Island free, would by assimilation of taxes enormously increase the duty to which those of Great Britain and the United States are at present subject, thereby compelling this Island to take a large portion of its imports from Canada, making payment therefor in money instead of procuring them from countries which would receive our produce in exchange,—an arrangement so inconsistent with the fundamental principles of commerce must greatly curtail our commercial intercourse with the United States, and would, in the opinion of this House, materially diminish our Exports to that country, and prove most injurious to the agricultural and commercial interests of this Island.

"2. That if the relative circumstances of Canada and this Island rendered a Union practicable, the evident injustice of the terms agreed to by the Quebec Convention would prevent their being ratified by the Legislature of this Island. Without alluding to all, it is proper to notice some of the objectionable features of the Report. Without admitting the principle of Representation according to Population under all circumstances to be sound, it is, in the opinion of this House, particularly objectionable as applied to this Island in connexion with Canada, taking into consideration that the number of our inhabitants is, and must continue comparatively small, owing to the fact that we have no Crown Lands, mines, minerals, or other resources sufficient to induce immigrants to settle here, and that we never can expect to become to any extent a manufacturing people, in consequence of our navigation being closed for nearly half the year, and all trade and communication with other countries stopped. Under this principle, the City of Montreal alone would, at the present time, have a representation greater than the whole Province of Prince Edward Island, and under the provisions of the Convention which regulate the mode of readjusting the relative representation of the various Provinces at each decennial census, looking at the rapid increase of the population of Upper and Lower Canada heretofore,—particularly the former,—and the certainty of a still greater increase therein in the future, over that of the population of this Island, it follows as a certain and inevitable consequence, if a Federation of the Provinces were consummated upon the basis of the said Convention, that the number of our Representatives would, in the course of a comparatively short number of years, be diminished to a still smaller number than that allotted at the outset to us.

"3. That the old Imperial error in granting all the lands in large tracts to absentees, which deprives this Island of the Revenue drawn by the sister Colonies from these sources, our insular position and numerous harbors, furnishing cheap and convenient water communication which render expensive Public Works here unnecessary, the Revenue to be drawn by the proposed Federal Government from this Island, and expended among the people of Canada and the other Colonies in constructing Railways and other Public Works, thereby creating a trade which would build up cities and enhance the value of property in various localities there—advantages in which this Island could enjoy a very small participation. Our complete isolation during five months of the year, whence interrupts our trade and communication with the Mainland, and during which period the Island could derive no possible benefit from the Railroads and other Public Works which they would be (equally with the people of those Colonies) taxed to construct; these and many other considerations, but which seem to have been entirely ignored, ought, in the opinion of this House, to have produced an offer of a financial arrangement for this Island very different in its terms from that contained in the Report of the Convention.

"4. That while this House recognizes the duty of this Colony to use every means, to the extent of its limited resources, to defend its inhabitants from foreign invasion, it cannot recognize the necessity of uniting in a Confederation with Canada for the purpose of defence upon terms which,

in other respects, are, in the opinion of this House, so unfair to the people of Prince Edward Island; thus sacrificing our commercial and financial interests for the sake of securing the co-operation of Canada in a military point of view, feeling assured that so long as we remain a loyal and attached Colony of Great Britain, the powerful aid of that great country will continue, as heretofore, to be extended to us, in common with the other North American Dependencies of the British Crown.

Lastly, *Resolved*, That this House disagrees to the recommendations of the Quebec Convention, and, on the part of Prince Edward Island, emphatically declines a Union which, after a serious and careful consideration, it believes would prove politically, commercially and financially disastrous to the rights and interests of its people."

Hon Col SECRETARY.—I submit to you, Mr Speaker, for your judgment, the question whether the leader of the Government having given notice of his intention to move the House on this matter, it was not competent for me or any other member to propose other resolutions for the approval of the House. The subject comes before us as an avowedly open question, and therefore I assert that my action evinces no want of courtesy to the leader, or any member, of the Government.

Hon Mr POPE.—The question, Mr Speaker, which forms the subject of both sets of resolutions, is the most important which has ever occupied the attention of the Legislature of this Colony, and approving of the abstract principle of the proposed Union, I regret that I must oppose the measure, for the reasons that the details, as adopted by the Quebec Conference, do not offer, in my opinion, fair terms to the people of the Island. It must be remembered, in the discussion of this question, that our insular position, the absence from our soil of minerals, and the difficulty, I might almost say, impossibility, of communication with our sister Colonies during half the year, place us, in dealing with this question, in a position totally different from that of Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. These Provinces are geographically connected with Canada, and have, within themselves, the materials requisite to constitute their manufacturing countries. As to the argument that our trade would be increased by the Union with Canada, I cannot recognize its force, for we produce the same description of articles as that country can, or could supply us with. Our trade must naturally be with Great Britain, the United States, and the West Indies, the products and manufactures of which we require. The high tariff of Canada would raise the cost to the consumer of goods from those countries much higher than it is at present on the Island, and firmly believing that the true principle of trade is to buy in the cheapest, and sell in the dearest, market, I should be doing violence to my own convictions, if I affirmed by my vote any other rule. I have said, Sir, that I entertained objections to the details of the scheme. Among these objections, I may mention the principle of representation by population. A very simple calculation will show that the adoption of this as a standard would entitle the city of London to send to the British House of Commons no less than seventy representatives, and the city of Montreal in the Confederate Parliament would have a representation greater than that of this whole Island. Its statistics warrant the belief that in a few years the population will be so increased by the influx of the tide of immigration that the Island would lose in the halls of legislation even the small voice which she might raise at her entrance into the Union. It is not to be supposed that the increased taxation which, it is not denied, the Canadian tariff imposes, will have any other effect than that of driving from our shores those who would naturally seek in enlarged fields of action more ample returns for their labor, and greater means of meeting the liabilities imposed upon them. (The military phase of the question is not worthy of much consideration, for if an invasion of Canada by the people of the United States should take place, it would involve, as a matter of course, the necessity of retaining all available strength in each of the other Provinces for the defence of their respective territories. While I admit, as cordially as any, that it is the duty of every man to contribute, as far as in him lies, to the defence of the country in which he lives, and that it is not fair to the taxpayers of Britain that they should be at the exclusive cost of our protection, I am willing to trust a reasonable portion of that duty to the Mother Country, the army and navy of which must be kept somewhere; and her experience shows that nowhere can they be maintained as cheaply as in the Colonies. In conclusion, I may state that

while I give the delegates credit for sincerity in their proceedings, my opinion is that they went further than they were authorized or justified to go.

In accordance with a suggestion of Hon Mr WHELAN, the discussion was postponed until the papers connected with the subject should be printed.

SATURDAY, March 25.

Debate on the Union of the Colonies resumed.

Hon Col GRAY.—Mr Speaker, It might reasonably be expected, and honorable members may consider that it would be more in accordance with the elevated character of a project, which, having engrossed the minds of the statesmen of British America for many years, has at length culminated in the phase in which it now attracts the attention of the people of not only these Provinces and Great Britain, but also of our neighbors in the Great Republic who are anxiously watching our proceedings, that I should elaborate the argument in support of my own views. But, Sir, I do not at present intend to enlarge upon the grander features of this great question—a Confederation of the varied and gigantic interests involved, the benefits which must inevitably accrue to all British America were we confederated in one strong and indissoluble bond of brotherhood from Newfoundland to Vancouver. However desirous I might be, under a state of public opinion other than that which at present exists, to approach in a far more extended sense than one of mere local interest, the consideration of a measure which has for its object the consolidation of many hitherto isolated and disjointed fragments into a Confederation which will form a state as large as the entire Continent of Europe, yet it is not my present intention to do so; neither do I intend to offer any comments upon the resolutions which my hon friend, the leader of the Government, in accordance, doubtless, with the desires of a large majority of members of this House, has now submitted for our consideration, but I shall confine myself solely to a few observations on those points which apply more particularly to the immediate condition of the people of this Island separately, as evidencing the motives and reasons which actuated me in earnestly desiring that we may have the good fortune to be admitted within, and to become an integral part of, the proposed Confederation. Mr Speaker, we all know that our free trade with the United States is about to cease. Already has notice for the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty been given by the American authorities, and, when this shall have been finally acted upon, we must look elsewhere for markets for our produce, or submit to a taxation on it in the ports of the United States which will be almost prohibitory; therefore, as we are peculiarly, as agricultural people, the great object of our solicitude should be to look around and enquire where we may best secure ready markets, and as near to our own doors as possible; for it is obvious that if we can have easy access to markets in rich and populous cities in our midst, we will receive far better returns than if driven to have recourse to places remote, and only to be reached after long and tedious voyaging. Sir, I believe that we may easily assume that in a very few years, when confederated, that Halifax and St. John alone will be ready to absorb all we can raise unless every acre in this Island be cultivated like a kitchen garden. Let us consider the future of these two cities, for great as their natural advantages now are, all pales before the contemplation of what they are destined ultimately to become. Let me instance the rise and progress of two places somewhat similarly situated, in the past—Singapore and Chicago. When that eminent man, Sir Stamford Raffles, first suggested the idea of founding that famous emporium for the China trade, how the enemies of progress lifted up their eyes in amazement! how they ridiculed the idea! how great the ruin which must ensue from the adoption of the policy proposed! But what was the result? Soon he was enabled to write, (I quote from memory his own words), "From an insignificant fishing village, our town, in three years, has a population of ten thousand; our lands are rapidly rising in value, and we have every reason to expect, that, in a very few years, we shall have ten times our numbers." How truly the prognostics of this great man have been fulfilled, this wonderful mart of commerce, with its hundred thousands of population, bears, at this day, ample witness. Look again at Chicago. In the year 1835, it was a town of fifty inhabitants; twenty years after it had a population of eighty thousand. The tide of emigration must flow to British

America. Already Australia is overdone. Taxation in the United States has become so terribly oppressive that many thousands have, during the past year, left them to settle in Canada; and we may fairly assume, as certain, that the good time for these Provinces has at length come. The intercolonial Railway will bring the whole trade of the West into Halifax and St. John. It is easy to foretell the rapidity with which they will increase in wealth and population; and how readily they will supply us with a market for our cattle, our pork, our oats and potatoes, at paying prices; and although I wish to confine my observations to what appears more particularly the desire of our people—immediate benefits—yet, I cannot pass this subject without asking hon members to take a prospective glance of what will be the future of these two cities. When the Intercolonial Railroad is finished, a third of the distance to Vancouver is completed. Does any hon member imagine that the capitalists of Great Britain will rest satisfied until the remaining portion of this great highway of the nations is pushed on to the Pacific? Why, the opening up of the valley of the Saskatchewan will cause a rush of immigrants from Europe to occupy its millions of acres; its waters teeming with varieties of fish; its plains covered with myriads of buffalo; the beds of its streams abounding in gold; its land the finest arable, in fact, so vast, so inexhaustible are the resources of this favored region that it excites but little wonder to hear a distinguished British statesman, on his return from that locality, declaring it to be his firm conviction that the child is now born who will see us with a population of fifty millions. From Vancouver to Yeddo is thirteen days' sail; to Shanghai three days more, and if, in addition, we allow seven days for the land transit, we will have the costly products from the banks of the Yangtsekiang, the mighty St. Lawrence of the East, deposited in the warehouses of Halifax and St. John in little over three weeks, instead of occupying, as they now do, from four to five months in the transmission, thereby causing considerable loss to the mercantile world, as well from the perishable nature of the articles themselves as from the slow returns of profits. Halifax and St. John having become the storehouses of Europe for the China and Japan trade, can any one have the temerity to take upon himself to prescribe the bounds of their prosperity? A few days ago, my eye was attracted by the heading of an article in a newspaper which I shall read to the House:

"A Prosperous City.—The City of Portland had, in 1844, a valuation of \$4,865,785, which was increased to \$26,963,989 in 1864. Her exports to foreign countries increased from \$251,097 in 1845, to \$4,396,142 in 1864; her imports from \$339,791 in 1845, to \$13,089,749 in 1864, showing not only a growth of business, but an increase of wealth unexampled in any other city of New England during the same period. This great increase of wealth is wholly due to the trade with Canada by the Grand Trunk Railway."

Such would be the increase of trade and prosperity in Halifax and St. John with a Union of the Provinces and the construction of the Intercolonial Railway. But the object of all others to be desired by every freeman should be the having a strong Government at his back to maintain his rights and secure him justice whenever demanded, and certainly, if ever there were a people needing this, it is ourselves. What a pitiful position we have ever occupied, when knocking at the doors of Downing Street! It is needless for me to particularize instances, too well is the fact known to us all; and I can now truly say, after a considerable experience as a member of this Government for six years, that I sincerely believe that the Acts of this Legislature weigh no more than a feather in the scale, compared with the influence possessed by a few private individuals of whose second-hand intermeddling we have lately had a pretty fair specimen. I believe, also, that so long as we occupy our present isolated position, we must bear patiently and submit with resignation to whatever befalls us; but I would ask, does any hon member in this House suppose that the legislative enactments of the representatives of four millions of people would ever be imperilled or set at naught any more than those of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain? Let us now consider the benefits which will accrue to such places as East Point, St. Peter's, Cavendish and others when we come in for our share of Public Grants for harbors on the north side; for we may rest assured that our fisheries will be developed on a

scale of considerable magnitude, and harbors will be a necessity for those interests. I was glad to notice that the Prime Minister of Canada, in his opening address in Parliament on the proposed Confederation, in reply to remarks which had fallen from another hon member, to the effect that these Provinces being very poor and unproductive, only sought Confederation for the purpose of being allied to a rich and powerful neighbor, particularly dwelt upon the immense value of our Gulf fisheries; and capital is all we require to enable us to turn them to account. Last month I received a letter from a gentleman in Boston, in which he writes: "I believe that, could the people of Charlottetown see something of the extent and value of the mackerel fisheries, as now prosecuted from this, they would very soon engage in them themselves. Massachusetts took, last season, three hundred thousand barrels, valued at not less than four millions of dollars." I also notice that the Commissioner of Public Works in Canada, referring to the establishment of harbors in various places where they were demanded, stated that the Government fully recognized this necessity, and would do all in their power to meet this want. We would have the General Government also securing to us unobstructed intercourse and communication with the Mainland by properly fitted Steam-propellers, making the passage from Georgetown and the Wood Islands in the winter season. A Canal has long been considered a necessity between Bay Verte and Cumberland Basin, and I have every reason for saying that it would be almost immediately undertaken by a Company ready to commence the work. This will bring St. John within a few hours' sail of Summerside, and shorten the voyages for the Southern trade, and also, in all likelihood, would exercise a very important thermal influence upon the waters of Northumberland Straits. I now refer to a subject which has, for long, proved a fertile source of discontent to our people, and I much regret to see the present dissatisfaction manifesting itself in the formation of Tenant Leagues, which the experience of all countries but proves eventually to be the means of bringing trouble and distress upon all parties. By the sixty-third resolution of the Report, we are secured a subsidy of nearly two millions of dollars, and I cannot help saying that, when, towards the close of the Conference, I found this would be the case, I hailed it as the harbinger of a bright era for this Island; because the Government will have it in its power to enter into such arrangements with the proprietors as must be satisfactory to all parties; for while we respect the rights of property, yet the best interests of this Island demand that Tenant Leagues and discontent be put an end to. We have often been told that a loan of one hundred thousand pounds would be all that would be necessary. Such loan would have to be repaid, and any losses incurred must have fallen on one and all of us. Now, after putting aside an ample provision for our annual requirements, the Government will have a surplus of three hundred and eighty thousand pounds. Let this be applied to purchasing the lands, and if there be any loss it will harm none of us; and the proceeds arising from the resales to the tenantry can be applied to local wants, such as provision for old and infirm teachers of youth, hospitals, market houses or otherwise. But to shew the influences at work to keep the people in the dark, several of them, to whom I mentioned this matter, answered me, "But we are told it is of no use getting our lands free in this way, because if we go into the Union we will be taxed some five or six pounds a year—as much as our present rents—like the farmers of Upper Canada, some of whom have come away from thence, complaining of the excessive taxation there." I believe this has been told the people with the express design of intimidating them. Those who tell them that the taxation in Upper Canada can affect us to the amount of one farthing, either knowingly or ignorantly state what has not a shadow of foundation in truth. I have been told that, at different meetings in the country, the taxation in Upper Canada was brought forward as a reason against Union. It is one of the very strongest points which the advocates of Union can bring to bear in favor of it. Hon members are, doubtless, aware that this taxation is not laid on by the Government, but solely by the people themselves. Upper Canada is divided into forty-two Counties; these Counties are sub-divided into Townships, each ten miles square. The inhabitants of each Township elect annually five Councillors. These five elect

annually one of their number as presiding officer, who is designated by the title of Reeve. The Reeves and Deputy Reeves of the Townships form the County Councils. Each County Council levies its own taxes, pounds or pence, as the people may choose. The County Councils construct Roads and Bridges, Court Houses and Jails, Grammar Schools and Houses of Correction. They loan also sums of money for the improvement of the country; and, as I said before, they, and they alone tax the people. Now, I would ask, what has this taxation to do with us? It can never affect us to the extent of one farthing; and, surely, if the farmers of Upper Canada are willing to be taxed by their local boards, we, in this Island, are not going to begrudge their right to do so. It will be a long time, I dare say, before we will follow their example, and tax ourselves for local works as they do; but I would observe, it must be very obvious to those who choose to understand, that if the people of Upper Canada have already heavily taxed themselves by their local boards, they are sure to send representatives into Parliament, pledged to economy, who will unite with the other Provinces to keep down any profuse expenditure of the public funds. The next point I would remark upon is our share in the Representation in the General Parliament, and the complaints of the objectors that we have too few members. When the revolted Provinces ordained and established their Constitution, it was provided that Representatives from any State might be sent to Parliament in the proportion of one member to every thirty thousand of the population. The State of Delaware, large and influential, as well as that of Rhode Island, somewhat similar in extent to this Colony, did not think it against the interests of their people to enter their Union with one member each; this Island is invited to enter the proposed Confederation with five. We are also told that our four members in the Council will be no protection to our interests; and that the custom obtaining in the United States is far better. Now let us take this view of the question, and follow the United States' system. Vancouver, Columbia, Red River, Upper Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, each sends two members to the Upper Chamber. If a question arose affecting our sectional rights, interests and privileges, do we imagine that our two members could carry the point against the other sixteen? But, I would ask, has a case ever occurred in which such injustice was attempted or even hinted at, as the opponents of Confederation are so grievously afraid of? At the time of the Revolution, the white population of the whole thirteen States was less than that of Canada at this time. The population of Canada is now considerably more than thirty times that of this Island, and if we are to follow the plan of the United States to mete out even-handed justice, we must first portion out Canada into thirteen sections, approximating to what the United States were at the time of their Union, not what they now are. But, I would ask, is it necessary that we should go into this Confederation with our hearts and minds filled with suspicions? Is it a foregone conclusion with us that all the other Provinces will unite to do injustice to one particular section of their common country? Yet we have all these dark surmisings, and much more freely enunciated by all parties who oppose the Confederation. "Where will the interests of Upper Canada be," cries Mr Cameron, "when the other Provinces hold a majority of thirty against her in the Lower, and fifty-two in the Upper Chamber?" Then M. Dorion cries out for poor Lower Canada. Then comes New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Let us say, "away with such unworthy suspicions, they should not be held by liberal and enlightened men." As I said before, such a case has never occurred in the history of nations, and is it not monstrous doctrine to pretend that it could ever occur with us in this age of reason? But the weapon which has been wielded with greatest success in setting our people against Confederation has been the cry of taxation. "Oh," say the opponents, "if we come under the Canada Tariff we shall be ruined." It was but the other day my attention was called to speeches delivered at public meetings in this city, and published in the newspapers, where certain gentlemen broadly gave utterance to the assertion, "the advocates of Union admit a loss of £27,000 under Confederation." What is the foundation for this statement? The Hon Col Secretary published some tables of Tariffs, showing their bearing upon us *while out of Confederation*. The hon gentleman stated that if, while we are out of a Union, the Canada Tariff was applied to our imports, the excess would be £27,000; but so far from this being the case, should we become united under the proposed Confederation, so far from there being excess of taxation, the taxation under the Canada Tariff would be even less than we now pay under our Island Tariff. I know that, in some things set forth by the Hon Col Secretary, although correctly stated, yet he somewhat fails in giving as clear an exposition of his bearing as would enable every one clearly to comprehend; but in this case, I would ask, can any excuse be offered, could any mistake exist in the minds of those, who, if they had read the Hon Col Secretary's statement would have seen that the exact words he used were: "I shall now give you my reasons for believing that should we become a portion of the Confederation, the taxes we should pay, assuming the Canada Tariff to remain at its present rate, would be less in amount than those now paid by the people of this Island. The foregoing table exhibits the amount of duties which the articles imported into this Island in 1863, would have paid, according to our Tariff for 1864, contrasted with the amount which the like articles, in the absence of Confederation, would have paid under the Canada Tariff of the same year. By this table it appears that while under the Island Tariff of 1864, the importations of 1863 would have paid a duty of £41,963; they, under the Canada Tariff, had they been imported from places beyond the limits of Confederation, would have been chargeable with £69,792. The opponents of Confederation will, doubtless, exclaim, 'Here is conclusive evidence that were we to enter the Confederation we should annually lose thereby to the extent of £27,829. I submit, with deference to these gentlemen, that it is evidence of no such thing.'" Here we have language so plain that it is sad to see with what a reckless disregard of truth we have had it paraded in the columns of some of our Island newspapers "the advocates of Union admit a loss of £27,000." That this misstatement was made for a purpose can scarcely be doubted; for it has been the great capital upon which the opponents have traded to frighten and intimidate our people. I ask, what confidence can the people place in statements so unblushingly made by those from whom they ought to expect truthful information on such an important point? but I acquit those gentlemen who, at the public meetings, repeated this misstatement. I have no doubt they were led into the error from reading it in those of our Island newspapers, which have not hesitated to misquote the Hon Col Secretary. That the hon gentleman's statement was perfectly correct I will show as I proceed. I believe that many of our people do not rightly comprehend the meaning or bearing of the term Tariff. Some of them fancy that a Tariff is a direct tax, somewhat like our land tax, and quite as objectionable. Others again proclaim that if we go into the Union and the Tariff be increased five per cent., we must necessarily pay one-twentieth more for the articles of ordinary consumption than we now do. I will show the fallacy of this. We are not a rich people, but those among us who can afford to purchase expensive articles of foreign manufacture, such as English carriages, harness, saddlery, silks, velvets, jewelry, broadcloths, and expensive wines, surely they should not object to pay one shilling in the pound more for these articles than they now do. But it is the bulk of the people with whose interests I would deal, and I maintain that, under the Canadian Tariff, we can have the articles of ordinary consumption at as low a rate as they are now sold for in Charlottetown; but before proving this I will quote, as german to the subject, a statement made in Halifax before a very large

meeting, at which numbers of the wealthiest merchants were present, and we know how strongly many of them are opposed to Union. One of them alone, it is currently reported, has subscribed one thousand pounds to start a newspaper to help to write Confederation down! I am told that the mercantile establishment with which the gentleman referred to is connected, supplies many of the small dealers in this Island, and clears some sixteen or twenty thousand pounds a year by their transactions. No wonder such influences are brought to bear to deceive our people. I need not refer to the two great influences which we ourselves have had against us from the first—long before the result of the Quebec Conference was known—they were in the field to prejudice the people against any Union whatever, on any terms. But, as I was saying, not one of these gentlemen could refute the statement made in reply to what we have so often read in some portions of our Island press, that “whereas the Tariff of Nova Scotia was ten per cent., and that of Canada twenty, of course the people would, if confederated, be taxed double.” Mr Adams Archibald, and I believe, Mr Speaker, you and every honorable member in this House, know him to be one of the most reliable of the men of Nova Scotia, proved from the public returns that, in the previous year, the duties collected in Nova Scotia on the six articles of ordinary consumption, viz., Tea and Coffee, Sugar and Molasses, Tobacco and Liquors, including all ardent Spirits and Wines, amounted to the sum of four hundred and twenty-three thousand dollars, while, if the Canada Tariff and system had been in force in Nova Scotia, this sum would have been only three hundred and ninety thousand dollars, not so much by thirty-three thousand dollars as the people of Nova Scotia paid under their present Tariff. To make this apparent, I need only mention that in the year 1863, the people of Canada consumed three millions seven hundred and sixty-seven thousand nine hundred and seventy-nine gallons of liquors, upon which they paid a duty of only three pence three farthings of our currency per gallon; that they also consumed eight millions sixty thousand one hundred and forty-nine pounds of manufactured tobacco, on which they did not pay one single farthing of duty. Yet, if we look at the newspapers in this Island, we will see how it has been paraded that the Canada Tariff on manufactured tobacco is thirty per cent. Yes, but our people had it not explained to them that this duty is only levied on foreign manufactured tobacco; the eight millions were manufactured in Canada, and we could have imported it, if in Confederation, duty free. Let us see how far we would have been affected by this article. Our share would have been in round numbers two hundred and fifty thousand pounds; the duty we would have paid, under the Canada Tariff, would have been *not one farthing*. Under our Island Tariff, of four pence per pound, it would have been four thousand one hundred and sixty-six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence. Here we see a direct saving to the pockets of our people under the Canada Tariff, of four thousand pounds on one article alone. I may remark that, this year, an excise of some cents has been put upon this article in Canada, while we, ourselves, have increased our duty fifty per cent—from four pence to six pence per pound—but whatever excise has been put upon it in Canada, the returns of which I have not seen, tobacco is sold to-day at a lower price with them than with us. In 1863 (I have not got returns for 1864) the people of Canada consumed thirty six millions pounds of sugar, besides which they manufactured sixteen millions pounds. One business firm in Toronto manufactures upwards of sixty thousand pairs of boots and shoes yearly. The manufactures of cotton and woollen goods are largely established, and so great has been the improvement in the manufacture of agricultural implements and machinery, that they are now next to independent of the United States. Under their tariff they import eighty articles

