

THE
PARLIAMENTARY REPORTER;

OR,

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

OF

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND,

FOR THE YEAR 1866.

BEING THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

E. B. Irving, Esquire, Reporter.



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1866.

THE

PARLIAMENTARY REPORTS

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

IN THE

SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN

OF GEORGE THE THIRD

AND

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

AND

THE PARLIAMENTARY REPORTER.

SESSION, 1866.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

On Monday, April 9th, His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Dundas, came down to the Council Chamber, at 3 o'clock, when he was pleased to open the Fourth Session of the Twenty-second General Assembly of this Island with the following

SPEECH:

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

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

I am happy again to meet you, and to have recourse to your assistance and advice.

In accordance with the notice given by the Government of the United States, the Reciprocity Treaty between that Power and Great Britain has terminated. It will be for you to consider what measures should be adopted in regard to such commercial interests as are affected by the abrogation of this Treaty.

At the suggestion of Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a Council was summoned by the Governor-General for the purpose of furnishing an opinion to the Imperial Government in the negotiation of commercial treaties. A Delegate was sent to represent the interests of this Island at this Council. The report of its proceedings will be laid before you.

It was also deemed expedient that this Island should be represented on the mission which has been sent to the West Indies, Brazil and Mexico. The object of this mission is to ascertain in what manner the trade of the British North American Provinces with these countries can be extended. I have not yet learned the result of this mission.

The general prosperity of the past year has been marred by the civil disturbances which took place in several parts of this Colony. Misled by ignorant or designing men, tenants were induced to form themselves into an association with the avowed intention of withholding payment of their rents, unless their landlords consented to sell their lands on such terms as this association chose to dictate.

The law was openly and systematically set at defiance, and it became necessary to use extraordinary measures to enforce it. A requisition was, therefore, made for a detachment of Her Majesty's troops, to aid the civil power, and the authority of the law has been firmly and impartially maintained.

Papers on these subjects will be laid before you.

In the Preamble of the Act under which the Barracks in this City were sold, you pledged the Colony to provide suitable accommodation for any troops that might be stationed here. New Barracks have, therefore, been erected, and you will be asked to concur in a measure for appropriating the money arising from the sale of the old barracks towards the expenditure incurred in building those at present occupied by the troops.

I have recently concluded the purchase of another Estate from one of the proprietors. It is my intention to continue to buy out the rights of the landowners, whenever I am enabled to do so on reasonable terms.

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

I have given directions that the Public Accounts for the past year be laid before you.

The Revenue is the largest which has ever been collected in this Island, and would have been more than sufficient to meet the expenditure, had it not been for the extraordinary outlay which was caused by the measures necessary for the suppression of the disturbances occasioned by the lawless association to which I have alluded.

The Estimates for the present 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:

You will, I am sure, have observed, with just pride, the loyalty and the spirit which your fellow subjects in the neighbouring Provinces have displayed, when threatened by piratical attacks at the hands of lawless men. I know that, should an emergency ever unfortunately occur in this Island, I could rely with confidence on a like spirit in its inhabitants.

of every creed and station. But I must seriously urge upon you the necessity of doing all in your power towards making due preparation for such an emergency by giving your earnest consideration to the laws which at present regulate the Militia and the Volunteer force.

I am glad to inform you that the Stock purchased in England for the Model Farm, arrived in a very satisfactory condition. I am confident that you will cheerfully give your concurrence to such a grant as may be deemed necessary for the support of an institution so well calculated to advance the agricultural interests of the Colony.

I now commit to you the business of the Session, with the fervent prayer that your deliberations may, under the Divine blessing, conduce to the welfare and prosperity of this Island.

After a copy of his Excellency's Speech was read to the House from the Speaker's Chair—the Hon. J. G. Pope, a member of Her Majesty's Executive Council, laid on the table the Sheriff's return to the writ issued for the election of a member for the First District of King's County, in room of the Hon. Donald Beaton, deceased. The Hon. Emanuel McEachen, returned member for said district, then appeared at the bar, and having been introduced by the Hon. Mr. Hensley and F. Brecken, Esq., took the necessary oaths, and his seat.

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, Yeo, Haslam, Hon. E. McEachen, Messrs. Duncan, McLennan, and Howat—Committee on Public Accounts: Messrs. McLennan, Yeo, Duncan, Haslam, Hon. G. Coles, Mr. Howlan, Hon. J. Hensley.

On motion of the Hon. J. G. Pope, seconded by Mr. Haslam—Ordered that the Thirteenth Rule of the House be suspended to enable a Member to introduce a Bill—after which he presented a Bill, for transferring the funds raised by the sale of the old Military Barracks in Charlottetown for the purposes therein mentioned. He (Hon. Mr. Pope) then said that since the passing of the Act to which the Bill alluded, touching the sale of the Barrack property, it became necessary to purchase land and erect new Barracks and other buildings for the accommodation of Her Majesty's troops in this Island. It was, therefore, he said, deemed expedient that the funds arising from the sale of the old Barrack property should be applied towards the repayment of the moneys advanced by the Government for the erection of the new Barracks, and other buildings connected therewith.

Hon. Mr. Coles opposed the introduction of the bill, on the ground that it was a bill appropriating money, and should therefore have originated in a Committee of the whole House; and he also said it was unconstitutional. Hon. J. Hensley and J. Warburton supported the objections raised by the Hon. Mr. Coles.

Hon. Sol. General and Mr. Longworth supported the introduction of the bill, the object of which was, not to impose a burthen, but to remove it, by enabling the Government to transfer a grant for the relief of the people.

After some discussion, the House divided on the question as follows—

Yeas: Hon. J. G. Pope, Solicitor General, D. Davies, D. Kaye, J. Longworth, J. H. Gray, E. McEachen;

Messrs. Haslam, Ramsay, McLennan, Yeo, Brecken, Duncan—18.

Nays: Hon. G. Coles, Whelan, Warburton, Thornton, Laird, Hensley; Messrs. Conroy, Howlan, Howat—9.

Carried in the affirmative.

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

The customary order relative to the postage of Members' letters was renewed.

Ordered. That no Petition praying for any object of a local or private character, be received after Friday, the 20th day of April, instant.

On motion of the Hon. J. G. Pope, seconded by Hon. J. Longworth, Mr. Archibald McNeill was appointed Summary Reporter, his duty being to furnish each Member daily with a printed summary of the proceedings of the House.

After which the House adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, April 10, 1866.

Hon. Mr. Pope proposed B. B. Irving, Esq., Reporter of the House, and in doing so said it was desirable to have the Debates before hon. members with as little delay as possible—errors often occurred in the reports, and it was nothing but right that hon. members should have an opportunity of correcting them before the debates were published in the Parliamentary Reporter—this could only be done by their being laid on the table of each member while the House was in Session.

Hon. Mr. Coles said that without a staff of reporters it was impossible to have the work performed as speedily as it should be, and suggested that as there were but two applicants, it would be better to appoint them both. In the other Provinces four or five reporters were employed to keep the work up.

Hon. Col. Gray observed that the reporter last year was allowed to obtain sufficient assistance, as the gentleman now named would also, doubtless, be expected to employ such helps as he might require. He regretted that in a speech of his, with the extended report of which the reporter (not the senior but his assistant) had submitted to him for revision—on reading the report he found that in one sentence his sentiments had been altogether misrepresented, in all probability from a misapprehension of his words or meaning by the reporter at the time of his taking his notes. Observing this, he not only corrected the error on the face of the report, but he also took and retained a copy of the correction. He was therefore much surprised to find, on reference to the Parliamentary Reporter, which had only been laid on his desk yesterday, that the original error, and not the correction, had been given in that record. A disclaimer now was unavailing against an authority received as the record of the House. He believed the gentleman proposed capable of undertaking the work, and would therefore second the motion of the hon. the Leader of the Government.

Hon. Mr. Davies said it was better to have one Reporter responsible for the performance of the work on the principle adopted last Session. Speeches appearing in print six months after they were delivered, lost their interest. It was better not to have them even then, than to be inaccurately reported. It was no use to repudiate what appeared in the Parliamentary Reporter when it was placed on the list of books in the Legislative Library.

Hon. Mr. Hensley was of opinion that if any stricter rule than usual was to be adopted, it would be better to define its limits. To prevent misunderstanding, he would suggest that the Reporter be expected to furnish the House with a copy of the debate on any question within one week from the time such debate took place.

Mr. McLennan approved of the appointment of one responsible Reporter. It was useless to expend money on speeches published months after they were delivered.

Hon. Mr. Warburton said he never felt very anxious about the appearance of his speeches in public print. He was satisfied to leave the matter with the Reporter, of whom it was not proper to expect impossibilities.

Hon. Mr. Longworth said it had been very properly suggested that the debates be published with as little delay as possible; but it would not be fair to tie the Reporter down to a day.

Hon. Mr. Whelan said it was impossible to suppose that some debates, such, for instance, as the answer to His Excellency's address, could be hurriedly placed before the public.

Hon. Solicitor-General agreed with the Hon. Mr. Whelan. It was physically, as well as morally, impossible for any Reporter, however well qualified, to perform his work in the short time alluded to. It should be left to the discretion of the Reporter to employ such assistance as he required.

Mr. Howlan said it was impossible for any Reporter to give extracts, quoted in speeches, unless they were furnished him. It was, therefore, the duty of hon. members to hand the Reporter such extracts in order to enable him to publish their speeches accurately.

Mr. Brecken was in favor of the adoption of a more summary mode of reporting than that hitherto practised. Nothing, excepting patent medicine notices, could be more nauseous than to be compelled to read over old speeches which appeared in print months after they were delivered.

The motion to appoint R. B. Irving Esq., Reporter to the House, was then put, and unanimously carried.

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

Ordered, That said address be referred to Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Davies, Chairman of the Committee to receive tenders for printing the Journals of the Session, submitted a report recommending that the tender of Mr. F. W. Hughes, being the lowest, be accepted—report agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Pope, Chairman of the Committee to receive tenders for printing the Parliamentary Reporter, submitted the report of the Committee recommending that the tender of Mr. F. W. Hughes be accepted—report agreed to.

House adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, April 11.

Hon. Mr. Langworth submitted to the House the Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum—received and read.

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 then read the whole Address which is as follows:

To His Excellency **Charles Dundas, Esquire, Vice-Governor, &c., &c., &c.**

May it please your Excellency:

1. We, Her Majesty's loyal subjects, the House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, respectfully offer to your Excellency our thanks for the Speech delivered at the opening of the present Session.

2. In consequence of the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty between the United States and Great Britain, we shall adopt such measures as may be required to advance and protect the commercial interests thereby affected.

3. We shall be glad to receive the report of the proceedings of the Council summoned by the Governor General for the purpose of furnishing an opinion to the Imperial Government on the negotiation of Commercial Treaties. In a matter of such importance, we are pleased to hear that the interests of this Island were represented by a Delegate sent for that purpose.

4. We trust that the Mission to the West Indies, Brazil and Mexico, in which this Island is represented, will result in the extension of the Trade of the British North American Provinces with those countries.

5. It is with deep regret that we learn that the general prosperity of the past year has been marred by the civil disturbances which have taken place in this Colony; and we cannot too strongly deprecate the conduct of the parties by whom the Tenantry were misled, and by whom they were induced to form themselves into an association so illegal, and so subversive of the rights of property as that to which your Excellency has adverted; and when the law was so openly set at defiance, we conceive that the course taken by the Government of the Colony, in calling in the aid of Her Majesty's troops, was the safest and most effective that could have been adopted under the unfortunate circumstances of the case. We shall be glad to have the papers on these subjects laid before us.

6. Any measure for applying the money arising from the sale of the old Barracks towards the expenditure incurred in building the new Barracks at present occupied by Her Majesty's troops, shall receive our best attention.

7. We are gratified to learn that you have recently concluded the purchase of another Estate from one of the Proprietors, and that it is your intention to continue to buy out the rights of the Landowners whenever you are enabled to do so, on reasonable terms.

8. We thank your Excellency for having directed the Public Accounts for the past year and the Estimates for the present, to be laid before us. We are pleased to be informed that the Revenue of the past year exceeds in amount that of any previous one; but we regret that the extraordinary outlay which was caused by the measures requisite for the suppression of the disturbances occasioned by the lawless association, affected

to, by your Excellency, has caused the expenditure to be greater than the Revenue.

9. It is with feelings of just pride that we have observed the loyalty and spirit evinced by our fellow-subjects in the neighbouring Provinces when threatened by piratical attacks at the hands of lawless men; and we beg to assure your Excellency that should a similar emergency ever unfortunately occur in this Island, your Excellency could rely with confidence on a like spirit in its inhabitants of every creed and station; and we admit the necessity of doing all in our power towards making due preparation for such an emergency by earnestly considering the Laws by which the Militia and Volunteer Forces are at present regulated.

10. It is satisfactory to be informed that the Stock for the Model or Stock Farm, purchased in England, arrived in good condition; and we shall cheerfully vote a sufficient sum for the support of an institution so well calculated to advance the agricultural interests of the Colony.

11. We join with your Excellency in the fervent prayer that our deliberations may, under the Divine Blessing, conduce to the welfare and prosperity of this Island.

ABROGATION OF THE RECIPROCITY TREATY.