duty free. I said that, under the Canada Tariff, we can purchase the articles mostly consumed by our people, at as low a rate as under our present Island Tariff. I now give the proof. I hold in my hand the printed list of the Trade Prices in the months of December and February, for which these articles are sold in Canada. I give them all in Prince Edward Island currency: Hyson Twankay Tea, one shilling and ninepence per pound. Choice breakfast Congou, two shillings per pound. Souchong, choice family, two shillings and four pence per pound. West India Sugars, six pence per pound. Loaf and Crushed Sugars, ten pence per pound. Rice, two pence half penny per pound. Molasses, two shillings per gallon. Coffee, one shilling and four pence per pound. Tallow Candles, seven pence-half penny per pound. Manufactured Tobacco, one shilling and five pence per pound. Whiskey, two shillings and six pence per gallon. Superfine, No. 1, Flour, four dollars per barrel. Superfine, No. 2, three dollars and a quarter per barrel. If we compare these prices with those which we now pay in Charlottetown, and if our country friends say that these prices will ruin them, then I will admit that their ideas of union and those which I entertain are widely dissimilar. It was only a short time since that I was under the impression that, under the tariff of Canada, Tea and Sugar would be a trifle dearer than we now have them in Charlottetown, because these are some thousand miles further for the place of transit of these articles, but I find I was mistaken, and that they can be sold as low under the tariff of Canada as under our own; hence I maintain, if the people were truthfully informed, that they would see that it is clear as the sun at noonday, that if we become the consumers, duty free, of the various manufactures of four millions of people, possessing abundance of water-power, raw material and steadily increasing markets, the great bulk of the population of this Island could dispense with the consumption of dutiable articles, with the exception of tea, sugar, and molasses, the prices of which, I have shown, are not higher under the Canadian than our own tariff. We should find also that, instead of the Revenue annually required to be raised being doubled, under Confederation, as the opponents of the measure scruple not to assert, it would not be one half of its present amount, and each year would witness its diminution proportionately to the increase of our population. The existing tariffs of all the Provinces would, this year, give a surplus of nearly one million over their aggregate expenditure, and it has been clearly shown that the elevation of the lowest to the level of the highest would produce more money than the requirements of the public service demand; and, therefore, it has been clearly understood that, should we go into Confederation, it will be proposed to reduce the present Tariff of Canada to a medium standard with those of the other Provinces. A country starting, as it were, into life, with a surplus of a million, commences with happy auguries for the future. This sum would pay the interest of a loan of twenty-five millions, and we know that the Home Government would guarantee this at four per cent. It would pay for the Intercolonial Railroad, Canals wherever needed, and provides amply for the public defences; and, while mentioning the defences, I may remark that, not only would the people of this Island save several pounds per head, yearly, by the importation of so many articles, duty free, but they would save the expense of arms and material, and of annual maintenance of the militia. Mr Speaker, we may rest assured that, in Confederation, or out of Confederation, the people of Great Britain will take care that they will not, in future, pay more towards the defence of these Colonies than what recollection of their past, and anticipation of their future, may satisfy them is right and just; and, Sir, if we prefer to remain outside the proposed Confederation, we will be under the necessity which must, sooner or later arrive, of taxing ourselves pretty heavily for this object of defence. The arms alone which we would require for the equipment of our sixteen



thousand men would cost some eighty thousand pounds sterling, and material many thousands additional. The annual five days' drill of the Militia would be a heavy charge on the Treasury and individuals. Now, if we were in Confederation the General Government would furnish arms and material, and grant us an annual allowance for maintenance, &c. Again, all who are at all conversant with military matters know that there can be but one arm, one executive, as it were, to work where military matters are concerned; but, if our people prefer it, they will find out that it is no small matter. Yet it must be done in some shape. A few years ago we were in the presence of a neighbour with a standing army of eight thousand, now they have seven hundred thousand. There are many other points to which I could advert, showing what would be the gain to this Island which would result from Confederation. I might dilate upon the good fortunes of our young men, were so extended a field opened to their ambition; but I shall defer the consideration of that branch of the subject to another time; and I now gladly borrow from one of the most distinguished and venerable of the statesmen of British America, when he tells us that the choice offered to the Legislatures of these Provinces is, "on the one hand, Union under one government, giving to British subjects in their confederate and growing strength, a nationality worthy of their origin, where, putting forth the energies of free men, they and their descendants may, under a Gracious Providence, have the opportunity of rising to degrees of political influence, material prosperity, intellectual and literary attainments, religious, educational and moral progress and refinement of taste and manners, which cannot be reached in small and contracted communities; or, on the other hand, the perpetuation of the present isolated condition of the Provinces, few in number, unequal to the development of our own resources, unable to furnish to our sons professional education, or to retain at home our enterprising youth. We have little prospect for the future beyond a dwarfed existence and ultimate absorption into the neighboring Republic. One of these must be chosen, the other rejected—there is no other alternative." Yes, Mr. Speaker, federation or annexation is what we must regard as our future. And I would ask, have we considered the alternative? Do we imagine that it is remote, something to be thought upon at a future day? Already the warning notes have been sounded, and what steps have these Provinces taken to meet the reality? We know that the feeling in England has been, until very lately, most strongly excited against us, but since this question of Confederation has been agitated a more kindly spirit has been evoked, because, in Confederation, the Mother Country sees at length aroused a disposition heretofore dormant, an awakening to a sense of the duty we owe to ourselves and our posterity, and a determination on our part to unite as one people against the coming storm; and in this case they have promised to stand by us, but I know very little of the people of England, if we do not, before many weeks, hear that the late action of the people of New Brunswick has revived all the old distrust. If we are not, now, true to ourselves, in this great crisis, we may rest assured that England will not send a man to help us in our hour of need. We will find, to our cost that, on the very first outbreak, the Stars and Stripes will wave over us; what then will be the position in which our folly will have placed us? Already the debt of the Northern States is three thousand millions, to their population a tax the interest of which is nine dollars per head! How will this suit us? Truly, in that hour it will not be a question of a few cents more or less in a tariff. Fancy every man among us, with five in family being under a yearly tax of forty-five dollars, and for what? The improvement of the country, the construction of railroads, or the erection of cities of palaces? No! but taxation incurred by another people, in sweeping with the besom of destruction, hundreds of thousands, (I

believe the number exceeds two millions) of their fellow men into eternity, and turning into a howling wilderness the fairest country the sun has ever shone upon; and this is the alternative the opponents of Confederation offer us. I am told that it is unpopular with us—that those who oppose Confederation have gained a vast amount of popularity by decrying it. For myself, I may say, so far as rewards in this world weigh with me, I know none greater than the approval of my fellow men, but, to obtain even this, I cannot condemn what I truly believe to be for the best interests of us all; nor can I, for any amount of popular applause, give utterance with my lips, to what, in my heart, I disapprove. Probably, as times go, I, too, might have acquired some *quasi* popularity, if, on my return from Canada, I had denied and repudiated all I had ever said in favor of Union and joined the cry against it; but then I would have lost what I value far more highly than popular applause—self-respect. The various details embodied in the Report of the Delegates speak for themselves. Hon. members need not to be told that delegates from six Provinces, each representing a diversity of interests, could only by mutual concessions obtain such a united whole as we could all agree in supporting and submitting to the people. That we had arrived at such a result I never for one moment doubted until my return here from Canada. Taken as a whole, I cannot come to any other conclusion than this, that the principles here set forth are well calculated to establish and consolidate a great nationality, and to be the means of elevating British America to a height of wealth, grandeur and prosperity, such as we can never in any other way attain to. And as far as this Island is concerned, as Confederation will bring prosperity to Halifax and St. John, whose rise will be ours, as it will bring us an influx of capital to develop the mines of wealth we possess in our fisheries; as it will build up harbors where needed for the interest of that trade; as it will give us manufactories in our own midst with constant employ to our youth of both sexes, summer and winter; the means of banishing the discontent of the tenantry; a Government elected by four millions of people, which will be as formidable in its strength as ours ever has been impotent in its weakness; a Revenue amply sufficient for our local wants as heretofore; and instead of a Legislative Union, such as deprived Ireland of her separate Parliament, we are secured all the advantage of having our own Island Parliament for the management of our local affairs. Also the further representation of nine members in a General Parliament, and nine gentlemen should be able to represent this Island as efficiently as four times that number. Also the hearty support of England with her fleet and army. And as all this can be obtained without any increase of taxation, but, on the contrary, with a great decrease in the amount now paid by the bulk of our people. Although the subject of Confederation has been made unpopular, because neither explained nor understood, yet I am glad to place on record my earnest and hearty advocacy of it, leaving my action to be judged by reflecting minds at a future day; being assured that neither you, Mr. Speaker, nor any other hon. member will do me the injustice to suppose that the few observations I have deemed it my duty to make on this momentous question, will be construed into anything approaching a desire to influence any hon. member in the vote he may now record; because, Mr. Speaker, both yourself and hon. members are aware what an overwhelming majority have made up their minds to oppose it. I can, then, but be fully conscious how futile would be such a desire on my part, or on that of any of the advocates of Confederation, at this juncture. I will not, therefore, say more, but conclude by borrowing again from my venerable friend, when I repeat that this is no small affair, the influences of which will die away with the excitement of its discussion; nothing of petty politics reaching no farther than personal interests; no matter of party strife; our country and its destinies, our descendants

and their future are the subjects, and the consideration should be approached with an earnestness, and the decision made under a sense of responsibility not to be exceeded in the discharge of the most solemn religious duty.

**Hon Mr WARBURTON.**—Mr Speaker, I did not think that this question would be taken up this evening. As, however, it has come up for discussion, and as it is expected that every member will give expression to his views on the question, I shall briefly state my opinions. I have always been opposed to this scheme. If we are to have a Union I would prefer a Legislative to a Federal one, under which this House would become a useless bauble, with no power save that of taxing the people. Last Session we sanctioned a delegation for a specified purpose—to confer on the subject of a Union of the Maritime Provinces. The Hon Col Secretary has stated that Union is strength. It may be so; but a connection of the character recommended by the Report before us, would only be a Union of the Lion with the Lamb; we would be devoured by the Canadians. The hon member for Belfast told us that under the Union we would pay less taxes. I cannot see how that can be the result if we have to defray our proportion of the expenses of an army and navy, and of the fortifications necessary for the protection of Canada. The operation of the tenant system in this Island proves that our people cannot pay the rates imposed in that country. The Act which passed this House last Session precludes the idea of any relief being afforded to the tenantry under Confederation, for a law once passed must be obeyed. I, for one, opposed its passage, and we have no reason to suppose that the United Government would abolish it; for, if they should do so there would be no security for any man's property. I agree that we have no influence at the Colonial Office. While I believe that the tenantry would have a better chance of freeing themselves from the Rent Roll system under the stars and stripes, I myself will never consent to live under any other than the old flag of Britain, under which there are no people on this continent who enjoy as much freedom from taxation as ourselves. In Canada it is well known that the taxation is heavy; we increased our Tariff, but the people do not feel the operation of it as they would that of a system of direct taxation, such as obtains in Canada. This system properly adjusted would, I admit, be found to be the cheapest; but the people cannot be persuaded to adopt that view. There is a great and insuperable dread of direct taxation. The principle of representation by population, as embodied in the resolutions of the Conference, I cannot agree to; for, under it in the Confederate Parliament we should have no influence. Sir, I believe that nine-tenths of the people of the Island are opposed to a Union either Federal or Legislative. I myself shall use all my endeavors against it inside these walls and throughout the country, and if my constituents disapprove of my conduct, they can readily get some else to represent them. We have heard hon members enlarge upon the glory of the Union. It might be that I, by supporting the proposed Confederation and assisting in bringing the Island within its embracing folds, would obtain some high office in Canada from the Confederate Government, but considerations of that nature do not weigh with me. In conclusion, I repeat that I am opposed to a Union of any kind, but if we are to have any, I prefer a Legislative one to the mongrel scheme adopted at Quebec.

The Debate was then adjourned.

MONDAY, March 27.

House resumed consideration of the papers relating to the Union of the Colonies.

**Hon Mr HENSLEY,** Mr Speaker, I have heard it stated that all the talent in this House was enlisted on the side of the Union; assuming such to be the case, as I am not in the habit of making long speeches, which, under such a state of fact, must, of necessity, be productive of no benefit, I am happy to console myself by the reflection, that we have, at least, a numerical superiority, as there are some 25 or 26 members who are opposed to "all the talent" on this question. A question of this magnitude should be approached free from political or party bias. When the matter of Confederation was under discussion last Session the idea was expressed, and very generally acquiesced in, that united with only the Maritime Provinces, we would be absorbed, and quotations from speeches of the Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia, and others, as to the absorption of that Province, in case of Union with Canada, were adduced to warrant the opinion. Well, Sir, if such would probably be the effect of our connection

with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, I can only come to the conclusion that we would be entirely swamped if we cast in our lot with Canada. No doubt the idea of forming part of a great country is very captivating, if we really were a separate and solitary people; but, I cannot recognize its force in our case when I call to mind that we are part and parcel of the great British Empire. The important question for our consideration is whether we are bound by the action of the Quebec Convention. It is quite clear that we are not. That Convention was held without any authority from this House, and the Delegates had no power to agree to any conclusions on the subject, but at the utmost, merely to report to this House. I regret that they agreed to so formal a document as the one before us, as it seems to convey the idea to the world that they possessed powers to treat and make a binding arrangement. It has been said and written that we shall be driven into this Confederacy. I would ask what foundation exists for such an assertion? Whence does it arise? We have no despatches before us indicating such an eventuality; in fact the documents submitted to us lead to the belief in my mind that we shall be allowed to deal with this matter as we please. I believe that the fact is that the Canadians finding a general Union of the Colonies would be of service to themselves, sent Delegates here with the view of commending their project to the favorable consideration of the Legislatures of the Lower Provinces, and I do not blame them for doing so. The terms of the Report before us are, in my opinion, very unfavorable to this Island. On the scale of representation proposed, we would be without the slightest influence in the United Parliament. It is true that, if we went into the proposed Union, we would have no right to expect as large a number of representatives as either of the Lower Provinces, but then, if, or why should we throw away our independence which we now enjoy? There would, of necessity, be an increased tariff under the Union, and before I can admit the force of the argument that Canada and New Brunswick will supply us with boots, shoes, spirits and other articles of manufacture and at a lower rate than we can get them at present, I should like to be satisfied, as to their present ability, to supply themselves with those articles. Such returns of importations into these two Provinces, for the year 1863, as we have before us, seem to me rather to indicate an entirely different state of things in that respect. Now, Mr Speaker, if the people of those two Colonies cannot, with a high protective tariff, furnish the articles I have specified in quantities sufficient for their own requirements, it is not to be supposed that they can supply them to us. Our chief, because most advantageous, trade is with the United States and Great Britain, and as long as we shall find it to our advantage that it should be so, it will naturally seek these channels; and if we come under the influence of a higher Tariff we shall be taxing our best customers and crippling our most profitable channels for commercial interchange. I cannot think that Great Britain will look favorably on a scheme which, so far as these Lower Colonies are concerned, will have the effect of placing heavier duties on the importation of her manufactured goods.

**Hon Mr DAVIES.**—This question, Mr Speaker, is, in my opinion, forced upon us. If the States were now in the same position as they were before the outbreak of the Civil War, I would oppose any measure of the sort, but they have now become a great military country, whose boast it has long been to carry out the Monroe doctrine, and to spread the principles of republicanism over the whole Continent. The Imperial Government has expressed its willingness to aid us. It has said, "that you can towards your own defence, and we will supplement your efforts." We are too small a people for separate and independent action, and that the termination of the present Civil War is at hand may be inferred from the fact that the captain of a blockade-runner told me during the last winter that the game was up; and we are all aware of the state of feeling which exists in the Northern States and Great Britain, which will most likely find expression in an attempt to realize their oft-repeated vaunt—

No boundless Union confines our powers,  
But the whole boundless continent is ours.

Frequent allusion has been made to the debt of Canada, but that debt has been principally incurred in the construction of public works of great value and utility. If we should be absorbed into the United States we would be compelled to assume far greater burdens than those to which we would be liable if united to Canada. I agree that Confederation would exercise a certain moral influence in our favor, but would prefer to remain as long as we

can in our present state of freedom from taxation. Reference has been made to the unsuccessful attempt made at the Quebec Conference to get an additional member for the Island in the Lower House. I cannot perceive that the additional representation would have, in any appreciable degree, increased our influence in that body. I am not, however, equally satisfied with the proposed Constitution of the Upper House. The prices in Canada of tea, sugar, &c., quoted by the hon member for Belfast, do not prove that Confederation would enable the people of this Island to purchase them at the same rates; for in Canada, a merchant can afford to sell at low rates, in consequence of disposing of large quantities at a time. The excise duty must be added to the cost of tobacco. The truth is, Sir, that Halifax must regulate the prices of West India produce in these Colonies. I would be glad to have the continued protection of Great Britain; but it is well known that these Colonies were to be educated up to a sense of the duties of a nationality. It is but natural that John Bull should at length say, "If they will not defend themselves, let them go!" As I said before, this question is forced on us and face it we must. We cannot doubt that the Americans look with greedy eyes upon the coal fields of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the acquisition of which would be of incalculable advantage to them not only in times of peace, but also in case of a war with Britain or France, or any of the other European powers.

TUESDAY, March 28.

#### Debate on the Union of the Colonies resumed.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY.—Mr Speaker, I shall conclude the few remarks which I was making last evening when interrupted. I was referring to the returns of importations into Canada and New Brunswick for 1863, showing that these Provinces did not manufacture nearly enough of boots and shoes, and other articles of the kind for themselves, and that consequently they could not supply this Colony. As regards tea and molasses which are said to be cheaper in Canada than in this Island, if this be the case it cannot arise from the fact that higher duties are paid on them there than in this Colony. But one of the principal points to which I did not refer last night was military defences. The argument advanced on this feature of the subject by those favorable to Union is that, in order to prepare for efficient military defence we require a central power. I, however, do not see the question in that light. As long as we contribute our quota of men and means, and the other Provinces do the same, I consider it would be quite as efficient a method of providing for defence as any organization into which we could enter. We are told that the General Government would take control of the general revenue and provide naval and military forces. In the event of a war with the United States, however, we know full well that there would be no chance of success without the aid of Great Britain, and it is difficult to understand how Confederation would increase our ability of resistance. By late papers I observe that the Colonial Minister, Mr Cardwell, has introduced a bill into the Imperial Parliament providing for a Colonial naval force, to be supported by Colonial funds, but to be at the command of the Imperial authorities. It was laid down in regard to the measure that commissions could not be granted by Colonial authorities; they must be issued by the Imperial Government to be valid. If this plan can be pursued in naval affairs, may not a similar scheme be adopted in military matters? All preparations for defence must be arranged under the superintendence of the Imperial Government, and under British commissioned officers; and since this is the case it is doubtful whether a central Colonial Government would be any advantage. We do not wish to shrink from our duty in regard to defence as subjects of the British Empire. Disagreeable as it might be to be taken away to fight in the neighboring Provinces, still if the order should come it is not at all probable that we would refuse. Whence the necessity of merging all these Legislatures together to have a central power when we are already all organized under the Imperial Government of Great

Britain? Another portion of the Report to which I object is that which provides that the expense of railways and canals connecting two Provinces shall be equally borne by all the Colonies. It was said by Mr Galt the other day in Canada that it was necessary all their railways should have an outlet to the sea. This is what he terms a geographical necessity; but I do not think that this Island would benefit by these works. We have the same geographical necessity in the winter season that Canada has; our case is even worse, for we are surrounded by ice, and there is little prospect that anything can be done to improve our position, unless indeed we obtain steam communication over the Straits during the winter, as suggested by one of the delegates the other night. The intercolonial railway will confer very few commercial advantages on this Island. It will no doubt afford facilities for travelling; but its benefits to us will not at all compensate for the amount which we would have to contribute towards it by the terms of the Report. In view, then, of the nature of that Report, I am prepared to support the resolution submitted by the hon Leader of the Government. I do not say that I would be opposed to Union on any terms; but I think that such terms as are contained in the Report are very unfair to this Colony. If agreed to I consider that the interests of the Island would be altogether sacrificed. Our taxation would be greatly increased without corresponding advantages. Some maintain that we should not be alarmed at taxes; they would be no burden providing we had additional scope for trade. But what more scope do we require, as we have already facilities for commerce as extended as the bounds of the British Empire?

Mr. BRECKEN.—I would gladly avoid speaking on this question, feeling, as I do, my inability to deal with it, as its importance and the interests involved in it require. Never in the history of this Island, since it became a British Colony, has a subject of such consequence been submitted for the consideration of its Legislature. If we are to view the proposition for a Union of the British North American Colonies as an optional one, which we may reject without imperilling our position as a dependency of the British Crown, I confess I cannot see in the terms offered to us in the Report of the Quebec Conference anything to induce us to close with the offer. If, on the other hand, the choice is between a Union with the sister Provinces and a severance of our allegiance to the Mother Country, I would say, let us be united, even at a sacrifice of our local interests. But I do not think that the latter is our position, although the advocates of the scheme profess to believe that it is. Why should we be in such a hurry to assume that it is? Previous to the Quebec Conference this question had not been pressed upon our attention by the Home Government, although we are now aware, from Mr Cardwell's despatch, written after the receipt of the Quebec Report, that the measure is very favourably received by the Imperial Government. Nor is it at all to be wondered at that they should wish to see our present political position changed. Separate Provinces grouped close together with governments independent of each other; separate laws, different currencies and hostile tariffs; and, yet, all paying allegiance to the same Sovereign, is a state of things that will not, in all probability, continue very much longer. I am not opposed to a Union, provided just and equitable terms are secured to us; but it does appear to me that the urgent manner in which this question at this time is pressed upon us, is entirely owing to the action of politicians on this side of the Atlantic. It only requires a very slight acquaintance with the politics of Canada to be aware that the political difficulties and complications of that Province had arrived at such a pitch, and had become so perplexing, that party government was almost an impossibility; indeed, it would appear, that impending anarchy threatened them. The Hon. John A. McDonald, Attorney General of Canada West, in Parliament, when moving the Address to Her

Majesty for an Imperial Act to carry into effect the Report of the Quebec Conference, after stating the origin and history of the Union question in Canada up to the time he was speaking, says:—

“Then men of all parties and all shades of politics became alarmed at the aspect of affairs. They found that such was the opposition between the two sections of the Province, such was the danger of impending anarchy in consequence of the irreconcilable differences of opinion with respect to representation by population between Upper and Lower Canada, that unless some solution of the difficulty was arrived at we would suffer under a succession of weak governments, weak in numerical support, weak in force, and weak in power of doing good. All were alarmed at this state of affairs. We had election after election; we had Ministry after Ministry, with the same result. Parties were so equally balanced that the vote of one member might decide the fate of the administration and the course of legislation for a year, or a series of years. This condition of things was well calculated to arouse the earnest consideration of every lover of his country, and I am happy to say it had that effect. Leading statesmen on both sides came to the conclusion that some steps must be taken to relieve the country from the dead lock and impending anarchy that hung over it.”

Such are the words of one of the joint Premiers of Canada. Mr McDonald then goes on to state that to remedy this state of affairs—

“The Hon. Geo. Brown’s Committee was appointed, whose Report resulted in the formation of the present Canadian Government, composed as it is of men of all shades of politics, brought together for the purpose of bringing about a Union of the Provinces.”

In the face of such statements, coming from such high authority, it is in vain for the advocates of Union to tell us that it is either pressure from the Home Government, or the threatening aspect of affairs in the neighboring Republic, that has given rise to the Confederation question at this particular time. I believe, Mr Speaker, that if the Statesmen of Canada could have found within their country a solution of their political difficulties, we would not have heard much about Confederation. After the decision pronounced by New Brunswick at their late General Election to reject the scheme, I do not think there is any necessity for our spending much time in debating the subject, as it is quite clear that we shall not be called upon to enter Confederation until Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are ready to go into it. I shall not, therefore, at any length, go into the objectionable parts of the Report as they affect us; they have been over and over again brought to the notice of the public. While I admit that we could hardly expect that the delegates assembled at Quebec to block out a constitution for all British America, would so frame their work as to make it suit the peculiar circumstances and wants of the smallest and most insignificant of the Provinces, they, at the same time, appear to have entirely overlooked our claims. From our insular position, and the nature and character of our limited resources, the offer, as contained in the Report, presents fewer inducements to us than to any of the other Provinces; but it is our duty to see that the interests of those we represent are not sacrificed. With regard to the financial arrangement justice has not been done us. We are asked to give up nearly the whole of our revenue, now (about £60,000,) and which will no doubt go on increasing, to the General Government, and in lieu thereof receiving a capitation allowance of 80 cents per head on our present population amounting to about £20,250, and interest on the difference between our debt and the debt of the Confederate Government, amounting to £31,600. The latter amount cannot be looked upon as a gift, as we are called upon to shoulder the capital it represents as our portion of a debt which we had no hand in contracting, and from the results of which we have derived no benefit. These two amounts will be insufficient to defray our ordinary local expenditure, and if any large public work is required we will, in all probability, have to pay for it ourselves,

unless its advantages extend for the general benefit of the Provinces, which, from our situation, is not likely to be the case. But who is to toll what increase of taxation the General Government will not be obliged to impose? Mr Galt, Finance Minister of Canada, says:—

“A revenue of \$13,000,000 would, at the outset, be required for the General Government. This estimate allows but \$1,000,000 for fortifications, military and naval purposes, and, as we are told by our Union friends, that there is to be a Confederate army and navy to protect us against Brother Jonathan, this estimate will no doubt have to be increased, not to say anything about deepening and widening the canals of Upper Canada, and the construction of other great public works, which must go on as the country becomes more developed, and we, Sir, will be powerless to check any extravagance on the part of the General Government. But we are told that the commercial advantages which will flow to us from the Union will so increase our prosperity that we will be able to bear extra taxation. Intercolonial free trade is to be established, and we will be able to import our manufactures from Canada and the other Provinces duty free.”

This is, in other words, telling us that our trade in manufactures will be confined to the Provinces, which I believe would be the case, as high and prohibitory duties would have to be imposed on imports from Britain and other countries, in order to provide a revenue for the General Government, as we can hardly expect that any Finance Minister would have the courage to attempt to raise such a revenue by direct taxation, a line of policy that even a Gladstone shrinks from. To have our trade confined to these Colonies would be great disadvantage to us, as I do not believe that a new country like Canada could furnish us with manufactures on as favorable terms as the Mother Country. Among the many requirements necessary to make a country a manufacturing one, a surplus population is one of them. Now, all other things being equal, can it be reasonably expected that a large country like Canada, with a sparse population, the same to the square mile as that of England to every two or three acres, not to say anything of the inducements which the fertile and cheap lands of Canada hold out to men to become farmers, can supply us with manufactures of the same quality and at as cheap a rate as England? How would such a policy affect our relations with the Mother Country? Certainly not improve them. As it is, the Manchester School of Politicians are for casting us adrift as useless and expensive appendages. They say we are always lightening John Bull’s pocket, on some pretence or other, and buttoning up our own against them, by placing high duties on their exports. They say, and with much truth, that we, their children, ought to buy from them more largely than we do. Intercolonial free trade would, no doubt, increase this cause of complaint, and strengthen the ranks of men holding the views of Bright and Goldwin Smith. Then, again, Mr Speaker, why was not the principle of compensation extended to us as well as to Newfoundland and New Brunswick? It is true we have no mines or minerals to surrender; but we are, for five months in the year, shut out from the use and advantage of the great public works of the other Provinces, for the past and future cost of which we are to contribute, while these works, during the winter, are as useless to us as the Car of Juggernaut. If Newfoundland, by giving up her mines and minerals, will have them opened and worked, which I presume will be the case, otherwise \$150,000 a year in perpetuity would not have been offered for them. That, alone, in the increase of trade which would follow would be a sufficient compensation; but I presume the grant was made with another object. I am afraid we were considered too insignificant to be worth bargaining for. It was easily seen that if the other Provinces went into the Union we would have to follow. And why pay for anything when you can get it for nothing? Then, again, New Brunswick was granted £60,000 for 10 years for a local work.

The Col SECRETARY.—What about Nova Scotia?

Mr BRECKEN.—Nova Scotia is in a different position. She has a great deal to gain by Confederation. Halifax will likely be the terminus of the Intercolonial Railway, and that city become the empire city of British America. That Province has no claim for compensation. The reasons which weigh with Unionists in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have little application to this Island. For instance, the Intercolonial Railway makes the other Provinces part and parcel of Canada; the iron horse annihilates time and distance. With respect to the political part of the Report I think we have reason to complain. The principle of representation by population is sought to be enforced on too sweeping a scale; but as this principle is a *sine qua non* with the people of Upper Canada, and is, I believe, at the bottom and root of the Confederation scheme, we might expect to see it applied to the Lower House; but I see no reason why the constitution of the Upper House should not have been assimilated to that of the Senate of the United States; but I do not attach much importance to this, as I believe the more representatives we have the more our difficulties would increase. We have no men of fortune amongst us; at any rate, none foolish enough to engage in politics. Hon members from distant parts of the Island, from the North Cape and East Point, can spare a few weeks during the winter months to attend to their legislative duties; but it would be found a very different matter to be obliged to leave home and business, and that, too, very likely in the winter season, for three or four months in the year to attend the General Legislature at Ottawa. The public men of this Island cannot afford to do so, even if willing. The sacrifice of interest which a seat in the Confederate Assembly would entail, would be greater than our public men could afford; and if to remedy this they were adequately paid, then their constituents would begin to suspect that their personal interests might outweigh their regard for the interests of the Colony. I doubt much whether men of stake, and really interested in the welfare of the country, would be found willing to offer themselves. Indeed, so far as our representation is concerned, it might as well be wiped out of the Report altogether. There is another objection to the new constitution, as it applies to this Island. What, I would ask, looking at the wide range of subjects reserved for the General Government, will there be left to engage the attention of our Local Legislature? As it is, with the management of all our affairs, the subjects that most frequently engage our attention are not of a very broad or elevating character. If, from the subjects to be assigned to our Local Legislature we withdraw Education and the management of our highways, matters which, when once properly provided for, do not admit of being tinkered at every Session, what will be left for us to do? We might have a party for bringing in a measure that all pigs should wear rings in their noses, but on such a question it would be difficult to keep together either a Government or an Opposition, unless they were to differ as to the description of metal the rings should be made of; but to be serious, I believe if we went into Confederation we would find our Local Government a nuisance too cumbersome and expensive for the work assigned it, and before long would be petitioning to have it done away with, and to have municipal institutions instead. This very Building with its empty walls and untenanted offices would stand a frowning remonstrance against the policy of the Hon Col Secretary and his Union friends; he would take fright at the sight of its decaying walls. Somebody may yet say to him what the great Irish Orator, Curran, once said to a Peer who had been instrumental in bringing about the Irish Union. Curran, who was one day setting his watch at the Post Office, which was then opposite to the late Parliament Buildings, when the nobleman, who well knew that the Union was a sore subject with Curran, said, as he passed him, "Curran, what do they mean to do with that useless building?" For my part I am sure I hate the sight of it. I am not at all astonished to hear you say so, my Lord, replied Curran, "I never yet heard of a murderer who was not afraid of a ghost." We are told that by going into the Union we will rise from being a small and obscure Colony to be a part of a great country. This may, in some

degree, be true; but practically we are called upon to yield up to a very great extent the control and management of our public affairs, a great privilege, which once parted with is not easily regained. But the argument which Unionists dwell most strongly upon, as proving the necessity for Confederation, is the question of defence. They argue that unless we unite we must soon become absorbed in the American Union. If there is really danger just now of our Republican neighbours adopting an aggressive policy; if they should take it into their heads to cross the Canadian frontier for the purpose of carrying out the Monroe Doctrine, or to indemnify themselves for losses recently sustained, and for which they may choose to hold Britain responsible, would a Political Union work such a change in our present position as to convert us at once from helpless Colonies into a powerful Confederacy? It must be many years hence before these Colonies will be able, unaided by the British arm, to defend themselves against an invading foe, extending, as they do, over such area, with an extensive and exposed frontier, and vulnerable in so many points. No doubt it is high time that these Colonies did more for their own protection than they have hitherto done. They have drawn largely from the pockets of the tax payers of the Mother Country for the purposes of fortifications and the maintenance of naval and military forces among them. (This Island is not open to this charge; for very many years she has cost Britain nothing in this respect.) Colonists ought to remember that many of the tax payers at home who contribute to our protection are less able to bear their public burthens than we are. There is one argument urged by anti-Unionists which I do not agree with, viz., that when united, in case trouble arises, our young men will be liable to be drafted off to Canada and the other Provinces, there to assist in fighting their battles. This is not likely to be the case, as our small Militia and Volunteer force would be required for our own defence, which the safety of the other Colonies would require to be efficiently maintained, the chances are in such a state of things that not one man would be withdrawn from the Island; but men would have to be sent here. But even if it should so happen that they were taken off to assist in the defence of the other Colonies, ought we to complain? Our British interests are intimately bound up with those of the other Colonies, in a national point, at any rate, and when Canada and the other Provinces have to succumb to a foreign power we will have to follow suit. In helping them we are fighting for ourselves, and that, too, under more favourable circumstances than the sister Provinces; for we would not have to meet the foe at our firesides. The further the scene of conflict is removed from one's door the better; for the most terrible of all the horrors and devastation that follow in the track of war is having women, children and country exposed to the cruelty and fury of a merciless soldiery. This consideration ought to make ready at all times when the necessity arises (and God grant that it may never occur) to assist our fellow Colonists, and that with a good will too. Our position as British Colonies must, for many years, depend upon the protection afforded us by the Mother Country. Separate or united without that aid we shall be powerless to defend ourselves. England's European interests, her position as first among the nations, more perhaps than her wide spread possessions, oblige her to maintain her present powerful military and naval forces. Those forces require stations. England is not prepared to throw off her wealthy West India possessions, not to say anything of those Colonies. She has to maintain a naval force out here, which costs no more than at home, and to maintain that force the coal mines of Cape Breton and Nova Scotia are necessary. The threat that Unionists hold out to us that we will be cast adrift if we do not unite, is for the purpose of frightening us into Confederation. They must, at any rate, produce stronger arguments than they have done, before they can expect us to be convinced that it is so. I believe that Britain is willing to untie the apron strings and send us off to do for ourselves when we are strong enough to stand alone; but I do not believe she will cast us off until we are able to protect ourselves. Hon members in favor of the scheme had better direct their attention to the other points of Confederation, and endeavor to show us that our material interests will become improved by the proposed Union. That I take it, is the great point for us to consider just now. Our national relations rest with the Mother Country.

ERRATUM.—On last column of preceding page, only the first sentence of the paragraph given as a quotation from Mr. Galt's Speech, should be read as his. The citation marks and the break ought to have been placed after the words *General Government*, on the second line.

Hon. Solicitor GENERAL.—Mr Speaker, I shall not shrink from the free expression of my opinion on this great question, because I happen unfortunately to be one of a minority of four. This is the most momentous subject ever submitted to the consideration of any of the Colonial Legislatures of British North America, and its importance is evinced by the fact that it has afforded the first example in the annals of this, or I believe any other House of Assembly, of the discussion being carried on with the Speaker in the Chair, thus restraining members from the freedom that a debate in Committee would allow them. I am aware that many hon members, on both sides of the House, are of the opinion that this should be made a Government question. I differ from them. Leaders of the Governments and Oppositions in the other Colonies united in the adoption of the Report. Nova Scotia treated it as an open question, and it is in that position here. When the project of a Legislative Union was proposed, I was strongly opposed to it, and I am of the same opinion still. There is a vital difference between a Legislative Union of the Maritime Provinces and a Federal Union of all the North American Colonies. We would be bound in all our local affairs by the action of a Parliament constituted under a Legislative Union, while a Federal connection leaves to us the unfettered control of all subjects of legislation peculiar to our circumstances. At the Conference held at Quebec, at which were represented Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, the vote was taken on the details of the proposed Union, not by the suffrages of individual members of the Conference, but by each of the Colonies represented. Therefore the assertion that the Report was the work of the Canadians is untrue; it was adopted by all the Colonies who had sent their delegates to take part in the deliberations, and consequently, the Maritimes Provinces had a majority against Upper and Lower Canada of four to two. It is unjust then to object to the Report as having been got up by the Canadians for their own purposes. Whether the Report meets popular favor or not, the delegates from the Lower Provinces had the power to defeat it, had they been opposed to it. Why, Sir, the very first paragraph in the Report passed unanimously, and its passage was greeted with three cheers. That paragraph reads as follows:—

“The best interests and present and future prosperity of British North America will be promoted by a Federal Union under the Crown of Great Britain, provided such Union can be effected on principles just to the several Provinces.”

I am truly surprised that any gentleman, who being present as a delegate, voted for that paragraph, which affirms the principle of Union, can be found now to oppose it. It has been said, Mr Speaker, that a dead lock in the relations of political parties in Canada induced the proposal for a Confederation of these Provinces; but, Sir, the principle of a political Union of British North America did not see the light for the first time in the year 1864. The correspondence between the late Duke of Kent and the late Judge Sewell shows that the idea occupied the minds of men in high station many years ago. In that mine of political information, the Report of the late Lord Durham, the opinion is expressed that Union among themselves can alone preserve these Colonies from absorption into the neighboring republic. These facts show that the idea is not peculiar to the Provinces. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick several of their leading public men have advanced similar opinions. At the time of the Union between Upper and Lower Canada, the former Province obtained an equal share of representation in the United Parliament. With Lower Canada, although the population of Upper Canada was less than that of Lower Canada, they each sent an equal number of representatives—65. But the influx of immigration into Upper Canada has so far changed her position to the Lower Province, that the former provides two-thirds of the revenue, the share of which appropriated to her is in the inverse ratio to the amount which she contributes. When the Hon George Brown's party came into power, the idea was broached of dissolving the Union with Lower Canada, and having a general Confederation. When the opportunity offered by the Conference of the delegates of the Maritime Provinces, Canada thought it a favorable occasion to send delegates to listen to the views of the leading men of the Lower Colonies, and I may say that in this instance Canada's difficulty is our opportunity. But, Mr Speaker, in whatever motives the idea of this Confederation may have had its origin, the result of the defeat of the project will be, I have no hesitation in saying, our absorption into the United States. Already the handwriting is on the wall, and it needs no prophet

to expound its meaning that Union or Republicanism awaits us. A great outcry has been raised on the subject of the increased taxation to which we would be subjected if we became united to our sister Colonies; but no hon member has yet shown how much our situation in that respect would be improved by having to pay the far higher taxes if we should form part of the United States. I leave the financial part of the subject to be dealt with by others, and shall adopt the so-called “glory argument.” I maintain, Mr Speaker, that the pages of history may be ransacked in vain for the record of any people who ever rose to a position among the nations of the earth whose minds were not imbued with that sentiment, and the decline of those who have receded from their once high position dates from the time when it began to lose its influence. Without that element in her national character where would Great Britain have been in her gigantic struggle with Napoleon the first? The hon member for East Point (Mr Hensley) says that we would be taxed for the construction of the Intercolonial Railroad, and that we would receive no benefits in return for our expenditure. Under any circumstances we would receive indirect benefit, but I contend that the preservation of monarchical principles to us would be a direct boon, and the promised military aid of the Mother Country by her troops which that railway could transport in the winter season from Halifax to the frontier of Upper Canada, would insure our protection, for, as it has been truly said, if Canada fails we must all share her fate. In addition we would have the protection of her navy on our coasts as long as the navigation continued open. In the convention at Quebec, it was urged by myself and others that the principle of the constitution of the United States Senate, as regards the number of members from each State, should be applied to the Upper House of the Confederate Legislature. The proposal was overruled, and since that time I have begun to think the decision was right. The Conference adopted a medium course between the two extremes, and if Newfoundland shall come into the scheme the Maritime Provinces will receive four additional members. The principle of representation by population in the lower branch is not a novelty. It was recommended by the late Lord Durham as far back as 1837. The duty of arranging the electoral districts for the first election is to be left to the respective local Governments. The Conference merely apportions the number of representatives to the different Colonies. The hon member for the city (Mr Brecken) said that it would be time to consider our situation when our position as a British Colony shall be involved. He labors under a mistake; the present is the proper time. The crisis will soon arrive, and the time is at hand when we must assume our full share of our burdens. Let the old adage be remembered that those who aid themselves the gods will aid. I am aware of the great satisfaction experienced by the opponents of Confederation at the result of the general election in New Brunswick; but the issue, Union or no Union was not fairly submitted to the people. Personal antipathies had much to do in bringing about the result. Parties took sides on the principle of the old distich—

I do not like thee, Doctor Tell,  
The reason why, I cannot tell.

As to Nova Scotia, any action on her part would have been premature before the result of the New Brunswick elections had been ascertained. Sir, I believe that the sun will yet rise upon a Confederation of those Colonies, notwithstanding the jubilant feelings of the opponents of this great measure at its temporary failure. Thirty-three representatives of the six North American Colonies were united on the question last year, and now several of them, strange to say, oppose it. The Report, in my opinion, embraces the best features of the constitutions of Great Britain and of the United States, applicable to our circumstances; and it is no small satisfaction to those who support the measure of a Union, that though it may meet opposition in the Colonies, it has received approval from the statesmen and press of Great Britain. One great benefit which would accrue from Union would be the diversion of the tide of immigration from the United States to these Colonies, where his civil and religious liberties would be secured to the stranger the moment he landed on our shores. Mr Speaker, I may say that the Report of the delegates embodies principles greater in some respects than those on which the Constitution of the United States is based. The chief ruler of that country is, himself, during his term of office, irresponsible to the people, and is surrounded by a ministry equally irresponsible. The Constitution of the proposed Union acknowledges only our gracious Queen and her successors as the chief authority, and the administration of the Confederate Colonies will be conducted by

N.B.

her representative to be appointed by herself; but he will be advised by ministers responsible for the acts of the Government, and whom an adverse vote in the Lower Branch of the Legislature would at once dismiss from power. In the States, one result of their institutions is the extinction, or, perhaps, more properly the total ignoring the rights of the minority. Where, however, British principles obtain, the rights and privileges of a minority are maintained to them inviolate. One reason for the fact alleged by the hon member for the city (Mr Brecken) that the manufactures of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are of but limited extent, is to be found in the limited market open for their consumption. Once remove the barriers of hostile tariffs, and free trade with four millions of people will at once be the result. Union will have the effect of benefiting all parties, and removing the feelings of estrangement arising from different tariffs. Not many years since the Englishman was estranged from the Frenchman. No international sympathy had existed between the two countries for many centuries; but now a treaty of commerce mutually beneficial has united them, so that one country will not move without the other. Their Union has made these hereditary antagonists the harbingers of peace and civilization. So would it be with us. If hon members had the opportunity of associating with the statesmen of Canada, and if they saw the great resources and made themselves acquainted with her institutions, I am confident that some, at least, would feel that their previously formed opinions were of a very contracted nature, and were based on a defective knowledge of facts. We have been told that Canada is bankrupt—that her debentures are at a discount—that she is sunk in corruption—that it would be madness to unite our fortunes to a country in that condition. Sir, all this is delusive. The debt is seventy-five millions of dollars: of that twenty-five millions are represented by Canals; an amount about equal in Railways, of which she has two thousand miles. The purchase of the Seigneurial Tenures and the cost of the great Victoria Bridge will represent a large proportion of that debt. True it is that Canadian Debentures had fallen in the English market, but that was in consequence of the Trent affair. British capitalists fearing that war might arise out of that occurrence between England and the States, Canada being a portion of the Empire, her securities were naturally depreciated; but I can tell hon members that on receipt of the Report of the Conference in England, they advanced 15 per cent. I have now, Sir, given you my individual views on this vital question, which I am convinced will resolve itself either into a Confederation, or an application to us of the Monroe Doctrine by absorption into the United States. I, for one, am not prepared to sacrifice the constitutional privileges we at present enjoy, and I trust that the inhabitants of those now separate Colonies will soon sing in chorus from Newfoundland to the extreme boundary of Upper Canada

"Let us be firm and united,  
One country, one flag for us all;  
United our strength will be freedom,  
Divided we each of us fall."

• Mr. HOWLAN.—Mr Speaker; the hon and learned member for Georgetown will probably think it vain for me to place my views on this great question side by side with his opinions. We have been told that since the result of the elections in New Brunswick, discussing the subject in this House is only like a disputation in a mere debating club, as our decision can lead to no practical result. But, Sir, the principles involved in the scheme concocted by the delegates at Quebec are still the same, and I look upon it as our duty to give our sentiments freely on this question. We know not how soon another delegation may be originated, and advantage taken of our indifference should we evince such on this occasion. Before this debate is concluded, Sir, I hope the Hon Solicitor General will find that his glowing description of the benefits of Confederation has vanished into thin air. With respect to the subject before the House, there is one thing very apparent to those who were here last Session, namely, that the resolution then passed has not been adhered to. On that occasion the argument of the Leader of the Government was that it would be very uncourtous not to appoint delegates to confer on the subject of Union with others to be appointed by the two neighboring Provinces; but so careful were hon members in regard to

the matter that they placed it on the records of this House that no action should be taken on the question until the delegates appointed should report to the Legislature of the Colony. Now, Sir, we have among the papers laid before this House, a document, which purports to be a report from the delegates authorized to confer on a Legislative Union of the Lower Provinces, but which I take to be no report. It merely states that the delegates met at Charlottetown, then adjourned to Halifax, then to St. John, and then to Canada, where it was decided to postpone the consideration of the question of a Legislative Union of the Maritime Provinces. But the subject which the people of this Island are now called upon to consider is the Report of a delegation not authorized by this House, and one by which the constitution of this Colony is to be wrested from us. In considering the question of Confederation, we ought to view it not as it would affect us at present, but as it would probably operate upon the interests of this Colony in all time to come. The principle of representation by population in the Lower House is borrowed from the American system; yet the Quebec Conference did not follow out the same model with respect to the constitution of the Upper Branch. In the neighboring Republic each State has the privilege of sending two representatives to the Senate, no matter how small its population. New York with its population of 3,097,394, has only the same number of Senators in Congress as the State of Rhode Island with its population of 147,545. The difference between the population of these two States is as 20 to 1, greater fully than it is between that of Upper Canada and this Island; yet while this Report allows Upper Canada 24 members in the Legislative Council of the Confederation, this Colony is only allotted 5. Instead of all the Provinces being allowed the same number of members each in the Upper House, according to the principle of the United States' constitution, each of the Canadas is to have as many Councillors as all the Lower Provinces put together. Then, again, the members of this body are to be appointed for life, a system which would undoubtedly bring about a dead lock, the very state of affairs in Canada which Confederation is intended to remedy. In the 17th paragraph of the Report we are told "the basis of representation in the House of Commons shall be population, as determined by the official census every ten years: and the number of members at first shall be 194." Of this number Upper Canada is to have 82, and Lower Canada 65—in all for Canada 147. The remainder of the 194 is distributed as follows: Nova Scotia 19, New Brunswick 15, Newfoundland 8, P. E. Island 5—in all for the Lower Provinces 47. By this arrangement it will be seen that Canada will have 100 representatives in the House of Commons more than the aggregate of all the other Colonies. Representation by population might be very well for Canada herself, but in a general union of the Colonies it would operate injuriously for the Maritime Provinces, as they could not expect to protect their interests when they would have to contend with 100 of a clear majority over their own representation. This principle would give the city of Montreal with its 101,000 inhabitants one representative more than this Island. Quite different is the representation of Great Britain, for while London has about the same population as Scotland, that city has only 16 members in the House of Commons, while Scotland has 53. But it may be argued that as our population increases our representation will increase. This is very doubtful. Indeed, under the operation of the 20th and 21st clauses of the Report it seems probable that we might lose our representation altogether. Lower Canada is always to have 65 members, and the representation of the other Colonies is to be arranged every ten years so as to give each the same ratio to population as she will then possess. Now, should the population of Lower Canada increase more rapidly than that of this Island, which is almost certain to be the case, our representation would decrease, and we would be left perhaps without a member at all. To shew at least that

It is much more likely that our representation will decrease than increase, I will read the Hon. George Brown's opinion on the subject, as given in the Toronto "Globe." In treating of the probable effect of these two clauses of the Report, to which I have been alluding, on the representation of the Maritime Provinces, that journal says:—

"The fact is best shown by illustration. Prince Edward Island, with a population, say 85,000, is, it is said, to have five representatives at starting. Suppose she increases at the rate of 20 per cent. each ten years, at the end of twenty years her population will be 126,000. But at the same rate of progress the population of Lower Canada would be 1,595,000. Divided by 65, this would give one representative to every 24,538 of her people: so that the Island would not be able to claim an increase of membership. If similar calculations be made with respect to the other Provinces, it will be proved that the additions they will be able to make to their representation will be very small. In fact, if the increase in the population of some of them be not greater in the future than it has been in the past, they will, if the plan be strictly carried out, lose instead of gain."

But there is another point which I desire to notice with respect to representation in the House of Commons. An important alteration has been made by the Canadians in the 24th clause of the Report. In the copy before this House which is signed by Sir E. P. Pease as a "true copy," this clause reads thus:—

"24. The local Legislature of each Province may from time to time alter the Electoral Districts for the purpose of Representation in the House of Commons, and distribute the Representatives to which the Province is entitled in any manner such Legislature may think fit."

But, Sir, I have another copy on my table in which this clause is quite differently worded, and which is the same as the one presented to the Canadian Legislature. It reads as follows:—

"24. The local Legislature of each Province may from time to time alter the Electoral Districts for the purpose of Representation in such Legislature, and distribute the Representatives to which the Province is entitled in such local Legislature in any manner such Legislature may see fit."

This is a very different matter. The clause as it first stood was an important one, because it gave the Local Legislature the power to arrange the districts for the representation in the popular branch of the General Legislature; but as altered it would enable the gentlemen who might hold the destinies of this Island in their hands to out and carve the constituencies as they pleased. The next clause to which I shall refer is the 29th. It places us in the very pleasing position of being subject to all modes of taxation by the General Parliament. The privilege of being taxed is a very great privilege indeed. And if the resources of our local government should be insufficient for the wants of the Colony we have the additional privilege of taxing ourselves. To show how the arrangement for taxation contained in the Report will operate upon the Lower Provinces, I will read an extract from Mr Galt's speech to his constituents at Sherbrooke, wherein he treats of excise duties. He says:

"The General Government would also have the power of regulating excise duties. The imposition of these duties was a necessary corollary to the imposition of the duties of Customs; and the power to impose the one must be given to the same authority that exercised the power to impose the other. Excise duties were placed upon spirits made in the country in order to place the consumer thereof on the same footing he would be on if he consumed spirits imported from abroad." He might remark that in the Lower Provinces they had no excise duties; he believed they did not manufacture whiskey to any extent, but in introducing a system of excise duties they would have to be subjected to the same regulations that were followed in Canada. In general terms he would add that the General Government would have the power of raising money by all the other modes and systems of taxation; the power of taxation had been conferred to the General Legislature, and there was

only one method left to the local Governments, if their own resources became exhausted, and this was direct taxation. Again, in a speech delivered in the Canadian Legislature on the 7th February, Mr Galt said:—

"Let the house be frankly and kindly look at it, as a great measure brought down for the purpose of relieving Canada from distress and depression. At this moment Canada standing alone, had seen her credit seriously impaired; but Confederation would give us a much larger fund to pledge for the security of the public creditor. The Lower Provinces are in a much better position, and if the local revenues became inadequate the local Governments would have to resort to direct taxation."

This talk about direct taxation is no empty theory. The Canadians hint that their impost duties might be lowered under Confederation; but if these were done taxation in another form would have to be resorted to. This idea, however, is not new, for in a debate in the British House of Commons on the 29th of April 1863, the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies said:—

"Her Majesty's Government had freely expressed their opinion, (to the Governor General) "that nothing would tend so much to raise the credit of Canada as a measure for direct taxation, which would enable her to lower her duties upon imports."

Further, we have the testimony of the Hon. George Brown, as to the manner in which the Maritime Provinces are to be taxed to bear the burdens of Canada. I will read from his speech on Confederation in the Assembly of Canada, an extract wherein he touched on this subject:—

"It was said New Brunswick was getting more than her share; but it was absurd to oppose the adoption of a scheme such as this for such a paltry sum. It could not be weighed in the balance against it, and the subsidy was granted for only ten years. We would get a large additional population to assist us in bearing our burdens—a most economical population, too. Why the Chief Justice of Nova Scotia only gets £600 a year. He was in favor of the scheme if it was for Canada alone. The Conference had pledged to open up the great North West and deepen the canal. He believed there was no such instance in history; other nations paid large sums for territory. Louisiana was bought for twenty millions of dollars. What would we not give for Maine or Michigan, or Minnesota, which it was possible to pay? Yet we have paddling objections to give us nearly a million of people and vast and rich territories; a few dollars for a few years ought not to stand in the way."