The whole Address, as above given, having been read by the Chairman, the first paragraph was again read, submitted to the vote, and having been unanimously agreed to without discussion, the second, having reference to the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty between the United States and Great Britain, having, in like manner, been read and submitted,—

Hon. Mr. COLLETS rose and spoke to the following effect: The subject spoken of in that paragraph was one of too great moment to be passed over in silence. The treaty had doubtless been mutually beneficial to the contracting parties; certainly, in his opinion, as much so to the people of the United States as to those of the British American Colonies. The Government of the United States, however, thought, or at least pretended to think otherwise; and, therefore, by their having given the stipulated notice for its abrogation, it had been annulled. That the Government of the United States should have so determined was an event which he, indeed, very much regretted; for it was beyond all question that the trade and commercial relations established by that treaty between the great American Republic and this Island had been productive of greater prosperity, not only to our mercantile but to our agricultural interests, than had ever before consequent upon any line of public policy previously recognised by our Legislature. The abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty by the United States was, indeed, not only a matter of regret, but of surprise, throughout the whole of these Colonies; and, although the blame of its needless and beneficial annihilation rested upon the United States, he felt persuaded that, had not Canada manifested too great eagerness for its continuance or re-establishment, its renewal, if not exactly upon the original terms of the Treaty, yet upon terms fair, equitable, and advantageous to both parties, would certainly have been effected. The Americans, although they pretended to believe that, in the operation of the Treaty, the British Provinces had been much more benefited than they had been, and that they had had the worst of the bargain; yet knew full well that the fact was otherwise, and that the fishing privileges which they enjoyed under it greatly counterbalanced

all the benefits derived from it by the British Provinces. Not soing the extreme anxiety manifested by the Canadians for its renewal, and which they had ever so loudly proclaimed to be entertained to the same extent by the Maritime Provinces, they concluded that all they had to do in order to force us into annexation, was either steadily to reject all terms whatsoever which might be proposed by us for a renewal of the Treaty, or, on their own part, to manifest a determination to entertain no negotiation for its renewal except on terms so manifestly unfair to us that it would be impossible for us, with any regard for our own interests, to accede to them. They have chosen the latter course, and for the present, the renewal of the Treaty is hopeless. Their expectation, however, that by such policy, they would be able to force us to accede to their terms, but arising from a very fallacious estimate both of our resources and of our loyal and independent spirit. The markets of the United States, in close proximity to us as they are, and unless afforded us, under the operation of the Reciprocity Treaty, most desirable and advantageous facilities for the sale of all our surplus agricultural produce; but now that these markets are by the imposition of high protective duties, virtually closed against us, we do not despair of being able to find others in which to prosecute the various branches of our trade and commerce in a remunerative and beneficial manner. And even were it otherwise, had we less hopes of being able to extend our trade and commerce in other directions, we are too well satisfied with,—too much attached to, the constitution under which we live, to be willing to transfer the allegiance which we owe under it to any republican form of government, how seemingly great an offer might be the advantage offered to us for such a transfer of our loyalty. He indeed very much regretted the abrogation of the Treaty, for its annulment would very much disturb the trade of these Colonies, and especially of Prince Edward Island; but yet at the same time, he was very glad that the terms on which its renewal had been offered by the Americans had been rejected by the Provincial Delegates. We would doubtless be able to open up new channels of commerce in lieu of those which were closed to us by the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty, as with England, Brazil, Venezuela, and the West Indies. But to carry on trade with those distant countries could be effected only by large capitalists. It would be impossible for small traders to engage in it; and it would, therefore, of necessity, be confined to a few. Still he hoped these new channels would open up a trade in our agricultural produce which would not be quite so fluctuating as that with the United States, particularly during the war. The advantages derived by the Americans from the fishing privileges enjoyed by them under the Reciprocity Treaty, more than doubled all that we derived by our free trade with them in the produce of our soil, under that treaty. During the existence of that treaty, the profits accruing to them from their fishing privileges increased more than 100 per cent, over what they had been previous to its having been entered into. The restrictions of the Maritime Treaty, suspended during the existence of the Reciprocity Treaty, were being revived to their fullest extent; and, should Great Britain determine to enforce a due observance of that Treaty, on the part of the Americans, in all the rigor of the British interpretation of it, the loss sustained by them, in consequence of its enforcement, in the curtailment of their fishing operations, would so far exceed any loss or damage which we may experience in the withdrawal by them of the free-trade privileges which were extended to us under the Reciprocity Treaty, that he believed he might venture to predict that in twelve months they would come to their

ness, and eagerly seek a renewal of that free commercial intercourse with us, which, most erroneously calculating upon our dependence upon them for our commercial prosperity, they have so rashly abrogated. They had indeed strangely deceived themselves in thinking that by the course they have pursued with respect to that treaty they would force us into annexation as the only remedy for the injury done to our trade by its abrogation. The peoples of these Provinces would speedily, be hoped, either by separate or united action, find out new and advantageous outlets of trade; and they were not so ignorant of the grievous amount of taxation, state and general, which, in consequence, of the enormous expenses incurred by the Americans during the late civil war, would have to be endured by them for many years to come, to wish, by annexation, to be made participants in the advantages of their national commerce at the expense of charging the burthen of their excessive taxation, compared with which that which is borne by these Colonies, in their present independent position, under the freest constitution in the world, is as light as air. He knew not what action the Government were prepared to take for the readjustment of our disturbed trade and commerce; but he doubted not they saw the necessity of immediate measures to that end, and would be found prepared to introduce and recommend them to the Legislature forthwith. His Excellency, with respect to that necessity, had said no more than it was his duty and province to say. He (the Hon. Mr. Cole) was well pleased that the Government had not thought it proper to send Delegates to Washington; and doubtless the Hon. the Leader of the Government would be found prepared to inform the House in due time why they had not.

Mr. BRECKEN said he regretted that the great bulk of the American people had not approached the question of the Treaty in a proper spirit. This, in his opinion, was attributable to the sympathies which had been manifested by the people of the Colonies in behalf of the Southern States during the late civil war. There was one point, he said, in connection with the abrogation of the Treaty, namely, the right of the Americans to prosecute the fisheries within the 3 miles, which has terminated with that Treaty. The Americans have unadvisedly declared that their fishermen will not submit to a revival of the prohibition which existed previous to the inauguration of the Reciprocity Treaty, sustaining themselves in their assertion of that right upon the construction which they put upon the 3-mile clause in that Treaty, which materially differs from that put upon it by Great Britain. Out of this misunderstanding he was very much afraid collisions of a most serious nature would arise. The value of fish taken by American citizens out of the disputed waters has amounted to five million dollars per annum, and it is not at all likely that they will forego so great a benefit without persistent endeavors to retain it. The existence of the peace and prosperity of these Colonies depended more upon an amicable adjustment of the misunderstanding which was likely to arise out of that disputed point, than upon any other subject connected with the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND observed that the hon. the leader of the Opposition differed in opinion from the great reformer across the waters, Mr. Bright, who passed such high encomiums upon the Republican Government of the United States. The Reciprocity Treaty was new one of the things of the past, it was therefore the duty of the Provinces to adopt the best measures they could devise to make up for its loss. Not only, he said, had the Americans had the advan-

tages derived from exports of agricultural produce, but also access to that larger and more valuable source of wealth, our Fisheries; the annual value of fish imported into the New England States was some six millions of dollars. The United States Congress have by their policy touching that treaty proved adverse to the principles of free trade. They have had an eye to the Monroe doctrine with the view of starting us into annexation, and thereby driving Monarchical institutions from the soil of America. The taxation of the general Government of the United States averaged about ten dollars a head, and that of the local State Governments fifteen dollars per head; every American citizen was, therefore, liable to a taxation of twenty-five dollars a head. In Great Britain the tax was about ten dollars, and in Canada, at most, five dollars, including municipal taxes. This would be sufficient to show that annexation to the States would not be a very desirable step for Provincial interests. The Americans need not think that four millions of British Americans, with a territory of four hundred millions of acres, will be started into annexation. Our soil is as productive, and our people are as talented, robust, and stalwart as those of the United States, and thrown on their own resources, would prove equal to the task of self-support. The protective principles of the great protectionist, Morrill, seem to have swayed Congress. That gentleman's doctrine would be more applicable to trade 20 years ago, than now in the latter part of the 19th century. As a proof of the ignorance of that gentleman, and of those who are at present led by him, he (hon. Sol. General) might just observe that at the Detroit Convention, a State of Maine member objected to Canadian lumber as interfering with the trade of his own State in that article; a Pennsylvania member protested against Nova Scotia coal coming into competition with the coal of his own State; and a member from Vermont opposed the trade in butter and eggs from the Colonies, as interfering with the prices of the farmers of Vermont and New Hampshire. He (Hon. Sol. General) differed from the Hon. Mr. Cole in his remarks touching the conduct of the Canadian delegates when at Washington last autumn; they were not to be censured for doing their utmost, consistently with their position, to induce their American neighbours to continue a trade mutually beneficial to all. But when the American Government had not the courage to treat with them personally, but only through the Committee of Ways and Means, they, the Provincial delegates, should, in his opinion, have at once packed up their papers and held no further communications with them. Good, doubtless, would arise out of the abrogation of the treaty. It would arouse the best energies of the Colonies, and cause them to trust to their own resources for mutual protection and support. When the Americans should find that we could not only exist without them, but also expand our trade and commerce with other countries, they would come to their senses, and be but too glad to renew their commercial and friendly relations that existed between themselves and the Colonies, and which had proved mutually beneficial during the last ten or twelve years.

Hon. Mr. COLLE. At the Detroit Convention, there were several American Delegates, and the ignorance of the fundamental principles of trade and commerce which was manifested by them, one and all, did indeed very much surprise him. Each of those delegates, representing a separate and distinct state, apparently conceived it to be his bounden duty to consider only what would be for the sectional and local interests of his own individual state, altogether ignoring or disregarding the general interests of the United States.

Well indeed might the Hon. the Solicitor General say the people, generally speaking, of the United States were, as regarded the knowledge of political economy, two hundred years behind the people of England and France. By the narrow-minded policy separately manifested by each of their delegates at the Detroit Convention, that was made very prudent. It was, however, he was proud to say, very different with the delegates from the British Colonies. They were actuated, not by any exclusive or illiberal regard for their local interests of their separate Colonies, but by large-minded and comprehensive views of what would contribute most to the general interests of the whole of these Colonies. Whilst at Detroit the universal mental impression by which the American delegates were actuated was evidently that if they refused to renew or to recommend a renewal of Reciprocity, these Provinces would, in a body, walk over to them, and solicit admission into their Union. On that occasion, Consul Potter—declaring the action he was about to take to be fully authorized by the American Secretary of State—called a meeting of the American Delegates then at Detroit, for the purpose of intimating to them the line of policy which, with respect to the question to be discussed or determined by the Convention, it was the wish of the American Authorities they should pursue. On being made aware of Consul Potter's intention, the delegates of the Colonies held a private meeting for the purpose of considering whether it would be right or prudent for them to attend the meeting called by Consul Potter, when it was unanimously agreed that the most prudent course for them to pursue, as a body, would be wholly to disregard it; and they acted accordingly. He, however, finding that Consul Potter's meeting was open to the public, thought there could be no harm in his availing himself of their open doors for the purpose of gratifying his own individual curiosity, with respect to the advice which Consul Potter was about to give to the States Delegates, and he accordingly ventured into the room in which the meeting was being held; and he had not been there above a minute, when Consul Potter informed his countrymen that he had it on the best authority that, provided they refused to renew the Reciprocity Treaty, the British Colonies were prepared to join the United States. Hearing this, he (Hon. Mr. Coles) took the liberty to interrupt Mr. Potter by saying, "No, not the Maritime Provinces at all events." To this remark Mr. Potter replied that he (the Hon. Mr. Coles) was right; he (Mr. P.) meant Canada, Lower Canada in particular. This declaration on the part of Consul Potter, he (Hon. Mr. Coles) however believed to have been very beneficial. The implied imputation of disloyalty expressed by it, woke up and increased the loyalty of the people of Canada, or rather it gave it a new impulse, and strengthened their determination to preserve it, undiminished and unshaken. The idea entertained by the American delegates themselves appeared to be precisely that entertained by Mr. Potter. They thought they could starve us into annexation. They would, however, before long be fully convinced of the fallacy of that idea, and whilst bitterly regretting the abrogation of the Treaty, they would besides, have the mortification to know that, for its nullification, they had themselves only to blame.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH expressed the great pleasure which had been afforded him by the luminous explanation of the position of these Colonies in their relation to the United States, given by the Hon. Solicitor General. He was, however, surprised at the conclusion which had been arrived at with respect to the Treaty; for, from the sentiment expressed with respect to it by the American Delegates at the Detroit Convention, it was quite evident