So we see, then, that our "economical population" is to assist in bearing the burdens of Canada; that there is danger ahead to the best interests of this Colony. It is evident that the whole scheme has been concocted to relieve Canada of her difficulties; but while her politicians are prepared to purchase New Brunswick with a "paltry sum," they have thought this Island too insignificant to offer us any subsidy. The next paragraph to which I will refer is the 55th, relating, among other things, to Canals and Railways. The extension of the Canals, we are told by some of the framers of this Report, is not to be proceeded with until the state of the finances permit; and we are also informed that they will be a general benefit to the Colonies. I am inclined to differ with these gentlemen upon this point. This subject has occupied the attention of the people of Canada for several years. Mr Gore in his work on British America says:—

"What is the estimated cost of Canal extensions? A Canal between Georgian Bay and Lake Ontario is estimated at \$22,170,750, and the improvements which will be required in the St. Lawrence Canal, &c., are estimated at nearly as much more, so as to admit vessels of 1000 tons to pass from Chicago to the ocean. In the Canada Board of works report of 1856, it is stated that the Georgian Canal from comparison with other works would cost \$25,000,000."

It appears that this work has been under the consideration of the Canadian Government for at least ten years, and



and now we are told it is to be undertaken especially for the benefit of the united Colonies. But the question is, when will the state of the finances admit of this Canal extension. The Hon George Brown in his speech at Toronto, said:—

"I will, however, take care, gentlemen, that while I have the honor to be one of the advisers of the Crown, the closest economy shall be practised in all matters of the kind. (Cheers.) But in agreeing to the construction of the Intercolonial Railway, we were not without a slight regard for the interests of the West, and I am happy to say that with UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF THE DELEGATES, WE HAVE AGREED TO THE EXTENSION OF THE CANAL SYSTEM OF THE WEST." (Loud Cheers.)

His constituents would have discarded him for consenting to the construction of the Intercolonial Railway had he not obtained this concession. Upper Canada will insist on Canal extension if the Railway is proceeded with, and without any regard to the state of the finances. The finances would be considered sufficient as soon as Confederation was consummated. We may look upon this as almost certain, and the great point for us to consider is, what benefit would those expensive Canals be to the taxpayers of Prince Edward Island? This is a question which hon members, and the people of the country can very easily answer for themselves. Reference has been made to corruption in Canada, and to the stories in newspapers; but in alluding to the manner in which money has been squandered by Canadian politicians, I do not intend to quote common newspaper authority, but the remarks of the Hon George Brown himself, the present Premier of Canada, based upon an authentic document. In the Toronto Globe of March 8, 1861, the Hon George Brown wrote:—

"The publication of the Auditor's Report upon the financial condition of the Grand Trunk Railway, may be regarded as the final bursting of the great bubble. What was known to a few, suspected by many, and feared by all, who had money in the concern, has now been confirmed by official examination, and published to the world."

"The Company's accounts have been systematically cooked and deliberately falsified by John Ross & Co., to deceive the English proprietors and capitalists. While these gentlemen were claiming a profit in the shape of revenue of \$1,472,118, the Company actually suffered a loss of \$1,009,491! No wonder the Montreal Gazette, the faithful organ of the coalition for years, and the ready apologist of every railway iniquity hitherto brought to light, stands aghast now. The figures, revelations, and arguments of the Auditors, have proved too much even for the Gazette, and he talks boldly of criminal prosecutions, of the personal responsibility of the directors to deluded purchasers of stock, and quotes the statute book in support of his views. He declares that the Report 'will be read with painful interest, that its statements are of the very gravest nature, affecting not only the character, of the management of the Grand Trunk Railway, but the characters, and perhaps the fortunes of individuals.' Of the fitness of the Auditors for their task the Gazette says: 'There are perhaps no men in this country better fitted than Messrs. Allan and Workman to pass a judgment upon it, none who better understand the value of figures, or who are more capable in such matters to winnow the chaff from the wheat. We simply mention this for the benefit of our distant readers. These gentlemen say distinctly, after a careful investigation of the books of the company, that the balance sheet which has been prepared for the eyes of the public is not correct.'"

Hon George Brown adds,—

"But perhaps the most interesting part of the Report is under the head of 'General remarks.' It is there stated as the deliberate opinion of the Auditors, that the present embarrassments of the company have arisen, chiefly from its connection with the successive Governments of the Province, and the necessity therefrom of conciliating political support. Under this head they appropriately place Mr GALT's HUGS SWINDLE in the purchase of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic

Railway at 37½ per cent. premium WHEN IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN PURCHASED AT 60 per cent. discount. The leasing of the Portland end at 6 per cent. annual interest on its entire capital, when its stock was selling at a very large discount, ANOTHER SWINDLE OF MR GALT, by which he realized a fortune, is added to the list. The loss to the company through the speculations of Mr Galt and his friends is set down by the Auditors at \$6,000,000. The murder is out at last, upon the authority of the Company's own Auditors, that ALEXANDER T. GALT, our worthy Finance Minister, and John Ross, our equally worthy Minister of Agriculture, have made ENORMOUS FORTUNES, but at an expense to the Grand Trunk stockholders of (6,000,000) SIX MILLIONS OF DOLLARS."

I may be simply allowed to ask if it is safe to entrust the financial affairs of the United Colonies to such men. The clauses of the Report numbered 60, 61 and 62, call for a passing notice. The 60th says that "the General Government shall assume all the debts and liabilities of each Province." And the next two state the amount of debt to be assumed for Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The arrangement does not give satisfaction to the people of Nova Scotia, for they say the debt of Canada is large, her railroad does not pay, and her debentures rate very low in the money market. New Brunswick has not so much reason to complain, for she presented her claim for compensation, and obtained \$63,000 for ten years. But when poor Prince Edward Island asked for a few thousand pounds to buy up her proprietary lands, it would not be granted. A proposition to this effect was made by one of our delegates, and I believe none of them can tell who seconded the motion. There was certainly something wrong here. I am of opinion that had our delegates advocated the interests of the Island as well as Mr Tilley did those of New Brunswick, we would have received a grant for the purchase of our lands. They would have some show of argument in favor of this Colony entering the Union, could they come down to this House and tell us that the long vexed Land Question was to be at last set at rest. Instead of procuring a sum for this purpose they had not obtained a single farthing. Is the settlement of our land question not as important to us as the railway to Pictou for Nova Scotia, western extension for New Brunswick, or \$150,000 a year to Newfoundland? We have the best of authority for supposing that had the application for a grant to buy up the proprietors' lands of this Island been unanimously supported by our delegates, it would have been acceded to. That authority is the Hon George Brown, who, in an extract which I have already quoted, said respecting the allowance to New Brunswick, "It was absurd to oppose the adoption of a scheme such as this for such a paltry sum." I now come to what we are to receive under Confederation, as laid down in the 63d and 64th clauses of the Report. I, however, can scarcely call it receiving, for in this case we are to pay the difference to boot. The Hon Colonial Secretary says this Report is just and liberal to Prince Edward Island. Is it justice to require us to pay some £20,000 more than we receive? If this be justice, it is such as I will never accede to. We are to give up a large and increasing revenue to the politicians of Canada, who have never been able to govern their own country, and what are we to receive in return? We are to get 80 cents per head of our present population, and the interest of £632,812, being the proportion of debt in our favor, in all amounting to about £50,000. We have been told that a part of this £632,812 may be taken to buy up proprietary lands; but the Report says nothing of the kind; it only states that we shall be entitled to receive the interest at 5 per cent. Besides, if the principal was taken to purchase lands, the amount of interest which would then be received would be less, and our local revenue diminished to that extent, consequently there would be no gain. With respect to the allowance of 80 cents per head for the benefit of the local governments, it would be insufficient for the Lower Provinces, but it would

be a gain to Canada, as will be seen by the following statement:—

CANADA.	
Subsidy,	\$2,006,121
Local revenues retained,	1,297,048
	\$3,303,154
Deduct local appropriations given up,	2,260,129

Gain by Canada, \$1,043,025

This gain to Canada would amount to about 41 cents per head of the population, while the Maritime Provinces by giving up their customs' revenues and only receiving 80 cents per head in return, besides having the Judges' salaries and a few others paid, would be under the necessity, in order to carry on their local governments, to resort to direct taxation, together with having to submit to an increased Tariff. But it is said that after the Union their Tariff will be reduced from 20 to 15 per cent. Why should theirs come down and ours go up? If, under Confederation, the tariff could be made 15 per cent, it must be on account of the flourishing state of the Maritime Provinces. But why should our tariff be raised to even 15 per cent? I must say again this is a *justice and liberality* which I cannot understand. As a set off, however, to an increased tariff we are told that we would have an interest in the vast public works of Canada, costing over 20 millions of dollars, and that we would be united to a country possessing great wealth. It is a strange thing that Canada with all these advantages is running so rapidly into debt. The following statement of her financial affairs for several years, copied from authentic sources, does not show that she is a prosperous country:—

	Receipts.	Payments.
1857	\$6,981,062	\$11,846,690
1858	8,072,536	11,168,039
1859	8,157,336	9,630,592
1860	9,014,881	12,565,652
1861	9,738,258	11,932,652
1862	10,629,204	11,395,928

In 1863 an attempt was made to reduce the expenditure, which was accomplished to the extent of \$228,837 and still the result, as officially stated, was

Expenditure, less redemption of debt	\$10,742,807
Receipts, less sale of Debentures and Sinking Fund	9,760,816
Deficiency	\$ 972,491

These annual deficiencies, amounting in the aggregate to \$16,964,000 have passed into the funded debt of Canada, and now form part of the debt of \$62,500,000 which that Province asks the Confederation to assume.

Here in a few short years we see that her debt has increased over 16 millions, and for the great privilege of contributing towards paying the interest of this debt, we are to receive 80 cents per head! But Galt says that last year Canada would have a balance of revenue in her favor, and talks of reducing the debt under Confederation. Now, Sir, when the statement of a country propose to lower their tariff and reduce their debt, they must intend to do it by taxing some person. But even though 80 cents a head should be sufficient for our present wants, it would not be sufficient in a few years. Our Prince of Wales College costs us a large sum, and our common Schools require no small portion of our revenue; but if in a few years our population were to increase to 300,000, and we should want larger Colleges, and almost twice as many schools, we would not receive a single farthing more from the General Government. Is this justice or liberality? Our revenue in 1850 was £18,000, and last year £66,000 or nearly £70,000, making a difference of nearly £52,000. Supposing, then, that this Delegation had taken place in 1850, £18,000 would have been taken as the basis to work upon, and the increase in 14 years, namely £52,000, shows to some extent the increasing amount which we

would annually pay into the general treasury under Confederation. But to begin with, the difference between the Tariffs of Canada and this Island, would give us at once nearly £27,000 additional to pay. Some, however, may say that the Tariff under Confederation would not yield so great a revenue as would appear by adding the difference between the Canadian Tariff and our own. The amount could be very little less, for the principal items which go to make up our revenue are the duties on articles not produced within the bounds of this great Confederation. In 1863 the revenue which we derived from the following articles was:—

Molasses	£4834	2	0
Sugar	1562	0	0
Tea	7045	0	0
Tobacco	1206	0	0
Rum	3506	0	0
Brandy	661	0	0

£18,814 2 0

On these six articles alone—which are only some of the number that must be imported—you see we had a revenue in 1863 of £18,814, while the whole revenue for the year was merely £38,550. But we are told to look at the advantages of intercolonial free trade. This is only a very weak argument, for free trade could be obtained independently of a Union of the Colonies. The following memorandum under date 18th September, 1862, signed by the Premiers of the three Provinces, is conclusive on this point:—

“The delegates from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the Government of Canada, having under consideration the report of the Hon. the Finance Minister of Canada, of the 8th September, instant, on the subject of Intercolonial Reciprocity, agree—

1. That the free interchange of goods, the growth, produce, and manufacture of the Provinces, and uniformity of tariff, are considered to be an indispensable consequence of the construction of the Intercolonial Railway.

2. But in consequence of the recent diminution of the revenues of the respective Provinces arising out of the war in the neighbouring republic, and the increased liabilities incurred by the additional obligations necessary to the construction of the proposed road, the delegates from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia regret that they are not at this moment in a position to adopt measures to carry this important principle into practical effect.

(Signed) J. S. McDONALD, (For Canada.)

(Signed) JOSEPH HOWE,

(Signed) S. L. TILLEY.”

Then, again, it is said Canada will furnish a market for our produce. We are to have nearly 4,000,000 of people to deal with. It, however, will be a strange thing if Canada, which exports large quantities of the same kinds of agricultural produce that we have to spare, will afford us any advantages in this respect. The Board of Trade returns for that Province show:—

“In the year 1863, Canada exported 8,905,578 lbs. of butter; 556,305 dozen eggs; 3,844,272 lbs of pork; 1,182,576 lbs of ham; 1,201,819 barrels of flour; 1,905,980 bushels of oats; 6,741,479 bushels of wheat; 2,147,977 bushels of barley and rye; 17,650 barrels of oatmeal; 29,163 barrels of fish, and 187,599 cwt. of dried fish.”

So that in almost every way we can view this Report, it presents nothing to us but increased taxation on the industry of this Island. And I now come to notice some of the more prominent items of expenditure of which we would have to bear a share under Confederation. The 67th clause says: “All engagements, that may, before the Union, be entered into with the Imperial Government for the defence of the Country, shall be assumed by the General Government.” This question of defence seems to have been the burden of nearly every speech of the delegates. At one of the dinners given to them the Hon George Brown said:—

"I cannot conclude without referring to some other things which have received the grave attention of the Conference. And the first point to which I desire to call attention is, the fact that the delegates have unanimously resolved that the United Provinces shall be placed at the earliest moment in a thorough state of defence. The attacks which have been made upon us have created the impression that these Provinces are in a weak and feeble state; if, then, we would do away with this false impression, and place ourselves on a firm and secure footing in the eyes of the world, our course must be to put our country in such a position of defence that we may fearlessly look our enemies in the face. It is a pleasure to me to state, and I am sure it must be a pleasure to all present to be informed, that the Conference at Quebec did not separate before entering into a pledge to put the MILITARY AND NAVAL DEFENCES OF THE UNITED PROVINCES IN A MOST COMPLETE AND SATISFACTORY POSITION."

Not being a military man, I approach this question of defence with considerable diffidence. I believe, however, it is all a matter of moonshine. I have the fullest confidence in Great Britain's ability to defend her Colonies, and very little faith in their being able to protect themselves. For stating that the latter is a ridiculous idea, I have the authority of a military man—no less than Lieut. Colonel Haviland—who, in addressing this House on this subject last Session, said :—

"As to the idea attributed to the Imperial Government that these Colonies are able to bear the burden of defending themselves against the invasion of a foreign foe, the sooner Great Britain awakes from that delusion the better. Our small annual appropriation of £400 for the volunteer organization is not passed without strong expressions of disapprobation, while Nova Scotia grants \$20,000 for that service."

I think since last year, another change has come over the spirit of his dream. (Laughter.) But at the utmost what does Great Britain expect us to do for our defence? I will read the resolution of the House of Commons on the subject, together with the War Minister's explanation thereof :—

"That this House (while fully recognizing the claims of all portions of the British empire to imperial aid in their protection against perils arising from the consequences of imperial policy), is of opinion, that colonies exercising the rights of self-government, ought to undertake the main responsibility of providing for their own internal order and security, and ought to assist in their own external defence."

A few days after the passage of this resolution, a debate occurred in the Commons relative to an appropriation for military purposes in the Mauritius and Nova Scotia, when Mr Adderly spoke as follows :—

"According to the resolution assented to by the House, the distant possessions of the Crown were to be responsible for their own internal defence, and to take their share in the repulse of a foreign enemy, the further proposition that distant fortifications should be discontinued was not pressed because accepted of course." Mr A. continued "as regards Nova Scotia, bearing in mind the resolution agreed to the other night, he would like to ask what share of the burthen of the defence, the Government expected that Colony to take?"

Sir Geo. Lewis replied, "its share would be the maintenance of a Militia."

If that is what Nova Scotia is expected to do, I do not think it probable that this Colony will be required to undertake more. Then, again, what are we to understand by "the communications with the North Western Territory," as set forth in the 69th clause. That it is no new subject, and an undertaking which will involve great expense, will be seen from an extract from the preface of a work by Professor Hinds, called "A Narrative of the Canadian Exploring Expedition." He says :—

"The chief difficulty in the way of rapid transit across the continent lies between Lake Superior and Rainy Lake. The liberality which has already been manifested by the Parliament of Canada, in voting supplies to explore and open this communication, will doubtless be persevered in until the route is

well established." In 1857 an expedition was sent out by the Canadian Government with the following instructions; "The primary object is to make a thorough examination of the tract of country between Lake Superior and Red River; to determine the best route for a communication through British Territory from that Lake to the Red River Settlement, and ultimately to the great tracts of cultivable land beyond them." In vol. 2, page 212, it is stated "That the shortest line of road from the limits of the settlement on Western Canada via the shores of Lakes Huron and Superior, to the North Corner of the Lake of the Woods exceeds 1000 miles. When the mineral wealth of Lakes Huron and Superior form the basis of speculative enterprise on an enlarged scale, a winter communication with these regions will become a necessity, and may ultimately extend Westward to Red River. It is not improbable that circumstances now dimly foreseen may expedite the opening of this communication, and make it a matter not only of Colonial but Imperial interest."

It would appear from these statements that the communication referred to is principally for a military road. However that may be, if we enter the Union we must pay for it, whatever its cost, which will probably be nearly as much as that of the Intercolonial Railway. And in the face of all this we are told that taxation will not be increased. I will sum up a few of the items of increased expenditure to show that such an idea must be absurd; and in doing so I will only mention those expenses which must be borne immediately should the Confederation scheme be consummated :—

Intercolonial Railway, as estimated	\$15,000,000
Canal Extension	30,000,000
	<hr/> \$45,000,000 <hr/>
Interest on the above amount for Railway and Canals at 6 per cent	\$2,700,000
Estimated expense of new Parliament	600,000
Militia beyond present expense	500,000
Army and Navy, estimated to cost	2,500,000
	<hr/> \$5,300,000 <hr/>

Of this sum not a farthing is paid at present. How, then, I ask could the Government under Confederation be carried on without increased taxation? Again, we are told, that Union would tend to develop our fisheries. But I would ask is there anything now to prevent people from Canada or any other place coming here and engaging in the fisheries? I heard a gentleman who was extensively engaged in fisheries at Gaspé state that though he received a bounty of 25 per cent he would not come to prosecute them in this Colony. We are further told that if we do not enter the proposed Union we will be like dormice. But, Sir, would we then have any greater scope for our youth more than now? Have not Davies, Hyndman, and others of our young men, as great a field open for them in the British service as they would have in a Confederation with a paltry population of 4 millions of people? Have we not, Sir, the hon and gallant Colonel, who achieved laurels in Her Majesty's military service; and had we not a Little who gained civil honors in Newfoundland? But, why, I would ask, all this agitation about Union? Have the people of this Colony petitioned to do away with its constitution? Do they wish to enter Confederation? I believe they complain of their land tenures; but have they set forth any other grievance? And further, is there anything in the financial condition of the Colony to warrant us in going into Confederation? Take our Blue Book for 1863-4 and see what unexceptionable state of our Revenue it presents. It shows :—

Imports	£293,431
An increase of those of the previous year.	£ 82,191 over
Exports	£209,472
An increase of those of the previous year.	£ 58,923 over
Value of Imports over Exports	\$ 83,959

Which is set off by 100 vessels,  
24,981 tons, the value of  
which is about £125,000  
Which leaves a balance in the  
favor of the Colony of £ 40,000

It is well enough for those to go into Confederation who have not been able to manage their own affairs; but for us to do so in the prosperous state of our Revenue, would be but committing political suicide. Some of the delegates, however, inform us that we may obtain £250,000 to buy proprietary lands. There is nothing in the Report to this effect; all that I see promised is interest for a certain sum. If the hon member for St. Peters were in the General Legislature, and to rise and ask for a grant of £200,000 to purchase proprietors' lands, could he have the face to point to a certain paragraph of the Report, and say I claim this sum as a constitutional right! (Laughter.) But it might be said, he would have other four members to aid him in urging our rights. Our delegates, did they wish to ensure our rights, had a much better opportunity to gain their point at a conference of a few individuals than in a House of 194 members. Their first object ought to have been to get a settlement of our Land Question—the only question which is a grievance in the Colony, and then they might have come with some show of reason and asked us to go into Confederation. But they ask us to give up our constitution—for what? simply the glory of belonging to a country with four millions of people! (Hear, hear.) I believe our people would prefer representation in the Imperial Parliament to Union with Canada, for though they might scarcely have one member in the British House of Commons, they would at least feel that their liberties were in the hands of people that could be trusted.

The Debate was then adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, March 29.

Debate on Union of Colonies resumed.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH.—Mr Speaker: This question comes before us with a different aspect from that which it presented last Session. Last year the question of a Union of the Maritime Provinces was discussed on the suggestions of the Lieut. Governors of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. An argument has been drawn from this, that it was wrong in the Island Government to send delegates to Canada without the previous consent of the Legislature. We thought it but right to follow the example of our sister Colonies in complying with the request of Lord Monck. The number of delegates who were appointed to the Conference which sat at Charlottetown was increased by the addition of the Hon Mr Whelan and the Hon Solicitor General. The Government had every confidence in the judgment and ability of the gentlemen whom they had appointed on the Canadian mission. Whatever might be the result of the Conference, the Government had expressed no opinion; they left it an open question, and therefore every member has a right to express his own opinion on it. It is not my intention to discuss the great principles involved, nor the various details set forth in the Report of the delegates as the result of their deliberations. In view of the thorough manner in which the subject has been handled in the press and at public meetings, it is unnecessary to encumber this debate with figures and calculations. The first consideration that occurs to my mind on the subject is the peculiar situation of the Island. We are an agricultural country, our fisheries are but partially developed. Our insular position necessitates our entrance into the Union under circumstances less favorable than either Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. Canada has great resources, and her agricultural capabilities are unbounded. Nature has united Canada and New Brunswick. It is impossible that we can participate in the advantages anticipated from the Union in proportion to the other Colonies; therefore, in my opinion, the Conference at Quebec should have treated us as

entitled to an exceptional *status* in the Confederacy. I do not mean to say that under no circumstances would a Union be advisable, but we should have been placed upon a different and more favorable footing than the other Colonies. I agree that the Report is an able one, but many of its details will not bear scrutiny. As to the principle of representation by population, although not objectionable under some circumstances, yet I do not approve its application in the present matter. The representation in the Lower House should have been on the British principle, while the example afforded by the United States Senate could have been advantageously followed in the constitution of the Upper Branch of the Legislature. When my hon and learned friend, the Hon Solicitor General, says that the delegates from the Maritime Colonies exercised a controlling influence in the framing and adoption of the Report, it appears to be an admission that they were novel principles, principles hitherto tested by the experience of any previous Confederation of which history makes mention. It shows me that it was a plan devised to meet some complications or the particular views of some parties. The Island representatives in the Upper Branch would have some check which might avail to compensate for the wretched minority which we would be entitled to send to the Lower House, where a representation of 5 out of 194 might render it impolitic for our members to oppose a measure they disapproved of, lest they should not be permitted to carry any vote which they might wish. I cannot see any prospect of safety for this Colony in a Legislature composed in such proportions. Canada could, at any moment, outvote us; nor is there any reason to suppose that Nova Scotia and New Brunswick would unite to save us. But, Sir, looking at this question in a pound, shillings and pence point of view, the scheme fails to commend itself to my judgment. What are the terms proposed? We are to receive some £48,000 per annum in commutation of a revenue which has been increasing for the last fourteen years, until last year it approximated to £66,000, and which it is but reasonable to suppose would continue to increase in the same ratio as it has manifested for the period to which I have referred. When it is asked of us that we should surrender our separate rights and submit to the terms which the proposed Confederacy may impose upon us, do hon members realize the full extent of the concession involved? We are requested to give up not merely the difference in amount of revenue to which I have referred, but matters of higher moment. We are required to yield up our position of comparative dependence as a separate Colony, and to reduce the scope of our legislative functions to the privileges of a local vestry in the Mother Country—the right of levying parish taxes for local purposes. In reference to what has been said on the subject of free trade with Canada and the benefits we would receive from it, I will take the liberty of confirming my views by extracting from the official statistics the returns of our commercial intercourse with that country for a few years. From our Public Accounts it appears that the duty paid on Imports into P. E. Island from Canada in 1863, was, on

Ale and Porter	£9 8 9
Soap	3 3 8
Leather	1 13 7½
Miscellaneous	15 9
Tobacco *	43 13 6
Wines *	12 17 7
Tea *	8 14 7½
Salt *	7 17 3
Molasses *	2 3 6
<b>Total</b>	<b>£89 7 10</b>

These marked thus \* (evidently not the productions of Canada) paid in duty

75 6 6

Leaving for Ale and Porter, Soap, &c. the supposed produce of Canada

£14 1 4

In 1860, 1861 and 1862 the duty on Imports into P. E. Island from Canada, amounting to the aggregate value of £15 15s 9d, was only £4 5s 6d for the three years, or £1 8s 6d a year!!! Another and most important consideration is the position in which we, under Confederation, will be placed with reference to our obligations to contribute to the defence of Canada. We have been told that an army and navy must be organized for the protection of that country, for the local defence of which, in the

shape of permanent works of military defence, competent authority has declared that no less a sum than £1,143,000 sterling will be required. In view of those considerations, and looking at the vast sums of money which, under the terms of the Report it is calculated to expend in the building of Railways and Canals and other Public Works, I am of opinion that if we should cast in our lot with Canada, instead of witnessing a reduction of her present tariff from 20 to 15 per cent, as intimated by the advocates of Union, we should see it largely increased. In fact the only argument on which the probability of the supposed reduction can be based is that the Lower Provinces would consume a much larger amount of dutiable articles than they do at present. I maintain that it is a reasonable inference that the tariff of Canada would, under Confederation, rise instead of falling 5 per cent. Our exports being of a similar character to those which Western Canada furnishes in abundance, the idea of a mutual interchange of commodities is chimerical, and the only result to our people from Confederation would be direct taxation, which would be necessary to raise the revenue, our proposition of which we would have to assume. This question, Mr. Speaker, should be viewed from the single stand point of the individual Colony to be affected by it, and therefore I do not, as one of the representatives of Prince Edward Island, regard the expression of public opinion which has been elicited on it in the neighboring Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. It is our duty to deal with it as it affects ourselves. The Colonies to which I have alluded are territorially situate with reference to Canada in a manner very different from this Island, and therefore arguments which, on that account might be used in those Colonies in favor of the project, cannot hold or apply here. As a representative of Prince Edward Island I feel it my duty conscientiously to record my solemn protest against the principles and terms of a Union which, in my judgment, would prove most injurious to the best interests of this my native country.

**Mr. SINCLAIR.**—The advocates of Union can easily occupy time in speaking on this question. Extensive railways, large canals, and cities springing rapidly into existence is such a beautiful and glowing picture that it forms a theme on which they can expatiate at pleasure. But, Mr. Speaker, when we seek to examine the picture it is found to be nothing but dreams and vanishes away. I think it would be most detrimental to the interests of Prince Edward Island to enter the proposed Union. But still I am open to conviction. I have, however, listened to the able speeches of the advocates of Confederation without my opinion being changed—without being able to think otherwise than that Union with Canada would ruin the Island politically and financially. One great argument of the friends of Union is the "glory argument." It would, say they, open up a wide field for our young men. This Colony, however, small as it is, might send forth talented individuals from among her sons. It is true greatness to produce great men. We might belong to Russia with her vast territories, but would that make us great? What is it that leads Englishmen, Scotchmen and Irishmen to be proud of their respective countries? It is because they have been distinguished by many great men. And this Island might be the same. I am proud of being descended from British ancestors, but I am proud also of being an Islander. (Hear, hear.) I believe that the people of Prince Edward Island can take their position beside the people of any country in the globe. There is nothing in her present situation to prevent her sons from rising in the world. It is argued further that by doing away with hostile tariffs this Colony will make great strides in improvement. I do not admit that we have hostile tariffs. The view I take of such tariffs is that they are to prevent competition, namely, to foster manufactures by preventing people from buying in the cheapest market. This would be the nature of the tariffs under Confederation, for it is well known that Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick cannot manufacture for many years the articles which we require. It is well known, also, that it is impossible to carry on manufactures extensively with a sparse population, the arguments of the Hon. Solicitor General to the contrary notwithstanding. Labor cannot be so cheap in a new country. That a large part of the population of Britain is dependent on manu-

factures, was evidenced by the fact that many of those working for low wages in factories were nearly starved when cotton became high. This could not be the case in an extensive country like America. Prince Edward Island, on account of her position, can never become a great manufacturing country. Our exports will not be to Canada, because she does not want our agricultural produce, still we will be compelled to purchase many manufactured articles there, for if we shut out the Americans by hostile tariffs they will not trade with us; and British goods will be excluded in the same way. We have, therefore, seen that the "glory argument" promises no benefit, and that the tariff argument is worse. What then are we to receive to induce us to enter Confederation? The hon. and gallant member for Belfast says we are to get a large sum of money from Canada to buy up the proprietors' lands. I maintain that by the terms of this Report we will not receive a single farthing from Canada. The £28,000 interest, or thereabouts, which it is said we are to draw for the proportion of debt in our favor, would not be drawn at all—it would only be placed to our credit. We would have our share of the aggregate debt of the Colonies to pay, and the amount placed to our credit annually would be just equal to the interest which this Colony, according to her population, would require to pay on the debt of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. So that by this arrangement not one penny would really come to the Island—it would only save us from being taxed for the debt of other people. Besides this, however, we are told that this Island is to receive a capitation grant of 80 cents which will yield a little over £20,000; and that the salaries of her judges, and some other expenses will be paid, amounting to about £10,000 more. But as our Revenue is now £66,000, by this arrangement we would lose over £30,000 annually, with the tariff as ours is at present; if the Canadian tariff, however, were adopted, the sum lost would be nearer £90,000. But some maintain that the expenses under Confederation would be less. This is more than questionable, for there would be a general government to support, public works to be undertaken, and the cost of defences to provide for. It has been estimated that the whole expenses under Confederation would amount to \$13,000,000, but I believe it would be nearer \$20,000,000. It is impossible to say what the future shall be, but I may be allowed to make a calculation, basing my figures on the past. The expenditure of the Canadian Government for six years, from 1857 to 1862, was £21,432,584, or an average yearly expenditure of £3,572,110. Now taking the population of Canada at 2½ millions, it is a simple question, in simple proportion, if 2½ millions of a population expends £3,572,110 a year, what would P. E. Island, with a population of 80,000, expend at the same rate, and I find we would expend £114,307 a year. Now we will see what P. E. Island did expend during the same period. In the same 6 years the Government of this Island expended £299,168, or an average yearly expenditure of £49,861; so that if we had been in connection with Canada the last 6 years, we would have had to make up a revenue over what we did pay of £64,446 a year, or during the said 6 years we would have had to pay for the Canadian Government the sum of £386,672. This is the sum which we have gained by being out of or without Confederation for the last six years. Canada cannot decrease her expenditure, so it is well for us in looking forward to the future in financial matters to judge by the past. But then, again, by this scheme we will be required to give up our political independence. What is dearer to a man than his country and its institutions? By accepting Confederation we would be surrendering everything which we can politically hold dear. While we have a system of self-government, we may sometimes get into difficulties, yet affairs will soon rectify themselves; but if we cast in our lot with others much more numerous than ourselves we will be driven wherever their fancy leads. I cannot conclude

my remarks without protesting against the manner in which this question has come before us. A subject of such importance as this should have been before us for years, and canvassed fully by the press and the people ere it was submitted to the House in the form which it assumes in the Report under discussion. It has not originated with the people, and almost the first clause which it contains deprives them of a right, as it provides places for at least 77 Members in a general parliament of the Colonies, where they will be independent of the people, and independent of the Crown. What authority had the delegates to go to Canada and thus sign away our rights? They may say that they were invited by the Governor General. I say the Governor General has no power to interfere with the constitutional liberties of the people of this Colony. The people or their representatives alone should take up this question, and I look upon the action taken in this matter as a conspiracy against their privileges.

Hon. Col. Stansfeld moved an adjournment, and Hon. Mr. Pore opposed the motion.

Mr. HOWAT.—Mr. Speaker, I would prefer that we should finish the discussion this evening, as the advanced season renders it desirable that we should get through the business of the Session as soon as possible. As to the question of Union, may I say that I am opposed to it on any conditions. The proposition assigned to us in the United House of Commons would deprive us of all influence in that branch of the Legislature, and our situation in the Upper Branch would render us more helpless still; and the fact that some of the most able and intelligent men in the Island failed to obtain better terms at the Conference is as strong an argument as I require to show me what our position would be under Confederation. The advocates of Union who have addressed you on the subject have endeavored to show that our taxes will not be increased when united; but how, I would ask, could the expenses to be incurred for an army, a navy, and fortifications be met except by increase of taxation? Increase of manufactures to any considerable amount would require a protective tariff, and our Legislature can adopt the principles of protection or free trade, as it suits them, just as well at present as they could under Confederation. The Hon. Solicitor General has remarked upon the benefit we should receive from Union by having an independent Legislature, but by the Report of the delegates I perceive that our legislation would require approval in Canada, and might afterwards be disallowed at Downing Street. As to the defence in Canada, they would be no safeguard to us. The loyalty of some of the Canadians is not beyond doubt in my mind, and notwithstanding the allusion made by the Hon. Solicitor General to such men as Cromwell and Washington, I am disposed to judge of the future of some people by their conduct in the past.

Mr. Howlan seconded the motion for an adjournment. It was unfair to press a division to-night when some members had not spoken.

Hon. Mr. Pore, though anxious to close the debate, was not disposed to treat the Minority unjustly, and would consent to the division being taken to-morrow evening.

THURSDAY, March 30.

Hon. Mr. KELLY.—Mr. Speaker; In rising to address you on this all-important subject of Confederation with Canada and the Lower Provinces, I find few arguments adduced in favor of it which have not been ably confuted by hon members already. Sorry I am to see as its advocates hon members in this House of whose talents and position in any other cause our Island might justly feel proud. I wish, Sir, to record my determined opposition to Confederation with Canada or with the Lower Provinces in any shape or on any terms. I feel convinced that any change in our constitution of the nature contemplated, would not operate beneficially to us. We are told that unless we surrender our separate constitution and place ourselves under the

protection of the Canadian Legislature and the general Confederacy of Canada, we shall be overrun by, or absorbed into, the United States. I have no fear, Sir, that the Government of the Stars and Stripes will interfere with us if we do not interfere with them, of which there is little prospect. I am glad to hear that New Brunswick has condemned the scheme—that Nova Scotia does not wish it, and if reports speak truly, Newfoundland is not likely to adopt it—and it has been said that the majority of the people of Canada are themselves opposed to it. But I regret to hear some hon members of this House, while declaring their opposition to the measure, their willingness to adopt it, if more favorable terms could be obtained for the Island. I have no doubt, Sir, that the Canadian diplomatists, having their minds upon effecting their object, would rather than justify their pet scheme, yield whatever concessions might be demanded of them, knowing that their proponderance in the United Legislature would enable them to make whatever alterations they please, and that the machinery of a parliamentarianism then left would render us powerless to prevent them, or even to complain. The hon. and gallant Colonel, the member for Belfast, told me a few evenings ago that he was waiting for a copy of the Bill on paper and signed and sealed, O'Connell would have gladly accepted a constitution in College Green of an Irish Parliament similar to the constitution that was proposed for us at the Glasgow Convention. The hon member labors under a great mistake. I am sorry to say a great one has been to have accepted for his country a Legislature less independent than that which she possessed before it, even treasonably sold from her by a pack of wretches placed in the last Parliament of that ill-fated nation through the influence of Pitt, Cornwallis and Castlereagh. A few of the names of these men I will read to you from a list which I hold in my hand, and although the descendants of some of them may retain the titles so villainously obtained, their names and races will be held in execration by Irishmen over the world to the end of time. The present question forcibly reminds me of the lament of your gifted countryman, Mr. Speaker, when he refers to the sad time

"When once beneath a monarch's feet  
Saw Legislation's sovereign powers."

We have, Sir, sovereign legislative powers, whereby we can make our own laws and direct the application of our own incomes among our own people at our own pleasure, and I hope the day is far distant when this, our Parliament, shall be converted into a Barrack or a Bank, or ourselves deprived of the constitutional privileges which we have so long enjoyed under the guarantee of the Imperial Government. The following list, contains the names of some of the parties who sold Ireland, and the price at which they consented to barter away the constitution of their country:—Lord Shannon, £45,000. Lord Loftus, £45,000. John Bingham, a Peerage. (Lord Clanmorris) and £23,000. Joseph Blake, a Peerage (Lord Wallscourt.) James G. Blackwood, a Peerage; (Lord Dufferin.) Joseph Cuffe, a Peerage, (Lord Tyrwley.) Richard Hare, a Peerage, (Lord Ennismore.) John Hutchinson, a Peerage and a Regt., (Lord Hutchinson.) Wm. Hancock, a Peerage, (Lord Athlone.) Charles Coote, a Peerage, (Lord Castlecoote, since extinct.) Lodge Morris, a Peerage, William Newcomen, a Peerage for his wife. John Blaquiere, a Peerage, (Lord DeBlaquiere.) G. Cradock, a Peerage, (Lord Howden.) John Longfield, a Peerage, (Lord Longueville.) Wm. Sandford, a Peerage, (Lord Mt. Sandford.) Richard French, a Peerage, (Lord Ashtown.) John Stawart, a Lawyer, a Peerage, and a Judgeship, (Lord Clonmel.) Arthur Galbraith, an Attorney, a Baronetcy. Hercules Langrishe, a Baronetcy and £16,000. George Jocelyn, his brother made a Bishop, (Clogher.) Henry Alexander, his brother made a Bishop. John Bagwell, his son made a Dean. John Fitzgibbon, son of an obscure Roman Catholic Lawyer, made Lord Chancellor and Earl of Clave, an arrogant, cruel and overbearing tyrant. Isaac Corry, Chancellor of the Exchequer. John Toler, made L.C. Justice and a Peer, (the brutal Norbury.) Luke Fox, a Judge of the Common Pleas. Charles Osborne, Judge of the King's Bench. St. John Daly, Judge of the Common Pleas. Robert Johnston, Judge of the K. B. Wm. Johnston, a Baron of the Exchequer. James McGlelland, Baron of the Exchequer. Wm. Smith a Baron of the Exchequer. R. Torrens, a Judge of the King's Bench. W. Vandeleur, a Judge of the Common Pleas. The lowest of the foregoing at a salary of £3,300 a year with over 20 county Judges at £600 a year. In addition to the foregoing I might give the names of over twenty-five of the Renegades who were made Colonels

in His Majesty's service, among whom is the name of the brave Charles Caine to a Regiment taken from Colonel Burton, the grandfather, I believe, of our own hon member of that name from Lot 11, and who, to his lasting honor be it remembered, "Castles" could not purchase.

**SIR CONROY.**—Sir, I have considerable diffidence in addressing you on the subject before the House, in consequence of the very long and eloquent speeches we have listened to for the last three nights; but I believe every gentleman in the House is expecting to state his opinions on the matter before us. I do not hesitate to say that I am decidedly opposed to the contemplated Union. Some gentlemen have depicted the most prosperous part of the debt—Fishes and Gloop. I do not think that any person can be found so simple as to believe that the Union offered you is financially beneficial to us. We give up our present revenue for little more than half its amount. The sum we are to receive is not to increase with our increasing population. While we give to strangers the power to raise our duties of import and export to any amount they choose, we have no redress but that in a few years, if we entered this famous Confederation, they would be raised in three times the amount they are at present. As the wants of the Confederacy would require taxation would be increased. And what control or management have we to have in our affairs? Having but five representatives in a Parliament composed of one hundred and ninety-four members, we might as well have none at all. But it is said that we need not fear that taxation will be uniform, and when they tax us they also tax themselves in like manner. But, Sir, whom I observe how unwilling we have been to increase our taxes in a trifling way, for the purpose of raising an amount which we absolutely required, I cannot see how we can agree to place such a power in the hands of persons who are so rootless in matters of taxation affecting themselves; and as to the glory part of the scheme, as it is called, I have no sympathy with soldiering unless it is required, nor would I agree to have our Militia sent to Canada; they had better stay at home and protect their own country; and if, as it is said, the battle must be fought in Canada, all the better for us. With the protection and support of England we need not fear; but if England is to abandon us, as some say she will, and the United States should make war on us, the more quietly we submit the better. That we could, by entering into the proposed Confederation, successfully resist such a power is simply absurd. Sir, I have no fear that the Americans would come here to cut our throats or do us any serious injury. We have never done them wrong, they have no revenge to gratify; and when I say this I must be understood as not expressing disloyal sentiments, for have I not read of English statesmen, even in Parliament, stating that their protecting these Colonies cost more than they were worth, and the sooner we were left to ourselves the better, showing their loyalty to us to be a matter of pounds, shillings and pence? So that if we are to be abandoned by the Mother Country, we should be permitted to look for protection in the place most beneficial to ourselves. And, Sir, I have heard it discussed within the last few days by men of standing in this city, whether it would not now be more beneficial to this Island to enter into the great American Union than remain as she now is. And throughout the country—more particularly among the toantry—the fear of American invasion is not as great as might be fancied. They say that whoever comes they cannot be worse off than they are at present, and, at all events, it will completely settle the Land Question. They say they have nothing to fight for, that they have little interest in the soil, that they have to procure a miserable livelihood by daily toil, that wherever they go they can earn a subsistence as easily as they do on this Island. And this being so, can you expect people so situated to risk their lives in defending the country? I will now quote from a respectable newspaper published in Montreal, wherein, reviewing a speech of the Hon. T. D. McGee, made in defence of the Irish residing in Canada from the charge of Fenianism, the Editor goes on to say that he fully coincides with Mr McGee that Irishmen in Canada have no sympathy with Fenianism, that they, beyond any other people, left their country in consequence of the land tax, but in Canada they possessed all the advantages they enjoyed in Ireland. The land they tilled was their own in fee, and they would fight for its possession against all comers. This is what I want for our people; give them their land in fee, and give them an interest in the country, without which no man can be truly loyal, and you will not want for Volunteers or Militia here to resist invasion. I have read that

the Canadian Delegates, in excusing themselves for agreeing to such an outlay as would be caused by building the intercolonial railroad, said that they had to do so, as the Delegates from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick would have nothing to do with them before they agreed to build that road. And had our Delegates no public work, the performance of which they might urge should be agreed on before we entered into any terms? Why did they not press the extinction of the rental system as a work of necessity, and insist on receiving the means necessary for abolishing it? We have heard with what small courtesy the Leader of the Opposition was treated by the Delegates when he proposed a resolution asking for a sum to purchase the claims of the Proprietors. Some of the Canadian Delegates stated, I believe, when in Charlottetown, that the amount asked for by the Leader of the Opposition would be given, but the proposal was afterwards ridiculed. Sir, I want to say that the money could not have been better laid out; it would have relieved this Island from a difficult, social and political, which has been the great grievance of this country for the last fifty years, and has kept the country periodically in a state bordering on rebellion up to the present time. The amount asked would be scarcely distinguishable in the gross total, for the debt of Canada is counted by millions, and this, if we enter into the proposed Confederation, we must assist in paying. But we will have nothing to do with this Union. We can, by increasing our taxation for a few years, make every man in the Island a freeholder. Nor do I think the country would be displeased at our doing so, as it would be for the general advantage. I have spoken much longer than I intended, and will conclude by stating that I will vote for the amendment.

**Hon. Mr. DAVIES.**—Mr Speaker; the hon member from Tignish (Mr Conroy) has stated that unless we continue to enjoy British protection we shall be absorbed into the United States. I would be sorry that we should become a part of a country, the public debt of which, created within about four years, is already no less than three billions, or, in other words, three thousand millions of dollars. I am not apprehensive of such an event, for the British Government, under the pressure of public opinion in Great Britain, has declared we are willing to do our share in assisting your reasonable efforts to defend yourselves. I agree with those hon members who have argued Confederation involves increased taxation. But, Sir, we cannot remain long in our present isolated condition. Confederation or absorption into the States are the two alternatives presented to us. I should prefer to see this Island made, if possible, a free port, and thus become a vast centre of commerce. As to the financial terms offered to us by the delegates at the Quebec Conference, I do not think that justice has been dealt out to us. We should receive half a million of dollars, for it must be borne in mind that for various reasons which have been referred to in this debate we will not receive benefits proportionate to those conferred on the other Colonies. In the present aspect of the matter, I would give a preference to a Federal Union with Great Britain to absorption or confederation. It has been objected by the hon members, Messrs. Sinclair and Howlan, that the delegation to Canada was unauthorized by the Legislature. Why, Sir, the Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick did not convene their respective legislatures to sanction their delegations. As to the argument that the delegates exceeded their powers when they framed a constitution, they would be laughed at if they had not done so. We are not bound to accept it, and it is unfair to find fault with them on that account.

**Mr HOWLAN.**—The first delegation was authorized to discuss the subject of a Union of the Maritime Provinces. The Canadian delegation had an entirely different object.

**Hon Solicitor GENERAL.**—I cannot agree that under the system of Responsible Government the Executive had no power to send a delegation to confer with those sent from the other Provinces. The case would be different if the country were pledged to their proceedings.

**Mr SINCLAIR.**—I maintain that in adopting a constitution they exceeded their powers. This having been signed by three members of the Government, that body is, to a certain extent, pledged to it.

**Mr MONTGOMERY.**—Mr Speaker; I have been informed and believe that the Report of the Delegates is not approved by the people, and, in my own opinion, it would prove injurious to

the best interests of the Island. It calls upon us to increase our tariff and surrender our revenues. We are required to surrender our revenues for 80 cents per head of the population according to the census of 1861. We do not receive fair terms. We have no minerals or territorial revenues as the other Colonies. We have been told that we shall have free trade with all parts of the Confederacy. If so, we must raise whatever revenue we may require beyond the allowances accorded to us from the general Government, to which we ourselves contribute from our own resources. For myself and my constituents I shall oppose the scheme.

Mr McLENNAN—I shall not detain you long, Mr Speaker. It is but dull debating when all are on the same side. I shall not enter into the question of defence,—that I shall leave for the hon and gallant Colonel, the member for Belfast; that of finance to his colleague, the Hon Col Secretary. I am conscious that anything which I may say can have no effect in promoting or retarding the adoption of the measure. If that were not the case I would be inclined to enter more fully into the merits of this great question. Our action one way or the other can make little difference in view of the opinion expressed by the people of New Brunswick at the hustings, and in Nova Scotia through the press. The protraction of this debate is, in my opinion, but a waste of public time and money. I would prefer that the vote were taken on the resolutions of the Hon Col Secretary *verbatim*. That would show the country how far their representatives would go in this matter. I am not prepared to go the extreme length of those who declare they are opposed to Confederation on any terms. I am of the same opinion as the hon member for the city, Mr Davies, who believes that we are drifting into some kind of Union, that we should manfully grapple with the question, and, before any Union takes place, obtain the best terms possible. I believe the majority of the people of New Brunswick had not the subject fairly submitted to them in all its bearings when they voted against it; nor was it the bulk of the intelligence of that Province that decided it. For myself I would not assume the responsibility of voting in favour of Confederation without first submitting it to the people. I believe my constituents are satisfied that I am acting an independent part in the matter.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN then addressed the House at considerable length, but he having mislaid the extracts which he read, the Reporter is unable to give a connected report of his speech.

Mr. DUNCAN—I have a few words to say on this great scheme which is to make this a wonderful country, give us a market of three millions of people, and cheap tea all the way from China. All those who have been in this Colony heretofore, it appears, are but children in trade; let them, however, only go up to Canada a few weeks and they will come down perfectly prepared to argue out any question on trade and finance. We are told that Confederation would promote manufactures in this Colony. Now, in my opinion, this Island can never become a manufacturing country, and I will give my reasons for so thinking. Supposing a person were to start a manufactory here, and another a similar establishment at Pictou, the former would have every market closed against him during the winter except this Island, and the latter would have all the country open to him the whole year round except this Colony in the winter season. The Pictou manufacturer could always send off his stock to market immediately, while his Island rival would require to store his up for five or six months until the opening of navigation in the spring. The Islander, besides requiring an immense capital, the interest of which would diminish his profits, would frequently suffer from a fall of prices, causing a loss which might have been obviated by an open market. I do not think that any place which is closed in as we are for a part of the year has ever become a great manufacturing country. Then, again, the neighboring Provinces have other advantages over this Island for manufacturing. Canada has abundance of water power; so have Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and those latter Provinces possess coal likewise. But this Colony has no coal, nor has it iron, another advantage which its neighbors possess. This being the case, I think few manufactures can be carried on successfully here. The

tannery may have a little to export for a few years; but the bark will soon be done, and then probably it will be better to export the hides and import leather. Our interest therefore, as we cannot manufacture, is to obtain our goods in the cheapest market. The other Provinces cannot compete with Britain in manufactures for many years; but if we enter Confederation we may be forced to purchase within its bounds, on account of the high tariff on European merchandize. This would prove a loss to the Island in the following way: Suppose an article which could be purchased in Britain for £100 were to cost in Canada £118; but on account of the duty on the British article, it might be found more advantageous to purchase that of Canadian manufacture, the consequence being the loss of just £18 to the Island. This would be one of the benefits arising out of the boasted inter-colonial free trade! By remaining as we are, the people of this Colony, generally speaking, will obtain their goods, even after paying a moderate duty to be expended among themselves, at a cheaper rate than they would under Confederation. But there are certain articles, such as tea, which can never be produced in these Provinces, and which, under the Canadian tariff, would cost the people here much more than at present. Again, we are told that if we enter Confederation our fisheries will be developed. People, it is said, will come here from Canada to fish. This is a strange argument, when it is known that the Canadians already export enough fish to supply all British America. Herrings we have not to spare; these will have to be procured at the Magdalen Islands, a place which, though it has been basking for a long time under the sunshine of the Canadian Government, does not show many signs of progress. Everything which can be exported from this Island Canada produces, therefore no trade of any importance can spring up between this Colony and that Province. Notwithstanding this, I suppose we must contribute to build the Intercolonial Railway. The only article I see that we have got to send to Canada is oysters. Evidently, the Colonial Secretary has been very considerate in bringing in a Bill to encourage the planting of oysters, as it seems to me that we will have nothing else to send up to Canada on the Intercolonial Railway. Then, again, there is the matter of defence: It is stated that the police force which Canada has on the frontier this winter to prevent border raiding will cost a million of dollars. Were we now in the Union, our proportion of that sum, according to population, would be £768. But the general defences of Canada, according to Colonel Jervis, are to cost \$6,500,000. In Confederation this Island would have to bear its share of this expense, one which, in the present circumstances of our people, they are altogether unable to afford. Another objection which I have to the Quebec scheme is, that it would allow us only about £35,000 for local requirements, and this too a fixed sum, while our wants would yearly increase; perhaps the Canadians thought that under such a scheme they would decrease. (Laughter.) Our Revenue for last year was about £65,000, and deducting the sum to be received from this amount, shows that our loss under our own tariff would be £30,000. But besides this we would have to bear our proportion of building the Intercolonial railway, enlarging the canals, and furthering other public works, which would increase our taxation, and do us no good, but rather an injury by drawing away our people to labor upon them. Again, the "glory argument" is one which the advocates of Confederation never fail to bring forward. We are to become a great nation, but how this is to be effected the promoters of the scheme scarcely understand themselves. One of the advantages of it is, that our members of Parliament will go to live at Ottawa, and we will be left here to pay them! We are told also that our young men will rise to be chief justices in Canada. They need not despoil themselves, for none but those belonging to Canada will stand much chance of attaining to such distinction. The Local Legislature, which the Quebec Report contemplates to



leave us, would be little better than a town council; we would have this building here merely to look at. As to the General Legislature I consider the representation in it allowed to this Island unfair and unjust. I think the four Lower Provinces, at least, should have as many members in the Upper Branch as Canada. The five representatives allotted to us in the Lower House would not give this Colony much influence there; but as our population will not increase so rapidly as that of Canada, there is a prospect, through the operation of one clause in the Report, that our five representatives would dwindle down to three. Taking all these points into consideration, therefore, it is clear to me that we have nothing to gain but much to lose by adopting the Quebec scheme.