that it was then a foregone conclusion with them. It would be the duty of that Hon. House, as Representatives of the people, in connection with the other Provinces to endeavor to extend our trade with them on the broadest principles of free trade. The Fishery question was one upon which they were not then called upon to deliberate. Our rights in relation thereto would be fully protected and upheld by the Imperial Government; nor would our local Government fail in a proper exercise of their power to protect them. He was happy to say that it was not the intention of the Imperial Government that our interests should in any way be sacrificed to the demands of the United States, or that we should be forced to succumb to them. The Republic of the United States was undoubtedly a great country, and it would be for the benefit of our interests to cultivate friendly relations with them; but our endeavors to do so, should never extend so far as to involve the acceptance of such trade and commercial relations as would evidently be injurious to our own independent position. He would not then go into the question whether the proposals which had been submitted at the Detroit Convention on which to base a renewal of the reciprocity treaty, had proceeded from the American or Canadian Delegates. He did not, however, think that they had proceeded directly from the Canadian Delegates, although the fact was they had been acquiesced in by both sides. He was forced however to say that, in his opinion the Canadian Delegates had gone very far in acceding to the terms laid down by those propositions. It would indeed have been of the greatest advantage to us, and the whole of the maritime Provinces could that Treaty have been renewed upon fair equitable and truly reciprocal terms. It was not necessary, however, that he should then say more on that subject, as he had already expressed the satisfaction which he felt at the luminous exposition of the question which had been given by the Hon. Sol. General. One additional observation, however, he might be allowed to make, and that was, that he was happy to say Prince Edward Island had not been represented at Washington last autumn, because he would be long sorry to think that we should have been put in so degrading a position as, in our endeavors to effect a renewal of the Treaty, to be handed over by the American Government to an irresponsible individual such as Mr. Morrill the chairman of Ways and Means in Congress.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY said it was not necessary at the present stage of the proceedings of the Hon. House to enter very fully into the question of Reciprocity, as it would again come up in a different and more tangible form. He occurred in the sentiments expressed by his honor the Solicitor General touching the spirit by which the American people were actuated towards the Colonies. The sympathies of our people were, to a large extent, enlisted and expressed in favor of the Southern Confederacy, when the adherents of that Confederacy were struggling for their independence during the unfortunate civil war which had recently terminated. In consequence of these sympathies it appeared a pique had been indulged in by many of the leading men of the Northern States against the Colonies, which inclined them to do what they could to obstruct and retard Colonial interests. He well recollected the time, previously to the Reciprocity Treaty, when we had no trade with the United States, and he was free to admit that our trade had extended advantageously, and had been accompanied by great prosperity under the working of that Treaty. He was, however, pleased to see that an independent spirit had arisen, and was manifested by the Colonies, and that in consequence of the abrogation of the Treaty steps had been taken for the encouragement and opening up of trade with the West Indies.

Brazil, and other parts of the world; and he hoped that such energetic and enterprising means would be adopted as would supply the want that might otherwise be felt, through the abrogation of the Treaty. Our Fisheries were, he said, the best guarantee we had that the Americans would, when the feelings unfortunately created by the late war had subsided, reflect upon their obstructive policy in relation to the treaty, and consent to its renewal on terms that would prove equitable and advantageous to all parties.

Mr. HOWLAN said that such sentiments as those spoken of by the hon. member who had just sat down, had done much towards placing us in the unfortunate position we now hold regarding our relations with the United States. The abrogation of the treaty, he said, was owing principally to the hostile feeling of the people of the Eastern States towards the Colonies, because of their Southern proclivities. But since the treaty had now become a dead letter the current of our trade must be materially changed, and, therefore, it became our duty to make the most of our internal resource and foster and protect our own interests. It appeared to him that our Fisheries demanded our first and paramount attention, and he hoped that our Government would see that such a protection was given to them as would cause our treaty stipulations to be duly respected. There appeared to be a misunderstanding with respect to the term of "Capes and Headlands," as mentioned in the treaty alluded to, and it would be the duty of the Government to see that, as far as possible, a definite interpretation should be given to the same, so as to define the true limit.

Mr. DUNCAN said he did not by any means believe that the loss which would be sustained by the Colonies, through the abrogation of the Treaty, would prove so very disastrous to Colonial trade as some people imagined it would. Since the termination of the war in the United States, the prices which P. E. Island oats had commanded there were by no means remunerative. In England our oats had always commanded a remunerative price; and, therefore, to Great Britain we must now look for the best and only paying market for that staple article of our Island produce. The only market which we should lose by the abrogation of the Treaty was that for our potatoes; but these, if kept at home, we could convert into pork; and, for our pork we should always be able to find a desirable market in Great Britain, as it is now worth within 2s. 6d. of Irish, and if put up the same style, would command as high a price; so that, even on that score, the Americans would be likely to experience greater inconvenience through the abrogation of the Treaty than we should. And provided the American fishermen were effectually kept from poaching within our bay and in-shore fishery preserves, as he doubted not they would be, mackerel would immediately go up more than \$2 per barrel in the market. Of flour, the Americans produced much more than they required for home consumption; and, considering the very large amount of their flour which found a ready and remunerative market in P. E. Island, during the existence of the Reciprocity Treaty, the abrogation of it would, in all probability, he thought, on that head be felt by them to have had a very injurious effect upon their agricultural interests. The abrogation of the treaty would unquestionably be the cause of some injurious derangement of our trade but it was useless to regret it, since our regrets could not recall it; he however, doubted not but that in a few years the scales would be found to have turned in our favor, and its nullification prove to have been much more detrimental to the interests of a large portion of the people of the United States than to any portion of those of the Maritime Provinces.

Hon. Mr. McEACHEN said he was glad to see the disposition which prevailed among hon. members on both sides of the hon. House, relative to the necessity of fostering and protecting the rights of our fishermen. The taunts and braggadocio of Americans and Yankee newspapers should not be heeded. He hoped the rights of our fishermen would be well guarded, and that the attention of our people would be more than ever directed towards that boundless source of our wealth and greatness.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES observed that the non-renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty would, doubtless, be felt considerably in a commercial point. Owing to scanty crops and other causes in previous years, the United States afforded a better market for our oats than Great Britain, but now, as we were practically excluded, because of a high scale of duties, from New York and other American markets, England offered us better and more remunerative prices for that; the principal article of our exports, than any American port. He would have been glad had the Treaty been renewed, but as the Washington Government had decided otherwise, he hoped we could survive its extinction. The Colonies had managed to live previous to the adoption of the Reciprocity Treaty, and they were now possessed of many facilities; for the prosecution of trade, not at that time within their reach. He would oppose anything like cringing to the Americans for a renewal of the Treaty; he hoped Colonial trade would be more than ever fostered, and thereby the mutual interests of the Maritime Provinces would be advanced.

Mr. HOWAT said that it was useless to deplore the loss of the Reciprocity Treaty, as no expressions of regret on our part would cause its renewal. The principal agricultural production of the Colony was the oat crop, and for that staple article it appeared that England was the best market.

The paragraph under consideration was then unanimously adopted.

(AFTERNOON SITTING.)

TENANT LEAGUE.

On motion of Mr. Brecken, the House again resolved themselves into a Committee of the whole, to resume the consideration of the draft Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech.—Mr. Yeo in the Chair.

The Chairman having read and submitted the 5th paragraph of the draft Address, in which a feeling of deep regret is expressed at the House's having learned that the general prosperity of the past year had been marred by the civil disturbances which had taken place in the Colony:—

Hon. Mr. COLES rose and said: He was certain there was not a member of the House who did not most sincerely regret that the tenantry had been placed in such a position as laid them open to the influence of evil counsellors, through which a portion of them had been seduced into an open defiance of the law to the detriment of the prosperity of the last year, and, he might add to the disgrace of the Colony. That His Excellency deeply regretted the disturbances which had taken place and the consequences which had ensued, he could not doubt for one moment; but, from the very deep interest which he himself (Hon. Mr. Coles) as a public man, had, for many years taken in whatever affected or concerned the condition or well-being of the tenantry, and from his immediate and prominent connexion with every legislative measure which, since the establishment of Responsible Government in the Colony, had been devised for the redress

of their grievances or the amelioration of their condition, it was but natural that he should, as he certainly did, believe that no man in the Colony could more sincerely and deeply regret those disturbances and their consequences, or the continuance of that state of tenant bondage, which, after so many promises and attempts made for its extinction, still continued to be the great cause of discontent and disaffection to the Government throughout the Colony. Under the form of Government which we enjoyed—through the privileges emanating from which, redress might be obtained, in a constitutional way, for every public grievance—it was indeed a fact deeply to be deplored that any portion of its subjects should have been so ill-advised as, in utter disregard and contempt of those privileges to have assumed to themselves the right and power to effect by an open and systematic defiance of the law, the attainment of an object, however right and proper in itself; and it was the duty of every well-wisher of the country to discountenance, condemn, and, as far as laid in his power to endeavour to counteract and break up any association formed for so unlawful and wild a purpose. It could not, however, be denied that much as the proceedings of the Tenant League were to be condemned, there were many palliating circumstances to be admitted and taken into consideration before a just judgment could be pronounced concerning it. It was not to be forgotten that, so far back as the year 1859, when the present Government, or Party came into power, the tenantry were promised a certain and speedy concession—upon the easiest terms—of their leaseholds into freeholds; but all the promises to that end which have been made to them by the party at present in power, they (the tenantry) have been forced to regard as nothing better than “a delusion, a mockery, and a snare.” The hopes which the blandishments bestowed upon them, and fair promises made to them, by the Conservative Party, just before, as well as after they came into power, have resulted in nothing but the most bitter and aggravating disappointment to them. That consideration, therefore, ought to palliate the offence committed by them in having gone a little beyond the bounds of discretion and limits of the law. That among the leaders of the unfortunate and illegal association, called the Tenant League, there were to be found ignorant and designing men, no one could doubt or deny; but, at the same time, he was convinced that there were, among the members of that association, men of sound sense and intelligence; and those men, irritated by the most aggravating disappointments, may have thought, however erroneously, that, in the means which they had adopted to compel proprietors to sell them the freeholds of their farms, they were pursuing the only course which was open to them for the procuring a redress of their grievances. At the time when the Liberals went out of power the tenantry were pretty well satisfied with the working of the Land Purchase Bill, by means of which, they were convinced they might all hope to be eventually freed from the proprietary yoke; and had not the Liberals been defeated—by means to which it was not then necessary he should particularly advert—in their endeavours to procure a loan, under the guaranty of the British Government, sufficient to enable them more effectually to carry the Land Purchase Bill into operation, little doubt could be fairly entertained that, under their management and working, those two Bills—the Land Purchase Bill and the Loan Bill—a sure and certain foundation would have been laid for a speedy and final settlement of the Land Question. That the Loan Bill was not passed by the British Parliament, all he thought, must now honestly regret; for, as was declared by the Commissioners, in their Award, the only equitable mode of converting Island leaseholds into freeholds was that of

fully carrying into effect the provisions of the Land Purchase Bill by means of such a loan as that which had been projected by the Loan Bill of the Liberals. That the Award of the Land Commissioners could not be carried into effect as they had conceived it would be, was certainly very much to be regretted. Still, however, he thought the Conservative Government had erred in their endeavours to coerce the late Duke of Newcastle into the procuring of the Royal allowance of the Bill which they had carried through our Legislature for the confirmation of the Award. At that time he had thought that it would be better to pray that the Commissioners should be sent back to P. E. Island, to reopen their Court, for the purpose of remedying the legal defects in their Award, than to pass a Bill in opposition to the decided opinion of the Duke. But the Government said, and, perhaps, thought, that they could coerce both the Duke and the proprietors into a compliance with their wishes; and they succeeded in having a large majority returned to both branches of the Legislature, by means of whom they carried their Bill; but the Duke was firm and rejected it. The Duke's own proposals, however, ought to have satisfied the Government. His scheme was that if a tenant had regularly paid his rent, under his lease, for 16 years, he should be entitled to the freehold of his farm at 16 years' purchase; if for 10 years, for 10 years' purchase; and if for 8 years, for 8 years' purchase; that was according to the actual interest which the proprietor had in the leasehold, as evidenced by the amount of rent which he had received on account of it. At the time it was submitted he thought the scheme was a fair one, and he thought so still; but our Government thought otherwise, rejected it, and brought forward and carried their Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill. But this Bill was so far from meeting with general approbation that about four thousand of our tenants and freeholders petitioned against it. It was not exactly the desirable issue which they had been led to expect would be the result of the Land Commission, and they came to the conclusion that, as so little good had been effected for them by the Government and their legislative majority, notwithstanding all their large promises to the contrary, that their best plan would be to take the management of their own business into their own hands, and hence arose the formation of the Tenant League; and, it was worthy of remark that the disturbances which had taken place were merely a fulfilment of that sort of prophetic declaration which had been made by our delegates, Messrs. Pope and Palmer, at the Colonial Office, when they declared to the Duke of Newcastle that unless an equitable settlement of the Land Question should be speedily effected, it would be impossible to maintain the peace of the country; and it could not, he thought, be accounted unfair to conjecture that their knowledge of this declaration of our delegates had in some degree incited or operated as a hint to the Tenant League to proceed to actual and open resistance of the law. Again, what had been done, with respect to certain recusant tenants, by a land agent, a supporter of the Government, in the Murray Harbor District, which was represented by two hon. members of the House, both also supporters of the Government, had, in his opinion, had no small influence in augmenting discontent among the tenantry, and been one of the immediate causes of the formation of the Tenant League. In order, as it was conjectured, to propitiate the tenantry, allay their discontent and disaffection to the Government, and secure, through their votes, the return of those two hon. members, the land agent went down among them, cancelled their old leases, and gave them new ones, thus enabling them under the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill to purchase the freehold of their farms at 50 per cent less than they

could have done under the original leases. Now when this act of seeming lenity, traceable, however, as it was, to nothing but a political ruse, came to be known by the tenants on the neighboring estates, they took fire at once, and said, if resistance to the exaction of rents and opposition to the Government have procured such benefits in one case, why should not we be as fortunate, provided we follow the example which has been set us and take the same means to force the concession of similar benefits; and thus the ball was set a-rolling.

Mr. DUNCAN rose to order. He denied that the Tenant League had originated in the Murray Harbour District. It had been got up, he said, by the friends of the opposition; and measures were concocted for the organization of the League, not at Murray Harbour, but in the school-house at Sturgeon. A very few of those who attended the meeting held there, by the concoctors of the League, were from Peters's Road. Some, continued the hon. gentleman, said the Government had been too slow; others, on the contrary, said they had been too precipitate in sending for the troops to put down the League, but, when it was known that the organization numbered 14,000, no man of common sense would argue that they could have been suppressed by the mere exertions of a few special constables. Nothing could have effectually intimidated the League but the presence of the Troops. It appeared that some members of the hon. House had attended meetings held by the League; and he did not hesitate to say that such gentlemen had disgraced themselves by doing so. If the League, instead of 14,000, had numbered only 5000 or 4000, what, he would like to know, could 200 special constables have done in opposition to them? Twenty red coats would have done a great deal more. He was afraid that in making those remarks, he was treading upon the skirts of some hon. members. But however that might be, he felt he was justified in speaking out. And not only had members of that hon. House disgraced themselves by attending meetings of the League; but merchants in Charlottetown, in every other respect of the highest respectability, had been found among the encouragers and obettors of the League, and by their most liberal subscriptions in aid of its funds, had given but too much reason to call in question their loyalty and their reverence for the supremacy of the laws. Thus countenanced and encouraged, men of less information had been led to believe that their association and its principles were not unlawful. He would rather that the public exchequer should suffer to the amount of £20,000 than that only five or six of our fellow subjects should lose their lives, which, if the inhabitants had been set against each other, would, undoubtedly have been the case.

Hon. Mr. COLES replied that what he had said was, that it was in the Murray Harbour part of the country that the Tenant League spirit was first manifested; and that, having originated there, in consequence of the reduction of rents to those tenants who had there evidenced a determination not only to refuse compliance with the demands of their landlord's agent for the payment of arrears of rent, but also to resist or repel the officers of the law in their attempts to levy for those arrears, the spirit of resistance spread to the tenantry on the adjoining estates, who very naturally concluded that, if resistance to proprietary demands had, in one instance, procured, to the resisting tenantry, an amelioration of their grievances or a lessening of their burthens; a similar resistance on the part of other rent-oppressed bodies of the tenantry would be productive of the same desirable and happy result. The spirit of resistance quickly spread to Queen's County; and at a meeting of the Tenantry, held near Belfast, in either the third or fourth Electoral District, (he was not certain which) the Resolutions to withhold payment of rents, unless their landlords should consent to sell

their lands on such terms as they (the tenantry) should themselves think fair and reasonable, were framed and passed; and these resolutions were, afterwards, he believed, made the basis of the obligation or document which was subsequently drawn up, and styled the Constitution of the Tenant League. Now, although that and other similar meetings, the object of them, the Resolutions framed and passed at those meetings, and the Constitution of the League, based upon those Resolutions, were not only matters of public notoriety, but were fully published in the organ of the League, *Ross's Weekly*, and commented upon in all the other Island newspapers; and could not, therefore, have failed to come to the knowledge of the Government; yet they (the Government) took no notice whatever of the illegal proceedings, but allowed the spirit of insubordination to the laws and the authorities of the land to grow and spread, as if it had, in reality, been their desire that it should experience no check or discouragement, until, having broken out into actual rebellion, the most extreme measures for its suppression, if had recourse to by the Government, could not fail to be held allowable and justifiable, by every friend to the peace and good order of society. Yes; but although the Government were thus remiss in the discharge of their duty to the country, it was not so with the Liberals, the leading men of which party had taken every fitting opportunity to denounce the illegal organization, and to caution the tenantry against associating themselves with it; as, in the true spirit of patriotism, had been especially done by his hon. friend on his right, (Hon. Mr. Whelan) in the columns of his paper, the *Examiner*. Upon all occasions of private intercourse with any of his tenant constituents or others of our tenant population, when the Tenant League had become the subject of conversation, he had invariably endeavoured to convince them of the folly and madness of the organization, and to point out the disastrous consequences which all who allowed themselves, through their connection with it, to be led or seduced into an open defiance of the law, would assuredly experience. And that he had also done, in the strongest and most unequivocal language he could command, at a public meeting of his constituents, which—soon after his return to the Island from the Convention held at Quebec for the purpose of deliberating on the projected Union of these Provinces—had been called by himself, at Fort Augustus, for the purpose both of explaining to them his own views concerning the projected Confederation and of, at the same time, ascertaining theirs with respect to that great question. The opportunity afforded by that meeting was sought to be taken advantage of by two of the Tenant League Delegates, who attended it for the purpose of indoctrinating the tenantry there assembled in the principles of their organization; and, to that end, they brought forward, and endeavoured to carry one of the resistance Resolutions, which had been previously adopted at other meetings of the tenantry which had been held in Queen's County. It was no sooner proposed, however, than he at once condemned and opposed it, pointing out the folly and madness of the course to which it was intended to pledge the meeting; and by plainly indicating to them all the loss and misery which they would inevitably draw down upon themselves, should they, with a view to the redress of their tenant grievances, adopt and pursue the unlawful course recommended to them by the Tenant League delegates, he succeeded in persuading them to reject it, and he was happy to say that, not only did the meeting then recognize the propriety and wisdom of the counsel which he gave them, but the people of that District have hitherto made it a rule of their conduct; and consequently have escaped all such troubles as other less well-advised and considerate parties have drawn down upon themselves by pursuing the course recommended by the Tenant League leaders. In his condemnation of the League and his denunciation of the principles by which its members had been avowedly governed, he had not, indeed, spoken with so much asperity or heaped so many approbrious epithets upon those by whom it had been organized, and by whom it was supposed to be, in all its movements, counselled and directed, as some of those who had assailed and exposed the folly and iniquity of its principles

in print; but although he had been moderate in his language yet no one could have regarded the ill-advised and unconstitutional movement with greater regret and stronger disapproval than he had done. If, however, the condemnation of the projectors and leaders of the League had been urged with too great severity in one quarter, it ought to be remembered, in extenuation of that severity, that they who were the objects of it had directly provoked it by certain Resolutions, not only expressive of a want of confidence in both political parties, but attributing to discreditable motives, the refusal of a leading member of one of those parties to countenance their organization.

[A little cross-firing between the Hon. the Leader of the Government (Mr. Pope) and the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition took place here; but as it was rather irrelevant to the subject under discussion, the Reporter hopes he will be pardoned for the liberty he has taken in passing it over unreported.]

Hon. Mr. COLES resumed, and said it was his decided opinion that the Proclamation denouncing the Tenant League as unlawful and seditious should have been issued immediately after the organized demonstration made by them in King's County, in the Murray Harbour District. The inactivity of the Government, their positive remissness in the discharge of their duty, at that time, for the warning or intimidation of the leaders of that illegal association—illegal, however, solely on account of their having bound themselves by a resolution to withhold the payment of their rents—gave encouragement to the whole body to persist in their ill-advised determination of resistance to the demands of their landlords, until such time as those landlords should consent to sell them the freeholds of their farms on fair and equitable terms. In fact it gave them reason to believe that they were pursuing, if not a strictly constitutional, yet certainly a justifiable course. And indeed an article which appeared in the *Islander* about that time, was clearly, he thought, calculated to encourage that belief. The Government would, he supposed, admit that the *Islander* was their organ.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT (MR. POPE.) The Government would admit nothing of the kind. The *Examiner* rather than the *Islander*, might seem to have been the Government organ, at least for the last fortnight.

Hon. Mr. COLES then read as follows from an editorial of the *Islander* of the 11th December, 1863.

“The wilderness state of the greater part of their lands is as prejudicial to themselves as it is injurious to the community, and they may eventually find, unless they take some pains to induce settlers to cultivate their forests, that at no very distant period the Legislature—whether of the Island, or the United Colonies—may insist upon taxing them, and to an extent that will compel them either to part with, or settle them, either by means of tenantry or freeholders. We are the last to interfere with the known legal rights of individuals. We hold Escheat at this time, after so long an interval of quiet possession, to be not only ridiculous, but impossible. The right to property, is however, merely conventional. By the law of nature, no man has claim to more land than is necessary for his subsistence; and his right to hold more, and transmit it to his descendants, is derived from the law; and the same power—the will of the people—which conferred the right, may also, abridge, restrain, or abolish it. And that this has been done, we have many modern instances. The emancipation of the slaves in the West Indies; the selling of the Irish encumbered estates; land taken for railroads and other public purposes, against the will of the proprietors, are cases in point. If the Government of Great Britain could compel the West Indian planters to give up their slaves, at a fixed price, there is no reason why it should not compel the Proprietors of Prince Edward Island to surrender their lands, on being paid a fair compensation—not what they might consider such, but what disinterested, impartial people might, from reliable sources of information, determine to be, under the circumstances the true value. And we cannot help thinking this will be the end of the contention. As the evil of the monopoly becomes more apparent, and the consequences more injurious to

the mass of inhabitants, the less repugnance will be manifested to resort to extreme measures. And every proposal to modify or lessen the evil, that is rejected by the Proprietor, will only serve to reconcile those who may be at present unwilling to have recourse to acts of stringency, to a policy, of which, however much to be deplored, they cannot but confess the necessity. When the ship is in danger of sinking, a part of the cargo is thrown over to save the rest, and the heaviest first; and the losers must be content with the average compensation. It will be for the Proprietors to consider well with themselves, in the contest now going on, and of which there is not likely soon to be an end, if they reject reasonable propositions made by the Government of the parent state, whether they will not be in the same situation with those whose goods have been sacrificed to lighten the ship; and whether they will not have to be contented with a less favorable average than they could now secure to themselves by treaty?”

The hon. gentleman then proceeded to say: These were the remarks of the *Islander* at the very time when the League was organized in King's County, and immediately after the planting of a cannon by members of that League on Peter's Road, Lot 63, Murray Harbour District, for the purpose of deterring the officers of the law from the discharge of their official duties either in the service of writs or the execution of warrants of distraint. Therefore, he maintained that the civil authority had not been duly tested before the Government had recourse to the military power. Had the civil power been brought to bear, in due time, for the repression or the putting down of the Tenant League movement it would have been checked. Had the civil power been properly exerted in due time for its suppression or discouragement, he was firmly persuaded it never would have been carried to the unwarrantable, dangerous, and injurious lengths to which it, in the end, attained. Had the Government put forth the strength of the civil authority at the time of the resistance demonstration in this county, the League would never have made the organized parade of their power and numbers, to which they had recourse on St. Patrick's Day twelve months ago. The foolhardy attempt to take a man from the very ranks of the League procession on that day was merely a proof of the utter unfitness of the man, by whom the attempt was made, to fill the very responsible office in which he was placed—that of Deputy Sheriff; and instead of being calculated to intimidate or check the League, its direct tendency was to produce a riot, and to bind the members of the organization more firmly together in the spirit of resistance to what they believed to be an unjust and tyrannical exercise of the power of the law.

With the exception of that very reprehensible act on the part of the Deputy Sheriff, nothing was done, under the authority or by the direction of the Government for the suppression or intimidation of the League, until recourse was most absurdly had to the *Posse Comitatus* for the purpose of arresting one man, but who—as the whole of the *Posse* must have well known he would, after having three or four days' notice of the alarming intention of the Sheriff—had very prudently left his home and betaken himself to parts unknown; and the result of the famous expedition was the capturing of a man of straw. Half a dozen constables, however, sent in due time would have done more than the whole *Posse*. And he might, as a proof of the efficiency of the civil power, when duly and properly exercised, allude to the fact that fifty of the loyal inhabitants of Charlottetown, sworn in as special constables, were found fully sufficient to withstand the determined purpose of three or four hundred of the League to rescue an unfortunate member of their association from the grasp of the law. Yes, he maintained there would have been no occasion for the disgrace brought upon the Colony by calling in the aid of the Troops, had the Government made a proper and timely exercise of the civil authority; and neither would Her Majesty's troops have been disgraced by having to carry off so pitiful a booty as a poor unfortunate tenant's pig, hens, and scanty farm stock, in satisfaction of a landlord's claim.

Hon. the Leader of the Government (MR. POPE) denied that the troops were sent for the purpose of levying distraints. They were employed, he said, to enable the constables, by their presence, to effect the service of Writs.

Hon. Mr. COLES. The service upon which they were employed went far beyond that. It extended—to the disgrace of their honorable profession—to their being placed as a guard upon a cow-house, to prevent the unenterprising tenant from having access to it, even for the purpose of milking the cow taken in distress, without the express sanction or permission of the Sheriff. He was very far indeed from defending organized, or indeed any resistance, to the officers of the law in the discharge of their official duty; but he maintained, as he had already asserted, that if judicious endeavours had been made in time to carry the law into effect by civil means only, there would have been no occasion either for the presence or employment of the Troops. He had it from the Sheriff, Mr. Dodd, himself, that if the Government had placed twenty or thirty special constables at his command, he could, effectually, and without any danger of a breach of the peace, have served every Writ, and carried into effect every warrant of distress which had been put into his hands for such purposes.

Hon. the Leader of the Government (Mr. Pope). He did not believe that Mr. Dodd ever made use of any such words.