Adjourned.

FRIDAY, March 31.

Debate on Union of Colonies resumed.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—Mr. Speaker: As leader of the Liberal party of this Island, I felt in a peculiar position while attending the Conference on the question of Colonial Union now before the House. I felt that in acting as a Delegate I had not my own interest merely to look to, but that of a party who have acknowledged me as their leader for nearly eighteen years. And now, Sir, in addressing you I desire to make such explanations as may satisfy my constituents and the party with whom I am connected, in regard to the course which I have pursued on this question. Explanations of this nature may fairly be expected from me, since I am the only Delegate in this House opposed to the Confederation Scheme of the Quebec Conference—being one against four. It has been stated by former speakers that we all agreed to the scheme while at the Conference. I object to this statement. I admit that we were all unanimous in passing the first resolution of the Report; but it was only with the understanding that the details of the scheme were to be just to the several Provinces. Those who affirm that there was unanimity at the Conference ground their assertion, I believe, on several speeches delivered at evening meetings. But, Sir, I contend that an occasion graced with the presence of ladies—such being the case when I spoke at Ottawa—was not the proper place to attack any person, or take strong exception to any vote passed at the Conference. I did not do so then; but at the Conference a few days before, I said that if the grant for the purchase of the lands of this Colony was not conceded, they might as well strike Prince Edward Island out of the Report altogether. The public men of Canada knew my views on the subject: this is evidenced by a paragraph which lately appeared in the *Toronto Globe*, a paper under the control of the Hon. George Brown. The *Globe* says:—

“The anti-Confederation papers at Halifax are making much of the fact that two of the Prince Edward Island delegates who were at the Quebec Conference have, since their return home, declared against the Confederation scheme. These gentlemen are the Hon. E. Palmer, Attorney General in the present Government, and the Hon. George Coles, a leading member of the Opposition. The attitude assumed by these gentlemen is but what was to have been anticipated from expressions made by them while in Canada, so that their hostility to Confederation is not any indication of the way in which the scheme has been received by the people of the Provinces. The gentlemen had their minds made up before their constituents had heard the details of the Quebec scheme at all.”

Even my speech at Ottawa did not give satisfaction to the supporters of Confederation in Canada, for afterwards, the brother of the proprietor of the *Toronto Globe* came to me, at Toronto, and desired that I would not persevere in the sentiment to which I had given utterance, namely, that the scheme would require to be submitted to the people for their approval. All that I said on that occasion which can be construed as favorable to the series of resolutions passed at the Quebec Confer-

ence, is, that it was creditable to the delegates from so many Provinces that they could agree to draw up such a Report. I still hold to that opinion; and the British Government has also acknowledged that it was a creditable Report. If the people, I remarked, were satisfied with the scheme, I had nothing more to say on the subject. But that I was personally dissatisfied with the new Constitution is clear from the fact that I refused to sign it. Before I left Canada, the Secretary of the Conference came to me, supposing probably that I was opposed to the Report, and asked me if I would sign the document. I said no. He then answered that if I should agree to sign it he would send it down to Prince Edward Island. I said, “you need not trouble yourself.” I may also mention that Hon. Mr. Gray of New Brunswick, in one of his speeches after his return from Canada, stated that all the delegates at the Conference had signed the Report, and would be bound in honor to support it. This, I thought, was going too far, so I wrote a letter to the newspapers here contradicting the statement, and showing that it was not correct at least as regarded myself. And, Sir, we have been informed during this debate that two others of the delegates from this Island have not signed the document. The absence of their signatures, however, is a matter of little consequence, as they have agreed to the Report, one of them having broadly declared that its principles are just and liberal to Prince Edward Island. It was understood that the proceedings at the Conference should be secret; but they have been alluded to by delegates at other places, therefore there can be very little impropriety in referring to them in this discussion. I may also mention here that when the proposition in favor of secrecy was first made at the Charlottetown Conference, I objected to it, but stood alone in my opposition. I was then allowed to state the fact to my constituents. I make these explanations, for it may be necessary in the course of my remarks to refer to the proceedings at the Conference in self vindication. Only two of us, I believe, who were delegates to Quebec, object to the terms of the Report. For this opposition we have been charged as being almost traitors. Indeed it has been affirmed that Anti-unionists are guilty of combining with Americans against British interests. Hear what the Hon. D'Arcy McGee said in the Canadian Legislature on this subject. During the course of his speech on the Confederation question, in replying to some interruption from the opposition benches, he remarked:—

“The hon. member for North Hastings Mr. (T.C. Wallbridge) seemed to repudiate the idea that American influence had anything to do with the result of the New Brunswick elections. He had to tell that hon. gentleman that one of these successful candidates was agent for the American line of steamers, the International line, which did all the carrying trade to New Brunswick, and there was not a pound of the stock of that Company held in New Brunswick. (Hear, hear.) *It was in point of fact a fight—a fair stand-up fight of Yankee interests on the one side and British interests on the other; and those who were rejoicing over Mr. Tilley's defeat were in reality rejoicing over the defeat of British interests. It was a contest between prejudice and patriotism; between ignorance and intelligence; between Yankee influence and the broad national principles of British North American policy. (Hear, hear.) Those who rejoiced over this state of things might congratulate themselves if they chose; but it was for the House to stand by the true public opinion of the country. It was for us to show an example of firmness and good faith in carrying out this scheme. It was for us to shew the Empire that we were determined to adhere to our original resolution and that we were not people who would forget our determination in a few days or a few weeks.*” (Cheers.)

I deny these charges. I believe that the Anti-unionists are just as loyal as any Unionist can be. I feel that my loyalty is equally as sincere as that of those who so zealously advocate the Quebec scheme, for I have yet to learn that Great Britain has said we must go into

Confederation. All that we have yet heard is the sanction of the Colonial Minister to the holding of a Conference in Canada, consisting of representatives from all the Provinces, to consider the larger scheme of Union, and his opinion that the Report of that Conference upon the whole was creditable to the assembled delegates. And this much too had been accorded evidently to please Canada, owing to the troubles in which her politicians have become involved. What foundation, then, have those for their statements who tell us that we shall be compelled to go into Union? who say that unless we enter the proposed Confederation we shall not get a single ship or man from the Mother Country to defend us! The Home Government has given no intimation of the kind. In fact it seems to be passive in regard to the Union movement. The Colonial Minister stated in effect in one of his despatches that if the people of the Colonies were desirous to enter into a Union, Her Majesty's Government would throw no obstacles in the way. This language conveys no such threat as has been held up by some non-members of this House. Indeed Mr. Cardwell does not appear at all satisfied with some portions of the Report. He has taken exception to the provision with respect to the prerogative of pardon, and to the principle of having a fixed number of nominated life members in the Legislative Council. To the latter principle I made strong objections at the Conference, and fortunately for me I also referred to the matter in the public prints before the Colonial Minister's despatch was received. My reason for opposing such a provision was that as the members of the Legislative Council were to be nominated from the existing Councils in the different Provinces, a number of them would be old men, who had been obstructive, and might remain so all their lives, consequently a dead-lock would probably soon occur between the two branches of the Legislature, in which case an appeal would have to be made to the Imperial Government to settle the dispute. They have had quite enough of disputes in Canada already. In that Province, Sir, the parliament buildings have been burned, and the Stars and Stripes thrown out to the winds. Such proceedings, Sir, have never been seen in the Lower Provinces. (Cheers.) And are we now to be told that we must enter a Union with them, and submit to such taxes as they may choose to impose? The amount to be allowed this Colony under the proposed scheme is some £35,000 a year, and more than this we are not to receive for local purposes though our revenue should increase to £200,000. What does Mr. Galt say respecting allowances to the local governments? In explaining this part of the Report he remarks:—

"Now one objection to confederation was made on the ground of expense, and in order to meet this, every effort had been made to reduce the cost of the Local Governments, so that the local machinery should be as little costly as possible, for it would not do to affront the intelligence of the people, and tell them we had devised an expensive kind of machinery to do a very insignificant amount of work. The gentlemen from the Lower Provinces had been asked what reductions they could make in the Government of the several colonies, and the figures he was about to give would be most satisfactory as showing the disposition of those gentlemen, who had reduced their requirements to the lowest sum. In her estimate of outlay for 1864 for objects of local character the Province of Nova Scotia had provided for an expenditure of no less than \$667,000, but had undertaken to perform the same service in future under a confederation at \$371,000; or a reduction of 40 per cent. The expenditure of New Brunswick in 1864 for the same objects was estimated at \$404,000. From causes explained at the time and shown to be satisfactory, she proposed to reduce the expenditure to \$358,000, and at the same time undertook within ten years to make a further reduction of \$63,000, making a total reduction to \$290,000. Prince Edward Island would reduce her expenditure from \$170,000 to \$124,000, and Newfoundland from \$479,000 to \$350,000. In regard to Upper and Lower Canada he would not undertake to say what reduction would be made; but he could show that under the scheme proposed they would have the means of limiting the present outlay which was,

taking the average of the last four years, \$2,021,979. Besides that there would be an additional item brought against them for the interest on the excess of their debt over that of the other Provinces, making their full local charge \$2,240,149, which was the present outlay of Canada for works which would not become a charge under a confederation. The outlay of all the provinces being however greater than their local revenues it became necessary to make provision out of the general Fund for the purpose of enabling their Local Legislatures to carry on the machinery of Government. It was proposed to take away from them every source of revenue they possessed except minor local revenues, and then to give them from the public chest a sufficient subsidy to enable the machinery to work. The estimate was formed on the wants of Nova Scotia. It was at first proposed to form it on the wants of New Brunswick, but these were found greater than those of the former, which had consequently been taken as the basis. The estimate was that 50 cents a head on the population of Nova Scotia would be sufficient to enable her to work her local system. She would want \$264,000. In the case of Upper Canada, 90 cents a head was considerably more than she wanted at the present day, and in the case of Lower Canada was at least adequate with the present local funds that would become available to her. But it was felt that in giving a subsidy from the public chest it was impossible to draw a distinction between one part of the country and another. But it was not intended to hold out any inducement to future extravagance to local Governments, but it was hoped that by the operation of natural causes such a check would be put upon expenditures as would bring them down to the lowest point, or at least prevent them from becoming lavish. Therefore the subsidy proposed to be given to local legislatures was fixed, not at an increasing rate according to population, but at the rate which existed at the census of 1861. By this means, as the population increased, the subsidy would not increase with it. Upper and Lower Canada would thus get within a fraction of two million dollars, and when their population increased to five millions instead of two and a half, would get no more. If they increased their expenses in proportion to the growth of population they would be obliged to resort to direct taxation; and he thought they might trust the people themselves to keep a sharp watch over the local Governments lest they should resort to direct taxation. He thought no surer check could be put upon them than thus fixing the grants they were respectively to receive."

Now, Sir, this is the opinion of the Finance Minister of Canada, who may be considered as good authority in regard to the contemplated working of the Quebec scheme; and he urged it in an address to his own constituents at Sherbrooke, as a reason why they should gladly accept that scheme. Here we may see the pitiable condition to which this Island would be reduced under Confederation,—our revenues taken away, scarcely enough allowed us to work the machinery of the local government, and should more money be required when our population increased, it would have to be raised by direct taxation. The people of this Colony were battling four years to gain responsible government, and since obtained, I believe it has given general satisfaction. But, Sir, were we to adopt this Report, it would deprive us of our constitution and leave us no corresponding benefit in return. It is urged that as a compensation for our loss we would become part of a great union that in time would form a mighty nation. But I ask what greater nationality can we enjoy than that with which it is our pride and privilege at present to be connected? What greater flag can wave over us than the time-honored banner of Old England? I do not think that Great Britain wishes to throw us off; on the contrary I believe that her statesmen see that the separation of the Colonies from the parent state would cause trouble. Sir, I look upon this talk about the Mother Country casting us off from her apron strings, and this shaking of the stars and stripes in our face, as only stories intended to frighten the timid. Let us remain true to the Mother Country and she will stand by us. Separate as we are from the other Colonies, our hands are just as strong and our hearts as willing to aid in the defence of the Empire, as they could be under any scheme of political union

whatever. The union which I advocated was one that would give us inter-colonial free trade and a uniformity of currency. But here in this Report we have a constitution under which we may be taxed at any rate the Canadians think proper. At present we hold the power of taxation in our own hands; under Confederation, it would be placed almost entirely beyond our control, as well as the power to say what portion of these taxes imposed upon the people of the Colony should be expended for objects in which they are immediately interested. To revert to the meeting of the Conference at Charlottetown; I may say that the Government having behaved so handsomely to me by giving me a commission as a delegate without asking my compliance to any particular course, I was disposed not to persist in some of my views, if the administration of the day were inclined to enter the proposed Union. I yielded more of my principles than I would ever do on such an occasion again. When the Canadian delegates came down to that Conference the chief points which they laid down were representation by population for the Lower House, and a nominated Upper House to consist of 60 members—20 for Upper Canada, 20 for Canada East, and 20 for the Lower Provinces. Representation by population, however, appeared to be the leading principle for which they contended. I enquired what they would be willing to concede to us for giving up the privilege of taxing ourselves, and for handing over our revenue; and they asked what I thought would be fair. I said £200,000, sterling, or £300,000, currency; and that this money should be placed into our land funds, entirely at the control of the Colony for the purchase of proprietors' estates. This proposition, I understood, was assented to. I had also private conversations afterwards with Hon. Mr. Brown and Hon. Mr. Cartier, and they admitted the justice of the claim. With the impression that a grant to the amount, and on the conditions which I have stated, was to be given to this Colony for the purchase of lands, I did not offer that opposition at Quebec to some of the first clauses of the Report, which I otherwise would have done. I found that two of the leading members of our Government were in favor of Union, and providing that anything like fair terms were allowed this Island, I was disposed to throw no obstacle in the way. I little thought then, however, that such a constitution as this was to be brought down here. We had been in Conference only a few days when the question of representation in the Upper Branch came up for consideration. On account of the Newfoundland delegates taking part in the proceedings, and it being proposed to give that Colony 4 members in the Legislative Council, the Canadian ministers retired into their council chamber, and returned with the proposition that 24 members should be allowed to each of the two sections of that Province. Lower Canada stood out for equal representation in the Upper Branch as a security against the superior influence which the Upper Province would possess in the Lower House on the principle of representation by population. When the question of representation in the House of Commons came up for discussion, this principle was ably and strenuously contended for by the Hon. George Brown; and well it might, for he knew that it would enable Upper Canada to maintain the control of the General Legislature for ever. Representation by population will give the two Canadas 100 of a majority over all the Lower Provinces in the House of Commons, and by each of the Canadas having as many members in the Legislative Council as the whole of their eastern sisters, they will together always command a majority there of 24 over us, so that the only principle on which we, in the Maritime Colonies, can expect justice will be through the quarrels of the two western Provinces. In view of this, I ask what prospect is there for us if we give up our revenue, but to put our hands in our pockets and pay our own expenses. We cannot hope to contend with the influence which will be brought to bear against us, in Canada. What did we see in Toronto but an

establishment fitted up with every convenience, which was presented to the Hon. Mr. Brown in consideration of his advocacy of Upper Canada's interests? And then again in Lower Canada, the Hon. D'Arcy McGee has been presented with a house, furnished complete to the silver plate on the table, for his advocacy of the interests of Montreal. These examples show what is to be gained by able and persevering politicians in Canada; but here we have no reward save the sense of right in defending the interests of our country. (Cheers.) It has been said by some of the advocates of the Quebec scheme that we should not blame the Canadians if it contains objectionable provisions, for, at the Conference, votes were taken by Provinces. They were not at fault in all cases; in a few instances the delegates from the Lower Provinces were most to blame. Several of the Canadians were in favor of the elective principle for the Legislative Council; but nearly all the delegates from the Lower Provinces declared against it. They seemed to be carried away with the idea of the members of the Upper House being taken from the existing Legislative Councils in the several Colonies, and voted that they should be appointed for life. On this question the delegates from the other Lower Provinces acted in a most selfish manner. They even agreed to the Canadian proposition that the number of Councillors should be fixed. This, as I have already stated, I consider a very objectionable feature in the new constitution. We know that in Nova Scotia they had to break through the warrant of Her Majesty and appoint additional Councillors to carry responsible government. And we also know that in Britain it is sometimes found necessary to create new Peers in order to carry certain measures. But I wish to explain further in regard to the action taken in the Conference on the question as to whether the Legislative Council should be elective or nominative. After the motion in favor of making it elective was lost—as I held the opinion that if it were not elective, it ought to be constituted, as nearly as possible, on that principle—I submitted a resolution to test the Conference on the point. When I did so, I was under the impression that it would be placed on record. During the first few days after the Delegates met, all motions were put down, and also the names of the movers and seconders, the understanding being that business was to be conducted according to the practice of the Canadian Parliament. Subsequently, however, it was agreed that the votes should be taken by Colonies, and that no record should be kept of the proceedings. But to show that the clause as it stands in the Report did not pass without an effort on my part to modify it, I will read the resolution which I submitted:

*Resolved*, That at the first and all subsequent elections of members to serve in the Upper Branch of the Federal Legislature, they shall be chosen by a majority of both branches of the Local Legislatures from such properly qualified persons in the Colony as shall be of upwards of thirty years of age; one-half of the said Council to go out every four years after the first election. Those who shall go out at the end of the first four years to be decided by lot, and the drawing to take place during the first Session of the Federal Legislature."

I considered it advisable that the men who should represent each Province in the Legislative Council, as they would be few in number, ought to be appointed by, and possess the confidence of, both branches of the local legislature. This provision I deemed especially necessary as regarded the interests of this Island, for it is extremely doubtful, should the Union take place, whether we shall ever have a single representative in the General Government; and if otherwise, we at least cannot expect more than one. My motion, however, was lost. I will not accuse my brother delegates from this Island, who voted against it, of being actuated by the same motives as the majority from the other Provinces evidently were. These saw the difficulty of the Confederation scheme receiving the sanction of the present Legislative Councils of the several Provinces unless their leading members felt secure

of a seat in the Upper House of the General Legislature, therefore they provided that the Legislative Councillors of the Federal Parliament should be nominated from the existing Councils. To ensure as much unanimity, also, as possible at the Conference, a clause was thrown in to the effect that due regard should be had to the claims of the members of the Legislative Council of the Opposition in each Province. But this provision will be of little account, for after the divisions which the discussion of the Confederation question has caused, I think it will be difficult to tell how individuals stand with respect to parties. When I saw the drift of the whole section in regard to the constitution of the Legislative Council as it now stands in the Report, I strongly expressed the hope that the delegates would except this Island from such a piece of corruption. Again with respect to our Local Legislature under the Confederation scheme, what would it amount to? We would be a laughing stock to the world. The City Council would be a king to such a Legislature. In this House scarcely anything would be left us to do, but to legislate about dog taxes and the running at large of swine. Some hon members have referred to the great advantage of this Colony being allowed to retain its local legislature. Probably they intend to remove to Canada themselves, and care little about what they leave behind them. I will now turn to the financial part of the Report. When the Committee on finance was appointed at the Conference, I was so satisfied that the proposition for a grant of £200,000, sterling, to this Colony would be carried out, that I scarcely gave the appointment any consideration. But, Sir, when the committee reported at the Conference Board, I was struck with amazement, and expressed myself very freely to that effect. At my suggestion it was resolved that the committee should reconsider their scheme. But, Sir, I believe that my objections to the committee's report aroused the delegates from Newfoundland and New Brunswick, for when it was brought in again next morning a subsidy was provided for each of these Colonies, but it did not include any allowance for this Island. Newfoundland received a liberal consideration at the hands of the committee, the sum guaranteed to her being \$150,000 annually. The Report says that this allowance is for the surrender of her mines and minerals and public lands to the General Government; but in reality it was given to that Colony on account of the plea put forth by the Newfoundland delegates that their people were, to a great extent, paupers. The Colonial Secretary informed us at the Town meeting that the grant to Newfoundland was made in consideration of her revenue being nearly wholly derived from customs' duties, the relinquishment of which would leave her without any local income. But I ask what are the local revenues of this Island? Would we not be nearly in the same position as Newfoundland if our revenue from duties were given up to the General Government? Then New Brunswick, too, received a consideration to induce her to enter the Union, namely, the respectable sum of \$63,000 a year for ten years. This grant, no doubt, was obtained through the able advocacy of Hon. Mr. Tilley, who was on the committee as finance minister for that Province. And, Sir, I am not much surprised that the £200,000, sterling, was not secured for this Island, since I heard the Colonial Secretary, who acted on the financial committee for this Colony, declare that he considered the terms of the Report just and liberal to Prince Edward Island. When I objected to the report of the financial committee on the ground that no grant was to be given to this Colony, the Hon. George Brown said that more money was already allowed us than we would know what to do with. And no wonder that he said so, when the delegate from this Island, who assisted to draw up the financial arrangement, affirms that it is liberal. I shall next refer to the subject of expenses, and show that our taxation must be greatly increased. Besides having to tax ourselves for local improvements, we will have to bear a share of the expenses of Canada, as she is unable to meet them now, and will be less able to do so under Confederation, for they will be much heavier than at

present. In the matter of defences alone the outlay will be enormous. What says Colonel Jervois' report? I will read an extract from the *Quebec Chronicle* of March 17, 1865, which, after giving some remarks of the *London Times* on that report, freely admits that Canada is unable to undertake the share of those defences assigned her. The *Chronicle* remarks:

"Turn we now for a brief space to the consideration of that portion of the *Times*' article having reference to the preparation for defence. There is something in it so naive, and at the same time so thoroughly selfish, that we hardly know whether to be most amazed or most contemptuous. Speaking of the fortifications which Colonel Jervois' report says are necessary for effectual defence, the *Times* says—

"They are no trifles, indeed. Canada, though with but a small population, has a long frontier; in fact, it may be described as being all frontier, and as being vulnerable all over. There is hardly a village or a farm in the country that is more than a few days' march from some spot which may be reached at once by a party of Federal soldiers. Hence the magnitude of the works, which if executed by the Provinces will be a financial burden to them, and if taken in hand by us will add considerably to our estimates for years to come. Colonel Jervois says that he regards the works for the defence of Montreal and Quebec as being of the most pressing importance. The cost of those at Quebec is to be £200,000, of those at Montreal £448,000, and the armaments at those places will cost about £100,000. The works of fortification recommended at Kingston, Toronto and Hamilton will cost about £500,000, and the armaments for those places about £100,000. Thus, on fortifications for Canada alone it is proposed to expend £1,248,000, which any one acquainted with the history of such matters is well aware will expand to at least a couple of millions. Now, of this sum Her Majesty's Government propose to supply £200,000—the amount necessary for fortifying Quebec. This is "an Imperial fortress;" it was the scene of one of the most celebrated of English victories, and has so wide a reputation as one of the strong places of the world that the national honor is committed to maintaining it. We have no desire to quarrel with the decision of the Government. Whether the Canadian Government will really spend half a million on fortifying Montreal, as Lord de Grey expects, we very much doubt, for there is a great difference between calling out Volunteers and Militia at a time of excitement, and taxing the community to raise masses of earthworks and put guns in position. If the fortification of Quebec by England be looked upon as part of an arrangement between the Mother Country and the Colony, then we suppose we must submit and pay the £200,000, or whatever more the works may cost. But we cannot affect to say that it will be done with any enthusiasm."

"Any one acquainted with such matters, we are told, well knows that these fortifications will cost two millions sterling. Of this sum the *Times* considers two hundred thousand, or one-fifth, all, and more, than Great Britain's share of the expenditure. And this view of the relative responsibilities forces us to return to the cause which necessitates the outlay. Again then, we say, Canada has no quarrel with her powerful neighbor, nor would have but as a dependency, an outlying portion of the British Empire, a weak point, vulnerable and easily available. That we are all this is no fault of ours; but says the *Times*, "you must take the consequences, you must fortify the weakest points, and England will undertake that which requires the least expenditure." But wherefore must we? Suppose we are not able? How then? And most assuredly we are not. Two millions less one-fifth—£1,800,000 sterling! Something more for armament and militia, and we shall reach perhaps somewhat over the original two millions—a sum as nearly as may be equal to a pound sterling per head of the whole population, or five dollars for every man, woman and child in the Province. Gentlemen of Tooley Street, it can't be done. If Canada wants defending England must defend her."

Now there is the opinion of one of the Canadian newspapers, and that of the *London Times*. About two million pounds, sterling, will be required for fortifications, and of this sum Great Britain will only provide £200,000, leaving an amount to be raised by Canada, together with the armaments she will have to provide, equal to five dollars per head of her population. This sum would be more than enough; yet it is not all that would be required. In connection with this subject I will read

the following extract from the *Hamilton Weekly Times*, another *Canadian Journal*:

"Equally necessary as the construction of the fortifications will be the creation of an outlet to the sea-board. In case of war with the United States, we would have no means of communicating with the outside world save by the St. Lawrence. At the best this would be unsatisfactory, for it would be liable to obstructions from the enemy, but if left perfectly free it would be only open to us during the summer months. In winter we could make no use of it, and would be compelled to obtain a new route to the sea independent of that which in time of peace we enjoy through United States territory. The intercolonial railway would be an absolute necessity. Saying nothing as to the infinite difficulty, if not impossibility, that would be experienced in keeping such a line open in the face of a vigilant and powerful foe, we would refer at present only to its cost. The estimate furnished is that it can be built for \$15,000,000, and the amount that Canada would be called on to pay would be \$6,000,000,—the balance to be provided by the Maritime Provinces. This, together with the construction of fortifications, would have to be proceeded with at once."