Hon. Mr. COLES positively reasserted that the Sheriff, Mr. Dodd, had distinctly told him that, if the Government had given him the assistance of 20 or 30 special constables, he could have effectually discharged all his duties, as against tenants, without the aid of the troops. The employment, however, of such a man as the Deputy Sheriff, who, as was well known, was by no means of too civil and conciliatory a disposition, had, most certainly, not tended to the securing of the discharge of the Sheriff's duties in a quiet and peaceable manner; but, on the contrary, his harsh and arbitrary mode of proceeding, had caused the people to entertain so confirmed a dislike to himself personally, that his simple appearance, at the head of a body of even the most respectable, constables had been felt to be of itself a provocative to insubordination and tumult. The arbitrary and offensive nature of the man had been sufficiently proved by the fact that, without any warrant, complaint, or any authority save that of his own tyrannical will, he had taken into custody two peaceable and unoffending men, upon the high-road, as they were quietly wending their way home from Charlottetown, and had handcuffed and kept them prisoners in his own house for one whole night. Such tyrannical and unlawful conduct, on the part of the Deputy Sheriff, ought to have caused his immediate dismissal from office. He was, however, allowed to retain his appointment, and such allowance he (Hon. Mr. Coles) thought was one immediate cause of the disturbance which, soon after, took place. He was not going to dispute that, but for the restraining presence of the military, the resistance and commotion which arose at Bagnall's would, in all likelihood have been attended by most disastrous and lamentable consequences. His Excellency said, "the general prosperity of the past year has been marred by the civil disturbances which took place in some parts of this Colony." That was no doubt true to the letter; but he would observe that although those disturbances had marred the general prosperity of the Colony, the evils which they had caused were felt by none so severely as by the poor unfortunate men, who, through the effects of delusion and deception practised upon them, had been led to set themselves in opposition to the due execution of the law. The illegality of the Tenant League did not lie in the tenantry having formed themselves into a Union for the purpose of endeavouring to induce their landlords to sell to them the freeholds of their farms upon what they, the Union, should conceive to be fair and equitable terms; but in their having bound themselves to each other to resist all demands for rent, or attempts to enforce payment of rents, until such time as their landlords should be willing to treat with them for the sale and purchase of their farms on their own terms. That they had bound themselves to resist all demands for the payment of rent in the manner in which it was generally understood by persons having no connexion with the League, that was by physical force, was however denied by some of its leaders. They said that what they meant by resistance to demands made for rent, was merely the tenants availing themselves of all the delays which the law would allow them, as the putting off of

suits from court to court; and so, if it were possible, wearying their landlords into an acquiescence with their proposals. But, be that as it might, he was persuaded that, by a prompt and energetic use of the civil authority, the disturbances adverted to might have been prevented, and there would have been no pretence for drawing down disgrace upon the Colony by the Government's procuring a detachment of Troops to be sent hither to enforce due obedience to the laws on the part of the people. Of the very serious expense which that action of the Government had occasioned to the Colony by the erection of barracks for the accommodation of the troops, it was not then, perhaps, the proper time to speak. He would, however, merely remark that he thought it would have been much better to have rented buildings for their accommodation than to have erected new barracks for that purpose. With the question relative to the expense so incurred, and the unwarrantable mode in which an appropriation of public moneys to defray it had been made, they would, however, have to deal at another time; and, therefore, he would then say no more upon the subject. To the answer proposed by the draft Address, to that paragraph of His Excellency's Speech which alludes to the late civil disturbances in the Colony, he could not exactly agree. He thought something like what he was about to submit would be more in accordance with the sense of the country, and also with that of hon. members on the Government side of the House, if instead of yielding themselves implicitly to the behests of the Government, they were to act in obedience to the dictates of conscience. The hon. gentleman then read and submitted the following amendment:

"The House of Assembly regret that civil disturbances took place in this Colony during the past year; but the House of Assembly respectfully submit that the alleged open and systematic defiance of the law might have been averted by a more prompt and energetic use of the civil authority, when the disturbances first made their appearance, and thus the recourse to extraordinary measures, as referred to in your Excellency's Speech, might have been avoided."

The organization of the League was illegal so far as respected the Resolution to resist the exaction of rent; but, otherwise, it was perfectly legal. If the association had simply confined themselves to endeavours to induce proprietors to part with the fee simple of their lands, to their tenants, on reasonable terms, no fault could, with any propriety, have been found with them; and, as was evidenced by the bargain which they had concluded with Mr. Haythorne, on behalf of his tenants, they might, had they not most effectually enfeebled their power to do good by the resistance pledge, have succeeded, in the same way, in effecting the emancipation of tenants on other estates from the bonds of the leasehold tenure.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH. It was a mistake to say that that agreement was effected by the Tenant League. They were no party to it in any way. It was directly concluded by and between Mr. Haythorne and his tenants, without the intervention of any other party.

Hon. Mr. COLES. The agreement was drawn up by the leaders of the League; and he would be glad to think the hon. member for the Second District of Queen's County (Hon. Mr. Longworth) was likely to make as good a bargain for his constituents. He (Hon. Mr. Coles) was glad to learn that the League had recinded the resistance clause from their Constitution; and he believed that, if made wiser by experience, they confined themselves to legal and constitutional action, they would yet be a means of ensuring substantiated benefits to the tenantry at large. But although he had said so much in their favor, he must qualify it by declaring that the League had nothing to expect from the Liberal party. They had no right to expect anything from that party; for they had brought disgrace upon the country. Neither his hon. friend, the Editor of the *Examiner*, nor any other man who was really anxious for the good name and welfare of the country, could have failed to condemn their proceedings and to denounce their resistance pledge.

The Hon. member then submitted his amendment.

(To be continued.)

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS.

THURSDAY, April 12.

On motion of Mr. Brecken, the House in Committee resumed the consideration of the Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech.

When the paragraph in the Address, relating to the application of the money arising from the sale of the old Barracks towards the expenditure incurred in building the new ones, was read by the Chairman, another long debate ensued, during which it was urged by the Opposition, that so large an expenditure as that required for building the Barracks should not have been made without the consent of the Legislature; and that such permanent works should not have been erected until it was ascertained that the troops would be allowed to remain in the Colony; and in support of these views, Mr. Howlan submitted the following amendment to the paragraph under consideration:—

“The measure promised by your Excellency with respect to the sale of the old Barracks and the building of the new ones, will receive our careful attention, when all the papers on the subject shall be submitted to us. The House of Assembly cannot, however, but regret that so large an expenditure, as would appear to have been incurred for this permanent work, should have been undertaken without the consent of the Legislature.”

The supporters of the Government on the contrary contended that, as it was necessary to call in the aid of troops, it was incumbent on the Government to provide suitable accommodations for them; that efforts were made to rebuild buildings, but none of suitable dimensions could be obtained; that the expenditure was in accordance with the principles which govern all constitutional Governments, when any emergency arises, rendering it necessary to appropriate money for the maintenance of law and order, and for the protection and defence of life and property; and that as some of the leading men of the Opposition supported the action of the Government, relative to calling in troops, they should concur with the necessity of providing them with suitable and proper accommodations.

At a late hour the question was put in Committee by the Chairman.

For the amendment—Hons Coles, Laird, Kelly, Thornton, Warburton, Whelan, Hensley; Messrs. Howlan, Sinclair, Sutherland—(10).

Against it—Hons. J. C. Pope, Longworth, Sol. General, the Speaker, Kaye, Davies, Gray, MacEachen; Messrs. Duncan, Brecken, Haslam, McEunna, Montgomery, Ramsay, and Green—(15).

Progress reported.—House adjourned.

FRIDAY, April 13.

The House in Committee of the whole again resumed the consideration of the Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech.

The paragraph relating to the recent purchase of Mr. Montgomery's estate in this Island, was read from the chair, to which the Hon. Mr. Warburton submitted the following amendment:—

“The House of Assembly rejoices to learn that your Excellency has concluded the purchase of another Estate from one of the proprietors.

“The House of Assembly cheerfully recognises in this purchase another testimony to the usefulness and necessity of the Bill which has authorized such a measure, and which the Liberal Government in 1853 were happily enabled to place upon the statute book of the Colony.”

A lengthy debate then followed, during which the merits and demerits of the various Bills which, from time to time, have been enacted for the settlement of the Land Question,

were reviewed and commented upon. Both sides of the House, however, concurred in the desirability of employing every legitimate measure having for its object the cancelling of the leasehold system. In the course of the debate the Hon. Col. Gray observed as his opinion, and ardent hope, that before the next Session of that House, a proposal for the purchase of the Cunard and Sullivan estates in this Colony, would be submitted for their consideration.

The Hon. the Leader of the Government observed, that it was the intention of the Government to ask the hon. House for an extension of the Land Purchase Bill with the view of purchasing the estates to which allusion had been made by the hon. member for Belfast.

At the close of the discussion the paragraph under consideration was agreed to in Committee without a division. House adjourned.

SATURDAY, April 14.

The House in Committee resumed the consideration of the draft address in answer to His Excellency's Speech.

The paragraph in allusion to the loyalty and spirit manifested by the people of the neighboring Provinces, relative to the threatened attack of the Fenians, and the necessity of making due preparations for any emergency that might arise, by taking into consideration the Laws which at present regulate the Militia and Volunteer forces of this Island, was read—

Hon. Mr. Coles expressed his readiness to support the Government in devising measures for the defence of the country, and said that on a subject of such vital importance, he hoped both sides of the House would concur in the adoption of such measures as would tend to show that we were, as a people, prepared to devote our best energies and all our available means for the defence and maintenance of our British Institutions. Whatever our local differences might be, he said, on the subject of military defence he had no doubt hon. members on both sides of the House would be unanimous.

Hon. Col. Gray and other hon. members on the Government side of the House then expressed their satisfaction at what had fallen from the hon. leader of the Opposition, and trusted when the subject of military defence would be submitted to the consideration of that hon. house, that that unanimity, so desirable on a subject of such vital importance, would characterize their deliberation.

Hon. Col. Gray then entered into a very lengthy exposition of our position in a military point of view, and spoke of the complications likely to arise from the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty.

A discussion then took place touching the conduct of the Government, in causing Special Constables to be sworn in to keep the peace in Charlottetown on St. Patrick's day, a procedure which, it was urged especially by Messrs. Conroy and Howlan, was not only uncalled for, but a slander on the character of the Irish Roman Catholics of the Colony.

It was stated in reply by the Hon. Sol. General and others that the construction sought to be put on the conduct of the Government on that point, was unjust. That no insult to any portion of the community was intended—that it would appear that in Canada and elsewhere Fenians made their boast that on St. Patrick's Day they would inaugurate their campaign. That Fenian sympathy prevailed to some extent was shown from the fact that Fenian buttons and ballads were exposed for sale in Charlottetown. That the Fenian organization was not recognized as being composed of Roman Catholics or Protestants, many of them being avowed infidels.

That the precautionary steps taken by the Government on St. Patrick's day were not intended to throw the slightest reflection on the loyalty and attachment of the Irish Catholics of this Island to British Institutions.

But that as it was feared that a sympathy for Fenianism might exist here, as in the other Colonies, to some extent, it was thought advisable to be prepared for any manifestation which might be attempted on behalf of Fenianism on that day.

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

The several amendments submitted in Committee were then put in their proper order to the vote, and negatived on the same divisions as when previously put in Committee.

After which the address was 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.

The House then adjourned till Monday next, at 10 o'clock, a.m.

MONDAY, April 16.

The House this morning waited on His Excellency with the Address, to which the following is His Excellency's reply:—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

"I thank you for your Address, and I trust that your endeavors to promote the welfare and prosperity of this Island will be blessed with success."

The Annual Reports of the School Visitors, for the year, were submitted, received and read.

Hon. Mr. Coles remarked that the latter Report, namely, that of the Visitor for the western section of the Island, appeared to be incomplete. It was very desirable at the present late session of the House that all the papers and statistics connected with that branch of the public service, be placed on the table with as little delay as possible.

Hon. Mr. Longworth, in reply, stated that the Statute allowed the School Visitors fourteen days after the meeting of the Legislature to complete their work. He had no doubt that the papers alluded to would be completed within the limited time. He also expressed a hope that the Board of Education would furnish their remarks on both Visitors' Reports, for the information of the hon. House.

Hon. Mr. Hensley said that the Board of Education would see that the law on that point would be complied with. He said he would take the liberty to state that the Board always found the Visitor from the Western Section of the Island (Mr. Buckerfield) attentive and faithful in the discharge of his duties.

The Board, he said, did not deem it advisable to submit any special extract from the Reports of the School Visitors, as they considered that it would be more satisfactory to the hon. House to have the whole of the Reports in their extended form laid on the table.

Ordered, that said Reports be laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. Hensley presented a petition from W. S. McGowan, John Knight, Edward Kickham, Esquires, and other inhabitants of Souris, praying for an Act to incorporate a Bank at that place.

Said petition was then referred to the following Committee to report thereon, viz: Hon. Messrs. Hensley, McEachen, and Col. General.

Hon. Mr. Hensley, from said Committee, then reported a Bill, to be entitled an Act to incorporate the Souris Bank. Said Bill was received and read.

Hon. J. C. Pope, Leader of the Government, submitted to the House the Blue Book for the year 1864; Returns of the different Banks; Returns of Small Debt Courts throughout the Island; the Classified Accounts; Impost and Excise Returns; Returns of the Road Correspondent and Road Commissioners, and the Colonial Treasurer's Accounts for the past year.

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.