These works, it is said, must be undertaken at once, but it will take some years to complete them; and does any person suppose that if the Americans are going to attack the Colonies they will wait until we are prepared? Sir, this whole talk about invasion from the United States I believe to be a will-o'-the-wisp got up to frighten us into Confederation. But let us proceed with the calculation of expenses. The Confederated Provinces would set out with a debt of \$25 per head; fortifications will add at least \$5 per head more, and gunboats and other naval armaments probably an equal sum. Then there is the intercolonial railway, which will cost at least \$15,000,000, and add a further debt of \$5 per head of the population. The enlargement of the Canals is another project, requiring a draft on the finances, which is to be proceeded with as soon as practicable. This work will add not less than other \$5 per head to the general debt, and what with the opening up of the North West Territory, and other expenses which I have not enumerated, will run up the debt to \$60 per head of the entire population of the Confederate Provinces. We have been informed during this debate that the debt of the United States now amounts to \$125 per head of her people. But this debt was caused by a protracted war. Our debt of \$60 per head would be incurred during peace; and should war break out with the States, even for a short time, our debt would soon be equal to theirs. I believe that a few hundred pounds spent on a friendly delegation to Washington would save millions of dollars, and do much more to preserve peace between the two countries than all the fortifications which could be built. All these expenses to which I have referred, a large portion of which will have to be borne by the General Government should Union take place, show clearly that our taxation under Confederation must be very heavy indeed. But some say that the people of this Island are too lightly taxed. I admit that were the money spent among themselves in local improvements, perhaps they would not suffer by a little higher taxation; but when the money is to be taken away and spent in other Provinces, it quite alters the case. This House has just voted £50,000 to aid tenants in purchasing their farms; Sir, we would be acting more wisely to vote £150,000 for this purpose than to enter the Union. The £50,000 which we have voted this year would be nearly the amount we would lose every year under Confederation. In Canada they have stamp duties and other taxes which we in this Island know nothing about; and once united with that country they would send down their collectors to gather up the money and carry it off. Talk of our young men rising to judgeships, and to be premiers in Canada; why, Sir, they have far too many hangers on of their own, for our youth ever to expect any favors at their hands. The politicians in that Province are sometimes put to their wits end how to provide snug berths for persons they wish to shelve out of their way. A little transaction of this kind occurred when the delegates were there. A member of the Legislature was appointed to a judgeship under the Stamp Act, in order to make room for the Provincial Secretary, who had lost his election in the district which he formerly represented. Under Confederation such work would, no doubt, be carried on to a much greater extent, and amid the intriguing of Canadian office seekers on the spot, the young aspirants in the Lower Provinces would stand very

little chance of success. I wish now to refer to exaggerated statements which have been made by union advocates respecting the prosperity of Canada. This attempt has been so ably exposed by Hon. Mr. Currie, a member of the Canadian Legislative Council, in his speech before that body on the Confederation question, that I think I will be excused for reading his remarks. Mr. Currie said:—

"But speaking of the Lower Provinces, he was really afraid that some public men down there were disposed to exaggerate the advantages of a Union with Canada, just as some of ours seemed prone to magnify the riches of the Lower Provinces. If we were going into a partnership, which he hoped would last if entered into—(hear, hear.)—we should not attempt to deceive each other, for if the people found they had been deceived, the compact would be short-lived. To give honorable members some idea of the manner in which the subject was presented by leading men in the provinces, he would read them an extract from the speech of a Mr. Lynch, at a large meeting in Halifax, as reproduced by one of the organs of the Government there."

"Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL—What organ?"

"Hon. Mr. CURRIE—They had so many organs they did not seem to know them all. (Laughter.) He would now read from the speech in question:—

"But we are told by others that we had better have nothing to do with Canada, because she is bankrupt. Canada bankrupt! I wish we were all such bankrupts. She is overflowing with wealth. This is now rapidly developing itself, and must eventually place her among the first nations of the earth. I have travelled over and examined that great country, and it would take more than all the time allotted to me to tell you of her wealth and resources. Her rivers are among the largest in the world, and her lakes are mighty inland oceans. I never had any idea of their extent until I stood on the shore of Lake Erie, saw before me a large square rigged ship, and was told that such was the class of vessels that navigated those waters. Why, sir, 7,000,000 tons of shipping trade upon those mighty lakes. Again, look at the growth of the population. Sixty years ago it was 60,000, now it is 3,000,000. Upper Canada doubled her population in ten years, and Toronto, in the beginning of this century the abode of the red man of the forest, is now one of the finest cities of British America, with a population of 40,000. The soil is of the richest description, indeed it is only too much so. In some places rich alluvial deposit is found to the depth of 50 feet, and in many instances lands have yielded their crops for years without the aid of a spadeful of manure. Canada has not only the greatest yield but the best wheat in America. It is a well-known fact that the people of the United States in exporting their best flour mix it to a large extent with Canadian wheat, and in order to give you an idea of the increased growth of it I would inform you that while in ten years the wheat crop increased in the States 50 per cent. (an immense increase), it in the same time in Canada increased 400 per cent. The average crop is equal to that of the best wheat growing countries in Europe, while some places have yielded the almost incredible quantity of 100 bushels to the acre. The yield of last year was 27,000."

"He only wished that this honorable gentleman alone had been mistaken, but even the Hon. Mr. Tilley, one of the most distinguished statesmen of New Brunswick, had made the statement that our tariff was in fact only an eleven per cent. tariff. But all the errors were not on that side, for they need but to turn to a celebrated speech of one of our own leading men—a speech regarded almost as an important state paper—and there it was stated that the United Provinces would become the third maritime power in the world. (Hear, Hear.) England, it said, was first, then the United States, and the speaker doubted if France could take the third rank before us. Our sea-going tonnage would be five millions, and our lake tonnage seven millions. These were vast figures, and it almost bewildered the mind to conceive their magnificent proportions. (Laughter.) Now supposing all these vessels were 500 tons each, it would require 14,000 to make up the sum, but unfortunately the census showed that we had but 808 sailors to navigate them—rather a small number it must be admitted for 14,000 ships. (Great

laughter.) The way the mistake—to use the mildest expression—was made, was simple enough. The vessels were entered at the Custom Houses every time they came in and left port, and as some of them came in port 200 times in the year, as at Toronto, for instance, their tonnage was counted 200 times. It was easy in this way to run up our inland marine to seven millions of tons."

Now, Sir, this is the way the advocates of Union endeavor to deceive the people of the Lower Provinces. Even the Hon. Mr. Tilley is not altogether innocent on this point. And in this Island, too, deception has been attempted. The famous speech of the late leader of the Government at the dinner of the Confederation Club, was an illustration of this, for he spoke of the taxation by the municipal boards in Upper Canada as of no account, whereas we know it is in a great measure levied for local requirements such as are here defrayed out of the public chest. Then again the Colonial Secretary came out with a new table of figures every few days, showing that the gain to the Colony by Confederation was to be so and so. But, Sir, their efforts to delude the people did not meet with much success here. Some of the young men of the Anti-union press are as well posted up in figures as their opponents, and have done good service to the country by showing up the fallacies of the Union advocates. In spite of all that those in favor of Confederation can say, it is clear that our taxes will be increased. Before all the expenses which Union will inevitably bring with it can be met, probably even the present high tariff of Canada will require to be raised. Then what will the party in Britain say who advocate a separation of the Colonies from the Mother Country on the ground of their expense? They would indignantly enquire: Are our people to continue paying taxes to protect these Colonists who are doing all in their power to injure our trade by levying still heavier duties upon our manufactures? Sir, I would prefer free trade with England, the land of my fathers, to free trade with Canada. If we are to give any privileges let them be accorded to those who have protected us in times past, and not to those who never did anything of the kind. If we are to pay any sum for defences let it be given to the Mother Country, which can protect us, and not to Canada that is quite unable to protect herself. I am much mistaken if Great Britain would allow the Provinces to impose high duties on British goods; and if this were the case they would then have to resort to direct taxation. But I now come to a point respecting which a good deal has been said, namely, the alteration of the Report by the Canadians. I have here before me three copies of the Report, and they are all different. In the first copy sent down here, which was signed by Sir E. P. Tache, the President of the Conference, the 24th section reads thus:—

"24 The local Legislature of each Province may from time to time alter the Electoral Districts for the purpose of Representation in the House of Commons, and distribute the Representatives to which the Province is entitled in any manner such Legislature may think fit."

In another copy which I received since, and which is the same as that laid before the Canadian Legislature, the section has been altered to read as follows:—

"24. The local Legislatures of each Province may from time to time alter the Electoral Districts for the purpose of Representation in such Legislature, and distribute the Representatives to which the Province is entitled in such local Legislature in any manner such Legislature may see fit."

Now, Sir, this is a very material alteration in a very important clause, and does not say much for our safety should we place ourselves in the power of the Canadians by entering Confederation. It has been said in justification of the alteration that the section referred entirely to the Local Legislatures, and therefore the rendering in the clause as it first stood was evidently an oversight. This apology, however, is unsatisfactory, as the 24th section is not in that part of the Report which relates to the Local Legislatures, but in that which lays down the constitution of the House of Commons. I may say that a dispute arose as to whether the General Legislature should be allowed to arrange the constituencies, and it was understood that this power should be left to the Local Legislatures. When the delegates for this Island contended for 6 members in the House of Commons instead of 5, our chief argument was that if we were allowed 6 representatives, it would render it an easy matter to divide the electoral districts between the three Counties. The Hon. Attorney General brought forward this proposition, and when it

was decided against us, and the principle of representation by population strictly adhered to, I was particular in noticing that the right of distributing the representatives to which each Colony would be entitled, should be left with the Local Legislatures, because I considered such a provision would afford us some protection, by placing it beyond the power of the Canadians to divide the constituencies in order to carry their own objects. Judge of my surprise, therefore, at receiving three or four weeks after my return home, a letter from Mr. Bernard, Secretary to the Conference, and who is also Clerk of the Executive Council of Canada; a letter, enclosing a copy with the 24th section altered as I have stated, and explaining that the alteration had been made because the wording of the section in the first copy was an accidental departure from the views of the Conference. But I have lately received another copy in which there is an alteration in favor of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, providing that the former shall be allowed to impose an export duty on coal, and the latter on timber and logs, which special reservation was not in the copy laid before this House. This alteration, I consider, is equally as culpable as the other. What right, I ask, had the Canadian Government to alter one word of the document after it was signed? They might almost as well change the whole Report to suit their own particular views. I wish also to show that this Report, as a whole, does not place Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in such an unfavorable position as this Island. These Provinces have large local revenues, that of Nova Scotia in 1865, being, as shown by Mr. Galt in his speech at Sherbrooke, \$107,000, and that of New Brunswick in the same year \$9,000. He sets down the local revenues of this Colony at \$31,000; but I am at a loss to know how he made up that sum unless he included in the amount the instalments paid in during the year from the sales under the Land Purchase Act. This money, however, forms no part of our local revenues; it is all required to make up the price paid by the Government for the proprietors' estates which have been purchased. In the neighboring Provinces the case is different; their public lands are Crown lands, the sale of which brings in a large revenue, that will be wholly available for sectional purposes. Taking into consideration also that these Provinces are to receive 80 cents per head for their local wants as well as this Island, and that New Brunswick is guaranteed a subsidy besides, they are tolerably well provided for. But Canada will fare still better. Her local revenues in 1865, as given by Hon. Mr. Galt, were \$1,297,943; and the allowance of 80 cents per head of her population would yield her about \$2,000,000, which will just be \$2,000,000 more than she now expends out of the public funds for local purposes. This Island hitherto has almost solely relied on her customs' revenue, and therefore it is that with the small per capita allowance of 80 cents, we would be unable to carry on the local government without resorting to direct taxation. We are even prevented from levying an export duty on our produce, while this privilege is allowed Nova Scotia and New Brunswick on certain articles. Taking all these points into consideration, I think it is clear that the Report before us is not such as should be adopted by this House. To enter such a Confederation as is here proposed would evidently prove ruinous to the Colony. If a change is thought desirable, I consider it would be more for our advantage to have a representation in the British Parliament, and to pay a per centage to the Imperial Government out of our revenue for any purpose they may think proper. I believe that one representative there would secure for us a greater share of justice than we are ever likely to receive from a federal legislature in Canada. Should Confederation take place, I believe that in a very few years the people under it will be as heavily taxed as the people of the United States are now at the termination of a civil war. I shall vote for the resolutions submitted by the hon. leader of the Government, and trust they will receive the support of a large majority of this House; also that an Address to Her Majesty will be passed, showing the true position of this Colony in regard to the Confederation scheme. (Prolonged cheers.)

After a few remarks by Hon members who had already spoken, the motion was put on the amendment submitted by Hon. J. C. Pope in lieu of the resolutions approving of the Quebec Report, proposed by the Hon. Colonial Secretary, which amendment was carried on the following Division:

For the Amendment—Hon. Messrs. J. C. Pope, Longworth, Laird, Davies, Kays, Coles, Kelly, Hensley, Thornton, Warburton, Beaton, Messrs. Ramsay, Montgomery, Yeo, Duncan,

Breaken, Howat, Conroy, Howlan, Sinclair, Walker, Sutherland—24.

Against it—Hons. Colonial Secretary, Solicitor General, Gray, Whelan, and Mr. Green—5.

Mr. Sinclair then proposed a Resolution, to the effect that, whereas the Government had exceeded the authority of last Session by the appointment of Delegates to Canada; and whereas this House, by resolutions, declared that Confederation, if effected, would prove disastrous to the rights and liberties of the people of this Colony, therefore, that the Government should appoint no further Delegations, or take any action to alter the Constitution without the express authority of the Legislature.

A discussion then ensued on the subject of this Resolution, when it was argued that the adoption of such course was unusual and would place extraordinary restrictions on the prerogative of the Government.

The question was then put on the said Resolution which was negatived on the following division:

Against it—Hon. Messrs. J. C. Pope, Gray, Longworth, Laird, Davies, Kaye, Col. Secretary, Solicitor General, Whelan, Thornton; Messrs. Ramsay, Montgomery, Haslam, Yeo, Duncan, Breaken, Howat, Green, McLennan—19.

For the Resolution—Hons. Messrs. Coles, Hensley, Warburton, Beaton, Kelly; Messrs. Sinclair, Conroy, Howlan, Walker, Sutherland—10.

The Resolution was accordingly lost.

Hon. J. C. Pope then submitted a Resolution for the purpose of appointing a Committee to prepare a joint address to Her Majesty the Queen, founded upon the Resolutions of that House, upon the subject of the proposed Confederation of the British North American Colonies, expressive of the determination of the Legislature, on the part of the people of the Colony, not to assent to such Confederation.

Ordered, that the Hon. Messrs. J. C. Pope, Longworth, Hensley, Coles, and Mr. Sinclair, be a Committee, on the part of that House, to prepare such address.

After which, at a very late hour, the House adjourned.

#### SATURDAY, March 25.\*

Mr. McLennan, Chairman of the Committee to whom were referred sundry petitions relating to the opening of new roads, submitted a report, which was received and read, and ordered to be submitted to a Committee of the whole House on Monday next.

On motion of the Hon. Solicitor General, the Bill to amend the Land Purchase Act was submitted to a Committee of the whole House. Mr. Howlan in the chair.

Hon. Solicitor General explained that the object of the Bill was to abolish the restrictions in regard to the minimum prices fixed by that Act on the wilderness lands of the Worell Estate. It was, therefore, necessary to amend the law so as to authorize the Government to lessen the prices of said lands which could not be sold at the present fixed rates. Portions, at all events, of those waste lands, he said, would be sold, provided the prices were lowered.

Hons. Messrs. Coles, Hensley, Colonial Secretary, Davies, Laird, Longworth, Pope, Gray, and Messrs. Sinclair, and Sutherland, addressed the Committee on the object of the Bill.

During the debate, it was considered advisable to retain the clause in the Act limiting the quantity of land sold to any one person to 300 acres. After which the Bill was reported agreed to.

Several Resolutions were then reported from Supply and agreed to.

\* The dates are repeated, because the Reporters, with the permission of the House, published the Debate on the Union of the Colonies, in a connected form, though it was resumed only on the evening of each day.

Hon. Solicitor General presented a petition from diverse inhabitants of Georgetown, asking permission to erect a Pound on the public square of that Town.

Said petition was referred to the following special Committee to report thereon, viz: Hon. Solicitor General, Longworth, Kaye.

Debate on the Union of the Colonies resumed and adjourned.

Hon. Mr. Pope then introduced a Bill by which to assist Tenants to purchase the fee simple of their farms. He said the object of the Bill was to advance money to Tenants to the extent of one half the purchase money necessary to obtain the fee simple of their farms. The money, thus advanced, to be secured on the property, and repaid with interest, by annual instalments, extending to a term of 10 years. To accomplish that object, he said the Bill authorized the Government to issue debentures to the extent of £50,000 currency, which amount might hereafter be increased, if necessary, for the purpose of finally abolishing that leasehold system which had retarded the progress and prosperity of the Colony.

The Bill was then received and read, and ordered to be read a second time on Monday next. House adjourned.

#### MONDAY, March 27.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Pope, the House went into Committee on the appropriation for Roads and Bridges.

While in Committee on this subject, Mr. Conroy remarked that the Road Commissioners had not always expended the grants of that House in accordance with the Road Scales put into their hands. There was, he said, a lack of attention on this point which he hoped would be remedied in future. If the Commissioner at any time departed from his instructions, he should state his reasons for doing so.

Hon. Mr. Pope observed that the remarks made by the hon. member, (Mr. Conroy,) were called for. He observed by the Road Returns of some of the Road Commissioners that moneys had not always been appropriated as directed by the Road Scales of that House. It would, therefore, be necessary that instructions be given to such Commissioners, through the Road Correspondent, not to expend money for any other purpose than that for which it was appropriated by that House.

On motion of the Hon. Solicitor General, the Bill relating to Wills, Legacies and Executors, was committed to a Committee of the whole House. Mr. McLennan in the chair.

The principal features of this Bill is to provide that if after the death of a father, any of his children shall die intestate, without wife or children during the lifetime of the mother, every brother and sister, and the representative of them, shall have an equal share, with the said mother of the deceased, of the property of such intestate. Executors of Wills are also vested with certain powers and interests over the estates committed to their charge.

The Bill was reported agreed to.

The Bill to amend the Law of Real Estate was read a third time and passed.

The Bill to compel Masters of Vessels to exhibit a light while in harbor, during the night-time, was also read a third time and passed.

On motion of Mr. McLennan, the House went into Committee on the report of the special Committee on new Roads. Mr. Sinclair in the chair.

Said Report was then read, during which objections were taken to the recommendations of the Committee relative to the opening of some new roads, a compliance with which would be contrary to the established principles of that House.

Mr. Howat explained the peculiarly embarrassing situation of the parties alluded to in the report, especially those resident on Lot 28, and contended that the road asked for by such, would prove a general benefit to the travelling public. A counter-petition, however, was presented, objecting to the road in question.

The Report was then amended, and Progress reported thereon.

#### AFTERNOON.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Pope, the Revenue Bill was read a third time and passed.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Longworth, the Bill relating to the Estate of the late J. H. Winsloe, by which tenants on that Estate can secure the titles of their farms, was also read a third time and passed.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Davies, the Bill to amend the Union Bank Act, for the purpose of altering the time for holding the annual meetings of that Institution, was read a second time and agreed to.

Mr. Brecken moved that the House go into Committee on a Bill to amend the Incorporation Act of the City of Charlottetown; and in doing so explained the principal alterations recommended by the said Bill.

Hon. Mr. Laird moved an amendment, that the House go into Committee thereon this day three months.

The said amendment having been negatived, Progress was reported.

Hon. Col. Gray presented a petition from the Rev. Alexander McLean, and other inhabitants of Eldon, praying for the establishment of a Grammar School at that place.

The hon. member, in recommending the petition to the favorable consideration of the House, said that a great many young men, in that rising place, were anxious to acquire a knowledge of the higher branches of education, preparatory to their entering College. The laudable object of the petition he therefore hoped would be favorably supported.

Owing, however, to the established rule of the House, which provides that all petitions praying for money grants should be forwarded to the office of the Col. Secretary, previously to the opening of the Legislature, the said petition was ordered to be withdrawn, the remedy being with the Executive Council or the Board of Education.

Hon. Col. Gray then presented a petition praying for the Incorporation of a Presbyterian Church at Woodville and Little Sands; which petition was received and read, and referred to a Committee to report thereon.

Hon. Col. Gray, Chairman of the said Committee submitted a Bill, which was received and read, and ordered to be referred to the Private Bill Committee to report thereon.

#### TENANT LOAN BILL.

Hon. J. C. Pope moved the second reading of the Bill to enable Tenants to purchase the fee simple of their farms.

Hon. SOLICITOR GENERAL rose to second the motion, and would offer a few remarks on the object of the Bill. He thought it was one of the most important measures brought before the House for many years. Since the Land Purchase Bill introduced by the Hon. leader of the Opposition in 1853, it probably had no equal in regard to the magnitude of the interests involved. It was more important than even the Bill of last Session, commonly called the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, because it would be more general in its operation. That Bill only applied to the estates of proprietors who had assented to the Commission, this measure would extend to the whole Island. The object of this Bill was to allow all the Tenants on all the Townships of the Colony the privilege

of receiving a loan from the public funds equal to half the amount required to purchase the fee simple of their farms, providing the whole sum demanded did not exceed 16s. 8d per acre. The Act of last Session bound the assenting proprietors to take 15 years purchase for their lands, which, at 1s. sterling per acre, amounted to the maximum sum specified in this Bill. The greater portion of the tenants on the estates of those proprietors would therefore come under the operation of this measure, as nine-tenths of the lands of the Colony were leased at that rate. Tenants, however, on other estates who could agree with their landlords to purchase the reversionary interest or fee simple of their farms for any sum not exceeding 16s. 8d. an acre, would also have the privilege of receiving a loan to half the amount from the Treasury. The machinery of the Bill would be found very efficient for the object it contemplated. No tenant was under any compulsion in the matter. He need not purchase unless he obtained satisfactory terms from his landlord; and if he agreed as to terms, and had means in his possession to pay more than half the purchase money, he might borrow from the Government just such amount as he required. Application was to be made to the Commissioner of Lands, who, if the case appeared to be within the requirements of the Bill, would refer it to the Crown Law officers to make enquiries as to whether the applicant was a regular lessee and the proprietor *bona fide* owner of the land proposed to be purchased. The quantity of land and price per acre agreed to be paid must be stated in the application, and if everything should prove satisfactory, the Tenant would then pay half of the purchase money to the Commissioner of Lands, who should hand over the same to the proprietor, giving him an order on the Treasury for the other half, and taking from him a deed of the land. The Commissioner would then make out a deed to the Tenant almost in the same form as the conveyances under the Land Purchase Act are drawn up, giving a receipt for half the purchase money, and allowing him ten years to pay the remainder in instalments with interest at 6 per cent. A lien would also be taken on the property, which the Government would hold as a mortgage for the amount loaned. To raise the money which might be required under the working of the scheme the Government were authorized to issue Debentures to the amount of £50,000, if necessary,—said debentures to bear 6 per cent interest, and be secured by a lien on the land purchased, and if this were not sufficient by a lien on the revenue of the Colony. He (Hon. Sol. General,) having thus given a brief outline of the leading features of the Bill, expressed the belief that if it were passed into law it would be found to be one of the best measures ever originated in this House. He considered it next in importance to the Land Purchase Bill carried through the Legislature under the auspices of the present leader of the Opposition. Under the operation of these two Acts, should the Bill under consideration become law, hon. members might expect that in a few years the proprietors' lands would be all bought up. It was to be hoped that it would prove a panacea for the ill of the tenantry. They would obtain more benefit by sending their friends to this House to carry out constitutional measures such as the one now proposed, than by joining the Tenant League, if we might judge of the principles of that Body by the wild and seditious articles published in its organ, *Russ's Weekly*. The principles advanced in that paper, if persisted in, were such as would end in a rebellion. The Tenantry were greatly deceived if they imagined that they could obtain redress for their grievances by combining to resist the payment of rents. They might depend upon it that all the power which Queen Victoria could command, would be exerted to maintain the laws in their integrity. Did they suppose that they would be allowed to ride rough shod over the principles of British law and the rights of property? If so, and the principle of repudiation were admitted, they would next refuse to pay their shop accounts and every



of all the tenants on the island, and particularly those on Mr. Haythorne's estate, he threw out the suggestion in regard to the desirability of making the amount to be advanced from the Treasury two-thirds instead of one-half. He believed that if two-thirds of the purchase money were advanced by the Government, the sales would be in general that the tenants would not require to pay more than 12s. 6d. an acre for their farms. The proprietors, he thought, if the greater portion of their lands were likely to be bought, would no doubt come down to that price.

The principle of the Bill received the general approval of Hon. members on both sides of the House. It was then committed, read clause by clause, and reported agreed to.

Before the question was put on the report of the Committee, Hon. Mr. Coles moved that it be recommitted, for the purpose of amending the same by a Resolution, which he then submitted, to the effect that two-thirds, and not one-half, the purchase money be advanced; and also to allow for any instalments paid by tenants, who might produce receipt for the same, to the Commissioner of Public Lands, said receipt being for the payment of one-third of said purchase money of their farms. He said that he was desirous to have that amendment inserted in the Bill, that Mr. Haythorne's plan might be carried out, which he had read to the House, previously to going into Committee; for he thought that if the tenants on the estate of that gentleman could get rid of all their back rents by the Government advancing three-fifths, that amount should be paid by the Government.

In reply to that Resolution, the Hon. Leader of the Government remarked that the suggestions therein contained received due consideration before the Bill was submitted to the House, which, if carried out, would necessarily involve a heavy loss, as all Proprietors, who had a number of the very poorest class of tenants from whom no rent could be received, would finally give such tenants a receipt for one-third the purchase money for the sake of getting the other two-thirds from the Government. To prevent that, the Bill contemplated that all the purchase money should pass through the hands of the Land Commissioner. As far as the tenants on Mr. Haythorne's estate, it could not be expected that the House could legislate exclusively for their benefit; and if the agreements entered into between those tenants and their landlords, as advanced agents to them as had been represented by the hon. leader of the Opposition, he did not see that they required any special aid.

The question was then put on the amendment of the Hon. Mr. Coles, and negatived on the following division, viz:

For the amendment—Hon. Messrs. Coles, Warburton, Hensley, Whelan, Thont n, Kelly, Beaton, Messrs. Howlan, Sinclair, Walker and Conroy—11.

Against it—Hon. Messrs. Pope, Longworth, Col. Secretary, Laird, Sol. General, Davies, Kye, Messrs. Haslam, Montgomery, Yen, Giesen, McLennan, Howat, Breckoa, Ramsay and Duncan—16.