Hon. Mr. Hensley presented a petition from divers Mechanics, Merchants and others, praying for an Act to incorporate the Mechanics' Fishing Company of Charlottetown.

Said petition, together with the Draft Bill annexed thereto, were referred to the Committee on Private Bills to report thereon.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Davies, a supply was granted to Her Majesty.

Hon. Leader of the Government announced a Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, transmitting copies of Despatches and Correspondence relating to different subjects; among them a Despatch informing the House that the Address, which was passed by both branches of the Legislature of this Colony last session, on the subject of Colonial Confederation, had been laid before Her Majesty; also a Correspondence between the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Governor General of Canada, on the affairs of British North America, expressing the strong and deliberate opinion of Her Majesty's Government to the effect that all the British North American Colonies should agree to unite in one Government.

Papers relating to the civil disturbances which took place in the Colony during the past year, and the Requisition for a Detachment of Her Majesty's Troops.

Papers touching Commercial Treaties, &c.

The Clerk proceeded to read the said documents to the House; after some time spent thereon, it was moved that the House adjourn till 10 o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, April 17.

Mr. Montgomery presented a petition from divers inhabitants of Granville, Lot 21, praying for the establishment of a Post Office at Granville—received and read. After which it was resolved that a Committee be appointed to whom should be referred all petitions praying for the establishment of new Post Offices, and all matters relating to the Inland Mail Service.

Ordered that Messrs Montgomery, Green, and the Hon. Mr. McEachen do compose said Committee.

Petition just read was then referred to the above Committee, to report thereon. The Clerk having finished the reading of Despatches and Correspondence, transmitted yesterday by message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, the reading of which occupied at least four hours, it was resolved that on Friday next, the House in Committee take into consideration the said Despatches and Correspondence.

Hon. Col. Gray presented a petition from the Minister and Trustees of a Presbyterian Church at Casumpec, praying for an Act of Incorporation. Petition received and read and referred to Committee to report thereon.

Hon. Col. Gray, Chairman of said Committee, reported a bill agreed to in compliance with prayer of petitioners. Said bill referred to Committee on private bills.

Hon. Mr. Hensley presented a petition from certain Inhabitants of Lot 47, praying for a grant towards a road in that locality, a copy of which he had already submitted to the Executive Council.

Objection was taken to the reception of the petition, on the ground that it was contrary to the standing rule of the House, relative to the initiation of money votes. It was therefore withdrawn.

Mr. McLennan presented two petitions from certain inhabitants of Prince County, praying for a Bill for the purpose of confirming the title to certain lands sold throughout the Island generally, but more especially in that County, at Sheriff's Sales, under the provisions of the Land Assessment Act.

Hon. Mr. Pope, in supporting the prayer of the petitioners, said that doubts were in existence as to the validity of the Titles acquired under the Act, authorising the sale of lands for nonpayment of Land Assessment. The practice has been to advertise for sale the quantity of land against which judgment has been obtained in each Township, and at the time of the Sheriff's Sale, to describe the funds to be sold by metes and bounds. That practice had, until now, been considered in compliance with the law, and so recognized by the Courts;

but it is now said that these lands should have been defined by metes and bounds when advertised for sale. If that be the case, all the titles obtained under the present Act were worthless, and hundreds of our industrious farmers who purchased their farms and expended their all in the improvement of their property, very naturally considered that their titles were the best that could possibly be obtained, he therefore considered that it was necessary to enact a Law confirming all such titles as required.

Hon. Mr. Hensley said that the doubts which had arisen were owing to the fact that in the advertisements, touching the Sheriff's Sales of the Lands alluded to—the metes and bounds thereof were not properly defined—grievous injuries had therefore arisen from the working of the present Act. He observed that great care, however, should be taken in framing any new Bill on the subject.

Ordered that the same petitions be referred to a Committee to report thereon; and that Mr. McLennan, Hon. Messrs. Trevelyan, and Longworth do compose said Committee.

Mr. Duncan presented a petition from the Minister and Trustees of the Presbyterian Church at Brown's Creek, praying for an amendment to the Act of Incorporation of said Church.

Received, read, and ordered to be referred to the following Committee to report thereon, viz: Mr. Duncan, Hon. J. Longworth, and Col. Gray.

Hon. Mr. Longworth presented a petition from divers inhabitants of Rustico and other Northern settlements of the Island, setting forth the necessity of preventing the use of Drifts or Siltines in fishing Codfish on the North Shore. Received and read.

Hon. Mr. Longworth then explained that the object of the petitioners was to protect the Codfishery grounds on the North Shore from the injurious effects of that system of catching the fish alluded to in the petition,—a system which, it appeared, was calculated, in the course of time, to end in the total extinction of that branch of our industry. Such was the result from similar causes on some of the best fishing grounds in North America. In Canada and other places, the practice alluded to for catching Fish was prohibited.

Said petition was then referred to the following Committee to report thereon, viz: Hon. Mr. Longworth, Messrs. Howlan and Green.

Hon. Mr. Hensley presented a petition from inhabitants of East Point and vicinity, asking for the establishment of a Post Office at that place. Received and read.

Hon. Mr. Hensley explained the object of the petition, stating the necessity of securing for the people of that place the advantages prayed for in that petition.

House in Committee on the report of the Committee on expiring Laws—Mr. McLennan in the Chair.

Several resolutions were submitted by the Hon. Mr. Longworth, Chairman of said Committee, on expiring Laws, having for their object the continuation and amendment of the several laws reported as about to expire.

When the resolution touching the Act relating to the Public Wharf at Georgetown, and other wharves throughout the Island, was read, several hon. members addressed the Committee, urging the necessity of increasing the rate of wharfage charged under the provisions of the present Act; and also of imposing like charges on vessels loading at public Bridges throughout the Island. By the imposition of such charges or rates, a considerable sum might be realized towards keeping such public works in repair, and thereby afford a very considerable relief to the general revenue of the Colony.

Hon. Leader of the Government laid before the House the Returns of the Commissioner of Public Lands for the past year.

Hon. Mr. Davies submitted the public estimates for the current year, among which is an appropriation of \$11,000 for Roads and Bridges, and \$750 towards the erection of a Light House at East Point.

A Bill to incorporate the Souris Bank was received and read; ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Hon. Sol. General then gave notice that to-morrow he would move the following resolution:—That in consequence of the threatened invasion of the British North American Colonies by bands of Roman marauders, this House pledges itself to place the whole of the revenues of this Island at the disposal of the Government for the purpose of organizing the Militia and Volunteers, and for such other Military purposes as may be deemed expedient for the protection and defence of the Colony.

House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, April 18.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition asked for the Despatch which accompanied the Address of both Branches of the Legislature, at the Confederation of the Provinces.

Despatch relating to the address of the Legislature, touching the salary of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor. Also despatch changing the power of appointing Justices of the Peace, from the Lieutenant Governor to the Governor in Council.

Hon. Leader of the Government replied that the two first named Despatches would be submitted, but that no such despatch as the latter had been received.

Hon. Mr. Warburton, pursuant to notice, asked for the Returns of the Prince of Wales College, and Grammar Schools of the three Counties.

Hon. Leader of the Government submitted the Returns of the Number of Pupils attending the said College, and the Grammar School in connection therewith, as follows:

Attending College,	50.
Grammar School,	47.

Hon. Leader of the Government also presented the Report of the Commissioner of Public Lands for the past year—all of which were laid on the table.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition asked for the Warrant Book and detailed Accounts of the past year.

A petition from James McCallum and others, inhabitants of Brackley Point and vicinity, was presented by the Hon. Mr. Coles, praying the House to redress the grievances complained of, by causing a gate to be placed across the Road leading to the shore at a certain Marsh therein named, in order to prevent cattle and sheep from running at large on the sand hills; and also setting forth the necessity of procuring a Dredging Machine to be used for the purpose of keeping open the various harbors on the coasts of this Island.

Hon. Mr. Coles then explained that the object of the petitioners was to protect their farms from the encroachments of the shifting sand. The sand hills, he said, were now a considerable distance further inward than formerly, from the shifting nature of which some valuable farms were in danger of being totally overwhelmed and destroyed. The only preventative was the cultivation of the grass on the said sand hills, and that could not be successfully carried out unless sheep and cattle were prohibited from constantly trampling among the sand.

Ordered, that said petition be referred to the following Committee to report thereon, viz:—Hons. Coles, Hensley, Messrs. Howat, Montgomery and Haslam. On motion of the Hon. Mr. Davies, the House resolved itself into Mr. McLennan in the Chair.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Hensley, the Bill to incorporate the Souris Bank was then read a second time, and submitted to a Committee of the whole House.

A short discussion then ensued, touching the necessity of extending the Capital Stock of said Bank; the amount of which, as named in the Bill, was £3,000, payable by three annual instalments, in shares of five pounds each.

The fact, however, that the establishment of such Institutions throughout the Island, was an indication of the prosperity and enterprise of the people, and that the Bank at Souris, owing to its remote distance from Charlottetown Banks, would afford very great facilities to the trade of King's County, were very forcibly urged, especially by the hon. members representing the East Point District.

The clause, touching the Capital of the Souris Bank, was then agreed to, and progress reported.

Mr. Howlan presented a petition from divers Farmers, Merchants and Mechanics, of Alberton, praying for an Act to incorporate a Bank to be denominated the Western Bank, was then received, read and referred to the following Committee to report thereon, viz:—Mr. Howlan, Hon. Hensley and Longworth.

Hon. Mr. Longworth submitted the remaining portions of the Report of the Visitor of Schools for the Western Section of the Island, including the total of his statistics, and thereby completing the said Visitor's Reports for the past year. Said papers were then ordered to be laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Brecken the House went into Committee to take into consideration the expediency of a Bill to amend the Charlotte-ham Incorporation Act. Mr. Haslam in the Chair.

A Resolution was then submitted by Mr. Brecken, and adopted, to the effect, that it was expedient to amend the said Act, for the purpose of enabling the Mayor and City Council, to levy additional assessments for permanent improvements and other purposes, and also to enable them to impose penalties in certain cases, not provided for by the present Act.

The several clauses in the said Act of Incorporation, sought to be amended, were then remarked upon by several hon. members, more especially the clause touching the expediency of increased taxation, and the best mode of effecting that object. After which, on motion of Mr. Brecken, a Committee was appointed to bring in a Bill in conformity with the said resolution.

Hon. Leader of the Government submitted the Warrant Book, and the detailed accounts, and also certain vouchers of expenditure for the past year.

Mr. Howlan, Chairman of the Committee appointed to bring in a Bill to incorporate the Western Bank, submitted a Bill. Referred to Committee on Private Bills.

Hon. Mr. Longworth, Chairman of Committee on Private Bills, reported the Bill to incorporate the Mechanics' Fishing Company of Charlestown.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Hensley, it was ordered that said Bill be read a second time to-morrow.

Pursuant to notice, the Hon. Solicitor General then moved that the House, in Committee of the whole, take into consideration the Resolution touching the expediency of placing the whole revenues of the colony at the disposal of the Government, for the purpose of organizing the militia and volunteers, in consequence of threatened invasion of the British North American Colonies, by Fenian marauders.

The House accordingly resolved itself into a Committee of the whole—Mr. McLennan in the chair.

During the spirited debate which then followed, in which almost every hon. member in the House took part, sentiments of the most loyal and patriotic nature that could possibly be uttered, characterized the debate. The whole resources of the Colony were freely proffered, and placed at the disposal of the Executive of the Colony, for the purposes of defence; and the readiness of the people to respond to any call that might be made upon them to defend their hearths and homes, and the free and noble constitution of their country as a dependency of the British Crown, was fully expressed on both sides of the House. At the close of the debate the Hon. Leader of the Government read to the House a telegram just received from New Brunswick, to the effect, that a United States revenue cutter had just seized a Fenian schooner, laden with arms, between Portland and Eastport, Maine. It was but justice to the United States authorities, he said, thus to notice the praiseworthy conduct of their officers, in promptly capturing these disturbers of the friendly relations existing between that Republic and the Province.

The Resolution under consideration was then put, and carried unanimously, amidst the cheers of the crowded assemblage, who attended to hear the debate.

House adjourned.

THURSDAY, April 19.

Hon. Mr. Pope presented a bill to compel masters of vessels to exhibit a Light while in harbour in the night time.

Received and read and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Mr. Yeo presented a petition from inhabitants of Higgins' Road and vicinity, praying for the establishment of a Post Office.

Received and read.

Ordered to be referred to the Committee on Post Offices, to report thereon.

Hon. Mr. Hensley solicited the attention of the Government, relative to the very unsafe state of the public offices in the Colonial Building. The Registry and Prothonotary Offices were, he said,

more especially insecure, in case of fire. The so-called safe, in the Registry Office, was useless; and in the Prothonotary's Office, where many of the most valuable records of the Colony were kept, there was not the slightest security; and the papers were so exposed that, should a fire unfortunately occur, it would be impossible to save them from its ravages. It was highly necessary, therefore, that steps should be taken to protect the most valuable records of the Colony, which, should they, by any accident, be destroyed, it would be impossible to replace.