The Bill was accordingly agreed to.

Debate on the Union of the Colonies resumed and adjourned.

TUESDAY, March 28.

The Hon. leader of the Government submitted a message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, transmitting the Report of the Adjutant General of Militia for the year 1864.

The House in Committee on Pauper Scales reported several resolutions agreed to, after which Progress was reported.

The House in Committee on matters relating to Roads, Bridges and Wharfe, and after some time spent therein, Progress was reported.

The House then again spent some time in Committee on the report of the Committee on new Roads.

Objection was taken to the opening of a road at Bay

of all the tenants on the island, and particularly those on Mr. Haythorne's estate, he threw out the suggestion in regard to the desirability of making the amount to be advanced from the Treasury two-thirds instead of one-half. He believed that if two-thirds of the purchase money were advanced by the Government, the sales would be in general that the tenants would not require to pay more than 12s. 6d. an acre for their farms. The proprietors, he thought, if the greater portion of their lands were likely to be bought, would no doubt come down to that price.

The principle of the Bill received the general approval of Hon. members on both sides of the House. It was then committed, read clause by clause, and reported agreed to.

Before the question was put on the report of the Committee, Hon. Mr. Coles moved that it be recommitted, for the purpose of amending the same by a Resolution, which he then submitted, to the effect that two-thirds, and not one-half, the purchase money be advanced; and also to allow for any instalments paid by tenants, who might produce receipt for the same, to the Commissioner of Public Lands, said receipt being for the payment of one-third of said purchase money of their farms. He said that he was desirous to have that amendment inserted in the Bill, that Mr. Haythorne's plan might be carried out, which he had read to the House, previously to going into Committee; for he thought that if the tenants on the estate of that gentleman could get rid of all their back rents by the Government advancing three-fifths, that amount should be paid by the Government.

In reply to that Resolution, the Hon. Leader of the Government remarked that the suggestions therein contained received due consideration before the Bill was submitted to the House, which, if carried out, would necessarily involve a heavy loss, as all Proprietors, who had a number of the very poorest class of tenants from whom no rent could be received, would finally give such tenants a receipt for one-third the purchase money for the sake of getting the other two-thirds from the Government. To prevent that, the Bill contemplated that all the purchase money should pass through the hands of the Land Commissioner. As far as the tenants on Mr. Haythorne's estate, it could not be expected that the House could legislate exclusively for their benefit; and if the agreements entered into between those tenants and their landlords, as advanced agents to them as had been represented by the hon. leader of the Opposition, he did not see that they required any special aid.

The question was then put on the amendment of the Hon. Mr. Coles, and negatived on the following division, viz:

For the amendment—Hon. Messrs. Coles, Warburton, Hensley, Whelan, Thont n, Kelly, Beaton, Messrs. Howlan, Sinclair, Walker and Conroy—11.

Against it—Hon. Messrs. Pope, Longworth, Col. Secretary, Laird, Sol. General, Davies, Kye, Messrs. Haslam, Montgomery, Yen, Giesen, McLennan, Howat, Breckoa, Ramsay and Duncan—16.

The Bill was accordingly agreed to.

Debate on the Union of the Colonies resumed and adjourned.

TUESDAY, March 28.

The Hon. leader of the Government submitted a message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, transmitting the Report of the Adjutant General of Militia for the year 1864.

The House in Committee on Pauper Scales reported several resolutions agreed to, after which Progress was reported.

The House in Committee on matters relating to Roads, Bridges and Wharfe, and after some time spent therein, Progress was reported.

The House then again spent some time in Committee on the report of the Committee on new Roads.

Objection was taken to the opening of a road at Bay

Hon. Mr. Coles was sorry that such principles should be enunciated by the Solicitor General of any Colony. They were too worthy of the atmosphere of the House. The measure under consideration might be a sister of the Land Purchase Bill, but it differed so much from that Bill as one sister from another. If the Land Purchase Bill had not been opposed—if its principles had only been carried out, there would have been no need of this measure, nor of the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill. He was not, however, opposed to the principle of the Bill before the House; he had, on a former occasion, expressed himself in favor of such a measure, but his proposition was that if the tenants paid down one-third of the purchase money, the Government should advance the other two-thirds. The Bill as introduced would not be a benefit to any except the rich tenants, as a large sum of money would require to be paid down at once. Under the Land Purchase Bill only 20 per cent of the purchase money had to be paid down; besides the two per cent being set down above 10s., the whole sum did not amount to so much as would require to be paid in the case of this Bill. Where individuals would separately buy from their landlords, under the Purchase Bill the Tenant's first instalment only came to about £10, and his back rents were given up to him; but under this Bill there would be no remission of arrears, and one-half of the price asked would have to be paid before a purchase could be effected. To show how anxious some of the proprietors were to get completely clear of their lands, he would read the following Postscript to a letter which he lately received from a gentleman who had entered into a negotiation with his property:—

“Postscript.”

MARCH 23, 1865.

I have only further to remark on the subject of the arrears and the purchase of my property generally, that in case a measure is carried into effect for assisting Tenants in the purchase of their farms, and my Tenants are allowed the advantage of it in January next, when their second instalment, making two-fifths of the whole Purchase money, shall have been paid, so that the transaction may be then finally closed, I will engage in that case to remit the whole of the arrears.

R. P. HAYTHORNE.”

“Hon. G. Coles.”

If had been stated in the House, that the agreement which Mr. Haythorne entered into with his tenants required them to pay their arrears (I rent after the fifth or last instalment of the purchase money of their farms had been met; he was, however, here mistaken by that gentleman to say that if the Government advanced three-fifths of the price of their farms, he would remit their arrears of rent. He (Mr. C.) hoped the Government would amend their Bill as to meet this case. He did not say that he would oppose the measure; but on behalf

Fortune, as recommended by said Report, on the grounds that the law in such cases would not authorize the House in opening said Road.

Hon. Mr. Beaton moved that the report of the Committee, touching the opening of that road, be adopted; and explained the desirability and advantage of extending the road in question to the sea shore.

A counter petition, against the completion of that road, was then alluded to; after which it was resolved that the Government be authorized to appoint a Commission to examine into the real merits of the case, with the view of ascertaining the necessity or otherwise of completing the road in question. It was also resolved that a similar Commission be appointed to report on the road asked for on Lot 28. After some further discussion, relating to the opening of new Roads in d. Several other localities alluded to, the Report was agreed to with amendments.

Hon. Solicitor General submitted a Bill to amend the Militia Laws of the Island, which was received and read, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Longworth, Chairman of the Committee appointed to bring in a Bill relating to the appointment of Clerks of Magistrate Courts throughout the Island. The hon. member then explained the object of this Bill, and the duties imposed on Clerks so appointed, relative to forwarding returns to the Prothonotary's Office previous to the meetings of the terms of the Supreme Courts of the Island; after which the Bill was received and read, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

On motion of the Hon. Solicitor General, the House went into Committee on the bill to amend the Land Purchase Act. Mr. Howland in the chair.

The Bill was then read by the Chairman, clause by clause, and agreed to with certain amendments.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Davies, the Bill to amend the Union Bank Act was read a third time and passed.

On motion of the Hon. leader of the Government, the Bill to assist Leaseholders in the purchase of the fee simple of their farms, was read a third time and passed.

House adjourned.

#### AFTERNOON.

On motion of the Hon. Solicitor General, the Bill relative to Wills, Legacies, and Testators, was read a third time and passed.

Hon. Mr. Longworth, Chairman of the Committee on Private Bills, recommended that the Bill to incorporate the Presbyterian Church at Woodville and Little Sands be exempt from the charge of fees payable thereon.

Hon. Col. Gray then moved that the House go into Committee on the Bill to incorporate the Church at Woodville, &c. Mr. Green in the chair.

The said Bill was then read, clause by clause, and reported agreed to.

The Pauper Scales were then again taken up in Committee and disposed of.

The House then in Committee, resumed the consideration of the appropriation for Roads, Bridges and Wharfs, and reported the same agreed to.

On motion of the Hon. Solicitor General, the Bill to amend the laws relating to the better administration of Justice, was committed. Mr. Yeo in the chair.

Hon. Sol. General explained the changes in the practice sought to be introduced by the Bill, which specified the particular form of Writ to be served upon corporate bodies, and also designated the parties on whom such

Writ should be served, and enable the plaintiff to file common bail in suits against incorporated companies; in accordance with the present practice in suits between individuals. Another provision in the Bill was for the relief of parties sued by executors or administrators, rendering them liable to the consequences of litigation in the same manner as were private individuals. The Bill also provided for liability to pay interest on open accounts after demand and notice. It also authorized the adoption of legal proceedings, in the form of signature, used by any defendants in subscribing to any contract. Rights of actions, in cases of tort, were, by the Bill, reserved to the personal representatives of deceased individuals. It also provided that, in the cases of Notes drawn, payable in specific articles, the Plaintiff should not be compelled to prove value received, and gave the privilege of paying money into Court in cases of tort. It also abolished the necessity of applying for an order for leave to plead more than one plea in suits in the Supreme Court.

After some time spent in Committee, during which several hon. members spoke on the principles of the Bill,

Mr. Montgomery objected to that clause rendering parties liable to the payment of interest on accounts, as he considered it would tend to encourage litigation, and be productive of no benefit to the debtor.

Mr. Howat also offered some objection to that clause.

Progress thereon was reported.

Debate on the Union of the Colonies resumed and adjourned.

#### WEDNESDAY, March 29.

Hon. Mr. Pope submitted the account of sales of the Stock imported to this Island last year, which was received and read.

The Report of the Adjutant General of Militia, which had been previously submitted, was also read.

Mr. Brecken moved that the House go into Committee on the petition of divers inhabitants of Charlottetown, asking the House to appropriate part of Government House Grounds for a Military Parade Ground, and a Park for recreation of citizens, and other inhabitants of P. E. Island.

Hon. Mr. Longworth expressed his regret that a Petition of this kind should have come before the House. While fully concurring with the petitioners as to the desirability of obtaining, if possible, a piece of ground in the vicinity of Charlottetown for the purposes contemplated in the petition, he would remind the House that the property known as the Government Farm was vested in the Lieutenant Governor of the Colony for the time being, and therefore it became a question for the House to consider how far it was proper to interfere with established rights in reference to it. But whatever the opinion of the House might be on that point, he conceived it to be an impolitic movement at the present time, when, with an application before them to pay the Lieutenant Governor's salary, it became the duty of the House to use every effort in its power to save the Colony from that large annual expenditure. An address to the Queen would, no doubt, be adopted by the House on that subject, and therefore if it were at the same time to deprive the Governor, as contemplated by the petition, of part of the lands appropriated for his use and benefit in the Colony, it would be directly defeating the object of the address. Independently of all that, however, he said when he looked at the petition he could not but express his surprise. The application was based upon the argument that as the grounds referred to originally formed part of the Common of Charlottetown, the grant thereof to Lord Dorchester was illegal, and not only so, but that the titles of the parties who held the residue of the Common was open to the same legal objection. That was certainly, he said,

a most extraordinary argument to use, and he could not see how the House could accede to the application of the petitioners without endorsing the doctrine of Escheat so prominently set forth in the petition. At the same time he would express his conviction that either the petitioners had not carefully read over the petition to which they had attached their names, or they had not maturely considered the nature of the arguments employed by them in support of its prayer.

After some further discussion on the subject of the petition, it was submitted to a Committee of the whole House. Mr. Yeo in the chair.

The petition was then received and read, and after some further discussion, during which the desirability of procuring a portion of the domain attached to Government House grounds as a place for a Parade and Recreation ground, was generally admitted by hon. members.

Mr. Brecken then submitted a Resolution to the effect that, in the opinion of that Committee, it was expedient that a Bill should be passed, authorizing the dedication of a portion of the Government House farm for the purposes of a Parade ground for the Militia and Volunteers, and as a Park or place of recreation; and also that an address be presented to Her Majesty the Queen, praying that she will be graciously pleased to give her Royal sanction to such dedication. After which Progress was reported.

Hon. Mr. Coles read, in his place, a petition from divers inhabitants of Marshfield School District, Lot 34, complaining of some of the provisions of the present School Act, and suggesting certain amendments. The hon. member observed that he was aware he could not ask for any action to be taken on the petition, which had only been very recently handed to him. He would, however, ask if it were the intention of the Government to amend the School Act during the present Session.

Mr. Haslam said that he had a petition on the same subject, which he was about to present, when the

Hon. Mr. Longworth replied, that it was not the intention of the Government to entertain any action on the subject of Education, during the present Session, in consequence of the short time that had elapsed since the present amended law had been in operation, the merits of which had not yet been fairly tested.

House adjourned.

#### AFTERNOON.

On motion of the Hon. Col Gray, the Bill to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of the Presbyterian Congregation at Woodville and Little Sands, was read a third time and passed.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Davies, the Supplementary Estimates for the current year were submitted, and referred to the House when in Committee on Supply.

Hon. Mr. Coles asked for returns of the number of acres of land purchased by the Government last year, and the price paid for the same.

Hon. Mr. Davies said he thought that the Accounts and Returns from the Land Office, already before the House, furnished the necessary information.

The Hon. Leader of the Government, shortly afterwards produced from the Office of the Land Commissioner the paper asked for.

On motion of the Hon. Solicitor General, the Militia Bill was read a second time and committed. Mr. Yeo in the chair.

The Hon. Solicitor General explained the Bill, and said that it repealed the Act 14 Vic., cap 6, and thereby revived certain Acts therein mentioned. The repeal of said Act, he said, would enable the Commander-in-Chief to call out the Militia, if occasion required.

After some debate on this subject, the Bill was agreed to without any amendment.

The House resumed Committee on Supply, and reported several Resolutions agreed to.

Mr. Yeo, Chairman of the Committee appointed to examine the Public Accounts, presented their Report, which was ordered to be submitted to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Longworth, the Bill relating to the appointment of Clerks of Justices of the Peace, was submitted to a Committee of the whole House.

Hon. Mr. Longworth then explained the object of the Bill, which authorizes Justices of the Peace, in any district of the Island, if they think proper, to appoint a Clerk, for whose acts the said Justices should be responsible. The duties of such Clerk should be to make a Return to the Office of the Prothonotary of the Supreme Court of the Colony in which he shall hold his office; such Returns to be forwarded to said Office at least four days previous to the holding of the respective Sessions of the said Supreme Court. Those Returns to contain a record of all convictions before such Justices of the Peace from whom he may hold his appointment, together with the amount of fines ordered by such Justices, and the manner in which they might have been levied and distributed.

On motion of Mr. McLennan, a Resolution was adopted, to the effect that an address be presented to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor on the subject of the report of the Committee on New Roads.

Hon. Solicitor General, agreeably to notice, introduced a Bill to amend the law relating to the Agricultural Society, so as to alter the time for holding the annual meeting of that Society.

The House in Committee thereon. Mr. Yeo in the chair.

Several hon. members then spoke of the necessity of reconstituting that institution, with the view of rendering it more generally useful to the Agricultural interests of the Colony.

Progress was then reported.

Debate on the Union of the Colonies resumed and adjourned.

#### FRIDAY, March 31.

On motion of the Hon. Colonial Secretary, the House went into Committee on the Despatch from the Secretary for the Colonies, intimating the withdrawal, at no distant period, of the Imperial grant for the payment of the salary of the Lieutenant Governor of the Island. Mr. Howland in the chair.

The Despatch was received and read.

Hon. Col Secretary remarked upon the injustice done to the Island by the alienation of all its territories, during the reign of the late George the Third of England, and, consequently, the hardship of subjecting its people to the payment of the salary of the Lieutenant Governor. He also alluded to the terms on which the Legislature of the Colony undertook to pay the Civil List Bill, by which it was not intended that the salary of the Lieutenant Governor should be paid from the Colonial Treasury.

Hon. Messrs. Longworth and Hensley also remarked on the strong claims the Island had to that annual Imperial grant for the payment of the salary of the Lieutenant Governor, and the necessity of taking immediate steps to prevent, if possible, the people of the Island having to pay that salary, and expressed the hope that the Home Government would be induced to continue that annual grant as usual.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary then submitted a Resolution to the effect that a Committee be appointed to join a Committee of the Legislative Council, for the purpose of preparing an address to Her Majesty the Queen, praying that Her Majesty would be pleased, in consideration of the peculiar circumstances in which the Island was placed, by reason of the alienation, by His Majesty George the Third, of the entire lands of the Colony, to recommend to the Imperial Parliament the propriety of continuing the usual grant heretofore made for the payment of the salary of the Lieutenant Governor of the Island.

The Resolution was then agreed to, and the following gentlemen were appointed to prepare an address in con-

formity therewith, viz:—Hon. Colonial Secretary, Longworth, Laird, and Mr. Brecken.

Mr. Davies submitted the Appropriation Bill for the period of the year 1865. On motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole thereon. Mr. McLennan in the chair.

The Chairman having read the Bill, it was reported agreed to.

The Bill relating to the Inspection of Pickled Fish, was read, and the Bill for the better advancement of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Longworth submitted the Report of a Committee appointed to enquire into the petition from certain inhabitants of Georgetown, asking for the erection of a Pound on the Public Square, &c. &c. which Report, declining to adhere to the prayer of said petition, was received; read and agreed to.

On motion of the Hon. Solicitor General, the House went into Committee on the Bill relating to the Agricultural Society. Mr. Yeo in the chair.

On motion of the Hon. Solicitor General, the Bill to amend the Act to incorporate the Royal Agricultural Society of St. Eustace, was submitted to a Committee of the House.

That Bill provided that the annual meeting of that Institution might be held on the first Tuesday in May next for the present year, because, through neglect or inadvertance, that meeting was not held in March last. The Bill also repeals a clause in the old Act, relating to the appointment of a class of Subscribers, called Governors; which clause was by that Bill abolished. The appointment of 5s. to constitute subscribers members of the Society, the President and Committee to be chosen by a majority of the members generally, at a meeting legally called for that purpose.

Another clause in the Act, relating to the mode of appointing the Secretary and Treasurer of that Society, was also abolished; that officer, in future, to be appointed by the President and Committee of the Society, instead of by the Lieutenant Governor and Council as heretofore. The Secretary should be to file, in the Office of the Colonial Secretary, a full and correct statement of the revenues and affairs of the Society; such accounts to be audited by the same auditors as the Public Accounts of the Colony.

A few remarks from several hon. members on the necessity of rendering more efficient the Agricultural Society, the object of which was the promotion of the best interests of the Island, the Bill was reported agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Yeo, the House went into Committee on the Report of the Special Committee on Public Accounts. Mr. Sinclair in the chair.

After some time spent in Committee thereon, the said Report was agreed to without any amendment.

The following hon. members were then appointed a Committee to Report on the Contingent Expenses of the House, viz: Messrs. Hurlan, Yeo and McLennan.

Hon. Mr. Hensley, Chairman of a Committee appointed last Session to report on the propriety of opening a new road through the farm of Alexander Hadden, of East River, submitted their Report, recommending the opening of said road. said Report was then adopted, and a Committee appointed to prepare an address to His Excellency on the subject.

Hon. Leader of the Government read a letter from W. A. Lockerby, of that town, proposing to heat certain portions of the Colonial Building, &c. also hot air principle, in operation in the Lunatic Asylum, and in some of the stores and private residences of the City; which

letter was accompanied by the recommendations of the Hon. Messrs. Gray and Coles.

A short discussion on the subject then took place, during which the principle was generally approved.

The adjourned debate on the Union of the Colonies was then resumed and concluded.

SATURDAY, April 1.

The Bill to amend the law relating to the Agricultural Society was read a third time and passed.

Hon. Mr. Hensley submitted an address to His Excellency on the subject of the Report agreed to by the House, relating to a new Road through the farm of Alexander Hadden, of East River, and asking His Excellency's approval of said Report.

Mr. Brecken presented the customary address to His Excellency, expressive of the thanks of the House for the various Despatches and Correspondence transmitted by him during the Session.

Said address was adopted.

Mr. McLennan, Chairman of the Committee on the petition of Divers Merchants, Shipbuilders, and others, praying for the appointment of a Surveyor of Shipping for Prince County, submitted the Report of said Committee; which stated that the remedy for the grievance complained of rested with the Executive Council.

On motion of Mr. Brecken, the House in Committee resumed the consideration of the petition of the Citizens of Charlotte town and Cannon, asking for a part of Government House Farm to be set apart for a Parade Ground and Park.

After a short debate on the subject of the petition, it was considered too far advanced in the Session to take any further action thereon for the present. It was, therefore, resolved that it was inexpedient, at that late period of the Session, to proceed further with the said petition.

Hon. J. C. Pope, Chairman of the Committee appointed to prepare an address to Her Majesty the Queen, on the subject of the Resolutions passed by the House relating to Colonial Confederation, submitted a Draft Address, which was received and read.

Hon. Colonial Secretary said he would only remark that he was prepared to record his vote against that address.

Hon. Mr. Whelan then moved an amendment that said address be agreed to that day three months.

For the amendment—Hon. Messrs. Whelan, Colonial Secretary, Solicitor General and Mr. Green—4.

Against it—Hon. Messrs. J. C. Pope, Hensley, Longworth, Rive, Laird, Beaton, Messrs. Haslam, Brecken, Duncan, Yeo, Howat, Ramsay, Montgomery—13.

The address was accordingly carried.

After the transaction of some further routine business the House adjourned.

Monday, April 3.

His Honor the Speaker communicated to the House a letter from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of his intention to prorogue the Legislature at 4 o'clock this day.

Hon. Leader of the Government reported, from the joint Committee, the address to Her Majesty the Queen, on the subject of the Confederation of the British North American Provinces, which address was agreed to.

Hon. Colonial Secretary reported, from the joint Committee, the address to Her Majesty the Queen, relating to the payment of the salary of the Lieutenant Governor of this Colony, which was also agreed to.

The Chairman of the different Committees appointed to wait on His Excellency with the various addresses, severally reported the delivery of the same, and His Excellency's replies thereto.

Hon. Mr. Colas observed that no action had been taken on the School Visitor's Report, he would, therefore, ask if it were the intention of the Government to have it printed.

Hon. Leader of the Government replied that they had no discretion in the matter, the law authorized the Board of Education to have it published.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor having come down to the Council Chamber was this day pleased to give his assent, in Her Majesty's name, to the Bills intituled as follows, viz:—

An Act to continue the Act of the twenty-first year of the Reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to continue for certain purposes the Seduction Act, and to make other provisions in lieu thereof as regards all future actions."

An Act to amend the Act for the establishment of a Bank of Savings in Prince Edward Island.

An Act to authorize the appointment of Hog Reeves in certain Districts in this Island, and to prevent the going at large of Swine within the same.

An Act to repeal the Act relating to the Oyster Fisheries in this Island, and to make other provisions in lieu thereof.

An Act for regulating the Inspection of Pickled Fish for exportation from this Island.

An Act to incorporate the Summerside Bank.

An Act to make provision for the regulation of Seamen shipped on board of any ship or vessel owned in or belonging to Prince Edward Island, while such ship or vessel shall be within the precincts of the said Island.

An Act to regulate the salaries of the Collectors of Impost and Excise for the Districts of Bedouque and Georgetown.

An Act to amend the Act to promote Vaccination.

An Act to enlarge the Jurisdiction of the Mayor's Court in the City of Charlottetown.

An Act to amend the Law respecting defamatory Words and Libel.

An Act to amend the Act for constituting Boards of Health.

An Act in further amendment of the Laws regulating the sale by licence of Spirituous Liquors.

An Act to alter the time for holding certain Terms of the Supreme Court in the several Counties in this Island.

An Act to amend the Law of Real Property.

An Act to compel Masters of Vessels to exhibit a light while in harbor in the night time.

An Act for raising a Revenue.

An Act to amend the Act of twenty-sixth Victoria, Chapter four, incorporating the Union Bank of Prince Edward Island.

An Act to assist leaseholders in the purchase of the Fee simple of their Farms.

An Act to amend an Act intituled "An Act to repeal an Act made and passed in the twenty-first year of the reign of King George the third, intituled 'An Act relating to Will, Legacies, and Executors, and for the settlement and distribution of the Estates of Intestates.'"

An Act to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of the Presbyterian Congregation of Woodville and Little Sands, Township No. Sixty-two and Sixty-four.

An Act in addition to and in further amendment of the Land Purchase Act.

An Act to repeal the Act intituled "An Act to alter and amend the Laws now in force relating to the Militia," and to revive certain Acts therein mentioned.

An Act for the appointment of Clerks to Justices of the Peace, and to regulate proceedings had before them.

An Act in amendment of the Law and the better advancement of Justice.

An Act in amendment of the Act regulating the Inspection of Pickled Fish for exportation from this Island.

An Act for appropriating certain Moneys therein mentioned for the service of the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five.

An Act in further amendment of the Act to incorporate the Royal Agricultural Society of Prince Edward Island.

After which His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to reserve the following Bill for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure thereon:

An Act to carry into effect certain unexecuted agreements made by the late John Hodges Winsloe, Esquire, deceased, for the sale and leasing of certain parts of his Estate in this Colony.

His Excellency was then pleased to close the Session with the following

#### SPEECH.

*Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:*

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

The unremitting attention which you have bestowed on your Legislative duties, enables me to relieve you, at an earlier period than usual, from further attendance here.

After deliberate consideration of the Terms adopted by the Conference at Quebec as a basis for Confederation of the British North American Provinces, you have refused, on the part of this Colony, to sanction the proposed Scheme.

In accordance with your request, I shall forward to the Secretary of State for the Colonies your address to Her Majesty on that subject.

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

I thank you, in Her Majesty's name, for the provision you have made for the Public Service of the year.

The Appropriation you have made for Agricultural purposes is a due acknowledgment of the importance you attach to the cultivation of the soil, and the improvement of stock.

*Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:*

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

I have given my assent with great satisfaction to the Act, which you have passed to assist leaseholders in the purchase of the fee simple of their farms.

I anticipate most beneficial results from this measure. The assistance which it offers, cannot fail to be fully appreciated by a large number of the people whom you represent.

I observe that several measures of Law Reform have occupied your attention, and that you have taken action with a view of facilitating and simplifying the procedure in Courts of Justice.

I am glad to be enabled to relieve you from your legislative duties, by proroguing this General Assembly.