Hon. Leader of the Government admitted the necessity of adopting means for the more permanent security of the public offices, some of which were also too small. The Controller of Customs and his assistants were, during the Session of the Legislature, driven from one small office to another; and, at the present, were compelled to transact their business in one of the garret rooms of the Building. That one of the principal offices of the Colony should be thus disturbed was highly improper. The Land Office was so small, that His Excellency's Office in the adjoining room had to be used for the transaction of some of the business connected with the public service. That part of the building now occupied as a Court House should be made into a Land Office and Custom House department, and a new Court House should be erected. These, however, are improvements which would at present, owing to our peculiar position, be inadvisable; but he hoped the day was not far distant when the subject would receive the best consideration of the Legislature.

The bill to incorporate the Mechanics' Fishing Company of Charlestown was read a second time.

After some time spent in Committee on said bill, during which a discussion arose, touching the necessity of guarding against giving such companies any undue position, which might prove injurious to the interests of the public, progress was reported.

A bill to incorporate the Presbyterian Church at Cascapec was received and read.

Mr. Yeo presented a petition from inhabitants of Lots 7 and 8, praying for the establishment of a Small Debt Commissioners' Court, at or near Cape Wolf, was received and read. Referred to Committee.

Mr. Howlan presented two petitions: One from inhabitants of Tignish, praying for the removal of the present Post Office to a more central site, and for the establishment of another Post Office at William Dillon's, Little Tignish, Lot 2. And another from Joseph Richards and others, praying for the establishment of a Post Office at or near the Cross Roads at Nail Pond Settlement. Said petitions were received and read. Ordered to be referred to the Special Committee appointed to report on all petitions of a similar nature.

Mr. Howlan offered to present a petition from inhabitants of Lot 3, praying for the opening of a new road, but it was not received, the nature of it being relative to the initiation of money votes.

Hon. the Leader of the Government submitted the Despatch from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to the Secretary of State, respecting the proposed Confederation of the British North American Colonies; and also the Despatch touching His Excellency's salary, asked for by the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Ordered that said Despatches do lie on the table.

Hon. Mr. Coles remarked that it would be very desirable to furnish each hon. member of that House with a printed copy of the Despatches just submitted; the subjects to which they alluded were of vast importance; it was therefore proper to give hon. members an opportunity of thus acquainting themselves more fully with their contents.

After some further remarks from several hon. members, the Hon. Mr. Coles submitted a resolution to the effect, that said Despatches be printed for convenience of hon. members, as was the practice in other Colonies.

His Honor the Speaker declined putting the question, on the ground that it was contrary to the standing rules of the House on that point.

Hon. Solicitor General then said that the documents in question would be duly submitted by the Government in printed form as alluded to, without any Resolution of the House.

The Bill to incorporate the Western Bank was received and read.

Mr. Sinclair presented a petition from inhabitants of Lot 18, complaining that, by a late survey of the County line road, they have lost nearly one chain off the rear of their farms, and praying for redress.

Ordered, that the said petition be referred to a Committee to report thereon.

Hon. Solicitor General presented petition from the Rev. Alex. MacWilliam and others, praying for an Act to incorporate the Church of Scotland at Carleton. Ordered that said petition be referred to a Committee.

Mr. Brecken submitted, in accordance with the Resolution previously agreed to, a bill to alter and amend the Act of Incorporation of Charlottetown. Said bill was received and read a first time.

Ordered to be referred to Committee to report thereon.

Hon. Col. Gray asked the Government for a Return of all monies expended by Government House Committee, on account of Government House, from the year 1859 to the present date.

Hon. Leader of the Government said the papers asked for would be submitted.

Hon. Leader of the Government presented the Returns of the Grammar Schools of Georgetown and Summerside; and also the report of the Committee of Management of the Government Stock Farm.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Davies, the House went into Committee of Ways and Means. Mr. McLennan in the Chair.

Hon. Mr. Davies then submitted a Resolution making certain alterations in the Tariff the principal of which was the laying of a duty of one shilling and sixpence on every Barrel of Flour imported from countries not reciprocating with this Island. On the subject, a discussion took place, which will appear in the extended debates; the said Resolution was then agreed to.

The Resolution placing the whole of the revenues of the Colony at the disposal of the Government, for military defences, was also agreed to in Committee.

After which, progress was reported.
House adjourned.

FRIDAY, April 20, 1866.

Hon. Mr. Davies reported to the House several Resolutions agreed to in Committee of Supply. Said Resolutions were adopted.

Hon. Mr. Longworth presented to the House from the Minister and others of Bonshaw Presbyterian Church, a petition asking for an Act of Incorporation. Referred to Committee on Private Bills.

Hon. Solicitor General presented and read a petition from inhabitants of King's County, touching the necessity of compelling parties having Mill Dams, to erect Waste Gates or Slips, suitable for floating Logs and Timber through the same; and to cause said Waste Gates to be opened when required, on the payment of a small fee by those requiring the use of the same. Eferred to a Committee of the whole House, to report thereon.

Hon. Mr. Cole presented a petition of the inhabitants of Bunbury School District, Lot 43, setting forth their inability to keep open their School, owing to the small number of children in that District. Petition having reference to the granting of money, was ordered to be withdrawn.

Hon. Mr. Cole presented a petition from J. R. Bourke, Jun., and others, touching the erection of a Wharf. Ordered to be laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. Cole asked for the detailed accounts touching the expenditure of one thousand pounds towards the Volunteer movement last year.

Hon. Leader of the Government, in reply, said the accounts alluded to would be laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. Davies submitted the Revenue Bill for the current year. Received and read; and the Rule, touching the second reading of a bill, without the usual notice, having been suspended, the bill was read a second time, and committed to a Committee of the whole House. Mr. Yeo in the Chair.

After some time spent in Committee, the Bill was reported agreed to, without any amendment, and ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. Conroy presented a petition from certain inhabitants of the Western section of Prince County, touching the destruction of Sheep, by dog-running at large. The hon. member, in submitting the petition, observed that, for the past two or three years, large numbers of Sheep had been destroyed in that part of the County by dogs, and that, during

the past year, the number of valuable animals destroyed had greatly increased. The said petitioners prayed for the protection of that valuable animal from the ravages thus committed.

Ordered to be referred to a Committee to report thereon.

Hon. Col. Gray submitted a petition from the Minister and Elders of St. John's Church, Belfast, asking for an alteration in their Act of Incorporation, of the time for holding their Annual Meeting for the election of Trustees. Received, read, and referred to Committee.

Hon. Mr. McEachon presented a petition from divers inhabitants of Bay Fortune, praying for the appointment of a Commission for the purpose of assessing damages, that might be sustained by parties (through whose farms a road would be opened, leading to the shore of Howe Bay; and also a subscription list accompanying said petition, towards the erection of a wharf at the terminus of said road.

Ordered to be laid on the table.

Hon. Col. Gray submitted a bill to amend the Incorporation Act of Saint John's Church, changing the time of holding Annual Meetings of that body from the first Tuesday in January to the first Monday in August. Bill received and read.

Mr. Brecken presented a petition from divers Merchants and others of Charlottetown, praying for an Act to Incorporate a Woollen Factory. Received and read. Referred to Committee.

Hon. Col. Gray presented a petition, very numerously signed, from the northern portion of his constituents, and others, relating to the Hillsborough Ferry. Petitioners complain of mismanagement, and the violation of the rules and conditions of the contract of that Ferry, on the part of the Contractor. They pray for a redress of the grievances complained of, and also for an increase of accommodation for the public on said Ferry by placing an additional Steamboat thereon, or by causing the present boat to ply every quarter of an hour between Charlottetown and Southport, especially on market days.

The said petition was received and read.

Hon. Col. Gray observed that there were upwards of five hundred names attached to the petition; that such a large portion of the community must, doubtless, have strong grounds for their allegations, which he hoped would be duly enquired into and investigated. He, therefore, submitted their petition to the favorable consideration of that hon. House.

After some remarks from Hons. Messrs. Hensley, Pope and Davies, the petition was referred to a Special Committee, as follows, viz: Hons. Col. Gray and Hensley, and Mr. Brecken.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Davies, the Revenue Bill was read a third time and passed.

Hon. Mr. Longworth presented a petition from William McPhail, and other School Teachers, praying for Amendment of School Act—which, having for one of its objects the imposition of an additional tax for the purpose of increasing the salary of Teachers, could not be entertained, not having been submitted through the Executive Government in accordance with the rule of the House touching the initiation of Money votes. It was, therefore, ordered to be withdrawn.

Mr. Brecken presented a petition from Belmont School District, which was rejected on similar grounds as above.

Mr. Brecken presented a petition to Incorporate St. Andrew's Church, Brackley Point Road.—Received, read and referred to Committee.

Mr. McLennan presented a petition to Incorporate the Summerside Fishing Company.—Referred to Committee.

Hon. Mr. McEachon presented a petition from Abercrombie Willock, setting forth that he, the said petitioner, had discovered veins of Coal on parts of Lot 50, on this Island, specimens of which he deposited with the Clerk of the Council for the inspection of that body. Petitioner also alleges that he has discovered, on said Township, Metallic substances, and also a perfect metal which he believes to be copper. He therefore prays that a scientific survey and exploration of the lands of said Township be made, and that the appropriation of the Legislature for the discovery of Coal be not considered to his prejudice.

Ordered that the said petition do lie on the table.

Mr. Haslam presented a petition from certain inhabitants of Crapaud, complaining of the decision of the Supreme Court in January last, relating to a road over the lands of William Dawson.

Offered to be withdrawn, on the ground that it would be dangerous to establish a precedent interfering with the decisions of the Jury of Court.

Hon. Solicitor General submitted a petition from the members of the Provincial and Subordinate Judges of the British Order of Gold Fishery, in the Island, praying for an Act of Incorporation. — Referred to Committee.

Hon. Mr. Brecken presented a petition from the residents of West River, setting forth certain alleged grievances therein stated, relating to the mode of conducting the Ferry between McEachen's and Mc Ewen's wharf on said river, of which the petitioner is the owner.

Offered that said petition be withdrawn, on the ground that the petition contemplated an interference with the existing contract touching said ferry.

Mr. Brecken presented a petition from inhabitants of Charlottetown, praying to relieve the burthen imposed upon them by having to turn off and remove the pitches and heavy snow-drifts during the winter months, in the Royalty aforesaid—the roads therein, owing to the great thoroughfare approaching the City, being more subject to such pitches and cradic-hills, after heavy snow storms, than any other portion of the Island. Petition received and referred to Committee.

Hon. Leader of the Government moved for a Committee of the whole House, on the second reading of the Bill transferring the Fund, raised by the Sale of the Military Barracks in Charlottetown towards the erection of the new Barracks.

Hon. Mr. Coles moved, in amendment, that the said Bill be read that day three months, on the same grounds, that he objected to the introduction of the Bill, namely, that it was an appropriation of money, and should, therefore, have originated in a Committee of the whole, in accordance with the usual mode of procedure.

A debate ensued, when it was contended by the supporters of the motion to go into Committee, that the Bill only contemplated the transferring or placing of certain monies to the credit of the Colony, and was not, therefore, an appropriation. After which the House divided as follows:—For the amendment of the Hon. Mr. Coles—Hons. Coles, Whelan, Laird, Thorston, Warburton, Kelly, Hensley, Messrs. Howat, Howlan, Walker, Conroy, 11. Against it—Hons. Pope, Kaye, Davies, McEachen, Solicitor General, Longworth, Gray, Messrs. Montgomery, McLennan, Green, Duncan, Yeo, Brecken, Haslam—14. The Bill was then committed to a Committee of the whole, and reported agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Longworth submitted the Bill to incorporate the Presbyterian Church at Bonshaw. Referred to Committee to report thereon.

Mr. Brecken introduced a Bill to incorporate a Woolen Factory in Charlottetown. Read and referred to Committee. Reported from Committee, read a second time, and ordered to be engrossed.

Hon. Col. Gray submitted a Bill to incorporate the Church at Cascumpec. Read and agreed to.

The House, at a late hour, waited on His Excellency at the bar of the Council Chamber, when His Excellency was pleased to give his assent to the Revenue Act for the current year, which had passed both branches of the Legislature with unprecedented dispatch. The following is a list of the alterations in the Tariff for the current year, caused by the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty, viz:—Pitch, tax, and Rosin, Two per cent; Leather of all kinds (except Sole Leather), reduced from six and a quarter per cent to Five Pence, Five per cent; Fruits and Vegetables, undried, Five per cent; Bar and Spring Steel, Five per cent; Gypsum—ground and unground,—Five per cent; Butter, the cwt., Ten shillings; Bread (Ship and Pilot), the 100 lbs., one shilling; Bacon, the cwt., Ten shillings; Beef, the barrel, Six Shillings; Flour—Wheaten and Rye—and Corn Meal, the barrel, one shilling and sixpence; Hams, the cwt., Ten shillings; Lard, the cwt., Ten shillings; Onions, the 100 lbs.; Three shillings; Pork, the barrel, Six shillings; Tobacco, unmanufactured, the lb., Three pence; duty on game to be levied on the quantity imported, without any deduction for Skins.

The several articles above enumerated being the growth or production of the British Provinces shall be exempted from the duty imposed as above when imported direct from any of the said Provinces reciprocating with this Island.

House adjourned.

SATURDAY, April 21.

The Bill to incorporate Cascumpec Church was read a second time and agreed to.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Longworth, the House went into Committee on the report of the Committee on expiring Laws, and agreed to certain resolutions.

On motion of Mr. Howlan, the House went into Committee on the Bill to incorporate the Western Bank. Mr. Sinclair is in the Chair. The said Bill was then after some remarks from several Hon. members relative to the clause of the Bill, read a second time.

The Bill to incorporate a Church at Cardigan was submitted to a Committee of the whole House and agreed to.

Hon. Leader of the Government moved that the Bill transferring the funds raised from the sale of the old Barracks to the building of the new ones, be read a third time. Hon. leader of the Opposition moved, in amendment, that it be read that day three months. For the amendment 8, against 19. The Bill was accordingly read a third time and passed.

Hon. Mr. Pope, as member of the Executive Council, submitted the returns relating to the expenditure of the Government House Committee, as asked for, by the Hon. Col. Gray; and also the returns of the different Banks of this Island, up to March, 1866.

Hon. Sol. General introduced a Bill relating to the conveyance and transfer of real and personal property vested in mortgages and trustees. Received, read, and referred to Committee to report thereon.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Hensley, the Bill to incorporate the Mechanics' Fishing Company of Charlottetown, was committed to a Committee of the whole House.

After some time spent in Committee on the clause relating to the liability of the Company, which clause does not render individual members of the Company liable for any debts contracted in the name of the Company, only to the extent of his interest therein, the Bill was read a second time and agreed to.

Hon. Sol. General introduced a Bill for the purpose of amending the Act relating to a Court of Divorce in this Island. The principal object of the proposed Bill was to empower the said Divorce Court to compel the High Sheriffs of the different Counties of the Island, to serve any writs or other documents issued by the said Court, and also to execute any process of contempt, or any other process of the said Court, established within the respective Counties aforesaid, and to remedy other difficulties arising from certain defects in the present Act, which the Bill purposes to amend. Bill was received and read, and ordered to be referred to Committee to report thereon.

House adjourned.

MONDAY, April 23.

Hon. Leader of the Government submitted the various petitions which had been presented to the Government, relating to Roads, Bridges, Education and other subjects.

Ordered that said documents be laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. Longworth, Chairman of the Private Bill Committee, reported the Bill to incorporate St. Andrew's Church, Brackley Point Road; also the Bill to incorporate the Charlottetown Wool Factory. Said reports were adopted.

Hon. Leader of the Government submitted the Reports of several Commissioners, appointed at the last session of that House, relating to new Roads and other matters connected with the public service.

Said Reports were received and read, and ordered to be laid on the table.

The Bill to incorporate the Brackley Point Church was read and agreed to; also the Bill to incorporate the Wool Factory of Charlottetown.

On motion of Mr. Brecken, the House went into Committee on the Bill to amend the City Corporation Act. Mr. Sinclair is in the Chair.

After some time spent in Committee, progress was reported.

The Bill to amend the Act compelling Masters of Vessels to exhibit a light while in Harbor in the night time, was read and agreed to.

Hon. Leader of the Government introduced a Bill to be intitled "An Act for the regulation of Benefit Building Societies."

He then explained that the object of the Bill was to encourage the formation of building Societies among the Mechanics and other classes of the community, and by the aid of such Societies assist persons of limited means, by small periodical subscriptions, to obtain freehold or leasehold property. He alluded to the beneficial working of similar societies in the Mother Country, the United States, and the sister Provinces. The protection and advantages afforded to the industrial classes, as well as to the more affluent who may have money to invest by the formation of institutions of that nature, called for a bill such as he presented, and which he had no doubt would meet with the hearty concurrence of hon. members on both sides.

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

The Bill to amend the Act relating to the Divorce Court was read a second time and agreed to.

The Bill to amend the Act to incorporate St. John's Church, Belfast, was read and agreed to. The Bill to incorporate the Church at Cardigan, was also received and read.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Davies, the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. McLennan in the Chair.

When the Resolution relating to the expense of the Inland and Foreign Mails was submitted—

Hon. Mr. Hensley called the attention of the Government to the question of steam communication between Souris, Georgetown, and Pictou. A petition, he said, from some of his constituents, inhabitants of Souris and vicinity, very numerously signed, was on the table. He then pressed upon the Government the claims of the Eastern portion of King's County, and trusted they would propose some grant for the encouragement of steam communication between the places named.

Hon. Sec. General followed, and expressed his concurrence with what had fallen from the hon. and learned member for East Point, (Mr. Hensley.) An expression of the opinion of hon. members on that important point was desirable. Steam communication between Georgetown, Souris and Pictou he hoped would soon be established, as at the Western parts of the Island. He recommended that the third weekly trip of the Princess of Wales to Shediac be abandoned, and a weekly trip to Souris, Georgetown and Pictou be substituted in lieu thereof.

Hon. Messrs. Coles, Pope, McEachen, Davies and Mr. Howat, severally addressed the Committee on the subject. During the discussion which followed, the necessity of supplying the Eastern section of the Island with access by Steam to the markets of Pictou, Halifax, &c., as were the Western sections of the Island with Shediac, St. John, &c., was fully admitted.

When the Resolution relating to the expenditure for roads and bridges was read, a question arose as to the best mode of employing the Superintendent of Public Works. Some hon. members were of opinion that an annual salary, in lieu of fees and travelling expenses, as at present, would be more conducive to the public interest, and more satisfactory to that officer. The system of employing Road Commissioners, and the present mode of road-making throughout the country, were also freely commented upon. The evident necessity of improvement, in relation to this branch of the public service, was fully discussed—an extended report of which will appear in the Debates of the House.

The salary of the Guard at Government House was then remarked upon, when it appeared, from the opinions expressed by hon. members on both sides, that the services of that officer might be dispensed with, as His Excellency the Lieut. Governor could have an Orderly and Guard from Her Majesty's Troops now stationed at the Barracks.

The necessity of erecting new stables and outhouses for Government House, and of protecting Government Farm by securing the front with a breastwork, so as to prevent the falling in and wasting away of the land, was also brought to the consideration of the Government. The several Resolutions, as submitted, were then adopted, and progress reported.

Hon. leader of the Government submitted, by message from His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, the Report of the Adjutant General of Militia for 1865. Ordered that said Report do lie on the table, and be made the order of the day for Friday next.

Hon. leader of the Government also submitted the Accounts of the expenditure of Military Grant for the year 1865, as asked for by the hon. leader of the Opposition. Ordered that said accounts do lie on the table.

House adjourned.

Tuesday, April 24.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Hensley, the Bill to incorporate the Western Bank was read a third time and passed.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Longworth, the Bill to compel masters of vessels to exhibit a light on board their vessels in the night time, was read a third time and passed.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Longworth, the order of the day for the second reading of the Bill to incorporate the Presby-terian Church at Bonshaw, was read.

Hon. Mr. Laird presented a petition which was received and read, from certain alleged adherents of the said Church at Bonshaw, praying that said Bill to incorporate that Church be disallowed, on the ground that the petition, on which said Bill was founded, was forwarded to the Legislature without the knowledge or concurrence of the petitioners, and for other reasons set forth by them. Ordered, that the petition just read do lie on the table.

The order of the day for the second reading of the Bill in question was then discharged.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Hensley, the Bill to incorporate Souris Bank was read a second time and agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Longworth, a member of Her Majesty's Executive Council, presented certain Correspondence relative to the Winsloe Estate on this Island.

The Bill passed last Session to carry into effect certain un-executed agreements, made by the late John Hodges Winsloe, Esq., for the sale and leasing of certain parts of his estate in this Island, was received by His Excellency for the signature of Her Majesty's pleasure thereon. Correspondence on this subject, from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, enclosing the legal opinion of the Crown Law Officers of England, recommending His Excellency to give his assent to the said Bill during the recess of the Legislature, were submitted; also an extract from Minutes of the Executive Council of this Island on the subject, wherein they consider it would be inexpedient for His Excellency to give his assent to the said Bill, in the manner proposed by Mr. Cardwell, the Secretary of State, on the ground that the invariable custom in this Colony was for the Lieutenant Governor to give his assent to all Bills, during the actual sitting of the Legislature, in the presence of the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly, and not after a prorogation or during a recess. Her Majesty's Executive Council, therefore, recommended the introduction of a new Bill, having a suspending clause attached thereto, in accordance with the rule of the Royal Instructions relating to Acts affecting the rights of private property. It was then ordered that the documents referred to do lie on the table.

After which Hon. Mr. Longworth introduced a new Bill, similar to that of last Session, touching the said Winsloe Estate. The hon. member observed that the Bill just submitted was a copy of the Act of last Session, on the same subject, and as it appeared from the last Despatch from the Secretary of State on the subject, the necessity of adding a suspending clause to the said Bill was obviated, as the whole question had received the consideration of the Imperial Government. Bill received and read.

Hon. Mr. Longworth also presented a Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to His Excellency, relative to the Universal Exhibition to be held at Paris in the year 1867, showing that a space of 250 feet was allotted at this Island at that Exhibition, and recommending the appointment of a Committee of Superintendance, and also a Special Executive Commissioner, to conduct the Correspondence relative thereto, with the Colony.

On motion of Mr. Brecken, the House, in Committee, resumed the consideration of the Bill to alter and amend the Charlottetown Incorporation Act. The clause empowering the City Council to apprentice Mendicant Children, to persons resident in any part of the Island, was, after some remarks from several hon. members, amended, so the effect that, in every case where a Mendicant Child should be so bound out as an apprentice, the religious persuasion of the

person to whom the apprentice should be so bound, shall—whenever practicable—be the same as that of the apprentice. The clause relative to the assessment on Real Estates in the City was also amended; the same, in any one year, not to exceed one shilling in the pound, of the rental or yearly value of such Real Estate. The clause enabling the City Council to assess the owners of Real Estate, apart from the occupant Assessment, for purposes of permanent improvement, was disallowed; as was also the clause touching the granting of leases for certain shore fronts east of Hillsborough Street. The enabling the City Council to pass a by-law for the purpose of requiring aliens and others, not residents of P. E. Island, before commencing any trade or commerce in the City of Charlottetown, to pay a licence fee, was struck out of the Bill; and the empowering the Police Court to take cognizance of complaints relative to the non-performance of contracts or bargains for the sale of meat or other articles made in open market, was also disallowed. After which, the Bill, as amended, was agreed to, and ordered to be engrossed.

Hon. Sol. General introduced a Bill to incorporate the Grand Lodge of British Templars. Received, read and referred to Committee.

The Bill to incorporate the Mechanics' Fishing Company of Charlottetown, was passed. Also, the Divorce Court Bill.

Hon. Solicitor General introduced a Bill to continue certain Acts therein named.

Hon. Mr. Longworth presented a petition from certain inhabitants of Lots 22, 23 and 31, praying the House to confirm the decision of a certain Commission appointed by the Government, to open a new Road on the line between said Townships; the object of which was to recognize the road in question as the Public Road, it having been opened by the Proprietor of some of the said lands at his own expense.

The Bill to incorporate the Church at Cascumpec was passed. Also, the Bill to amend the Incorporation Act of St. John's Church, Belfast.

The Bill to incorporate the Church at Cardigan, was read a second time and agreed to.

House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, April 25.

The Bill to incorporate the Church at Brackley Point Road, was read a third time and passed.

On motion of the hon. Sol. General, a Committee was appointed to whom was referred all the petitions on the table, relating to the opening of new Roads. Ordered, that the following hon. members do compose the said Committee, viz:—Hons. Kelly, Thornton, Messrs. Green and Haslam.

On motion of the hon. Sol. General, the House went into Committee on the Bill to continue certain Acts therein named. Said Bill was then read a second time and reported agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Longworth introduced a Bill to continue and amend the Act relating to the limit and rules of Jails in this Island—received and read. The hon. member then explained, that doubts had arisen as to the true construction of the condition Bonds given under said Act, it was therefore necessary, as that Act was about to expire, in continuing it, to remove such doubts. The Bill introduced, and which was an amendment to the said Act, therefore provided, that in any case, where a Defendant gave a Bond, as prescribed by the said Act, he should afterwards wilfully go beyond the limits referred to in said Bond, for any space of time, or for any distance, such defendant, as well as his sureties, should be held absolutely liable for a breach of the said Bond. The Bill was then received and read.

On motion of the Hon. Solicitor General, the Bill to incorporate the Grand Lodge of British Templars, was committed

to a Committee of the whole House. Mr. Sinclair in the Chair.

Remarks were made in Committee, by several hon. members, touching the necessity of exercising caution in granting Acts of incorporation to bodies, especially where disputes existed, touching the rights of the parties seeking to be incorporated.

Hon. Mr. Coles read an extract from the Church property, that Notice be given, in the *Royal Gazette* or otherwise, of the intention of parties to obtain Acts of Incorporation. A petition, he said, was now before that House, setting forth objections of parties to an Act of that kind. It had also appeared that disputes Rule of the Imperial Parliament on the subject. It was necessary, especially in relation to, and differences of opinion existed among the order—a portion of whom asked for the Bill now before the House. It would, however, be unfair to interfere with that Bill, as others of a similar nature had received the sanction of the Legislature. In future, however, he thought it would be well to adopt some specific means to ascertain the views of all the parties interested, before Bills of that nature should become law.

Hon. Mr. Laird said it was highly necessary to guard against any undue advantages that might be attempted against any portion of the people interested in the passing of such Bills.

His Honor the Solicitor General said sufficient public notice should be given, before Acts of Incorporation for purposes of that kind should be granted; and it would be well to adopt some rule touching the mode of procedure with similar Bills, before the close of the present Session.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Longworth, the House went into Committee on the Bill relating to the Winsloe Estate, which Bill was then read a second time, and reported agreed to.

Mr. Brecken introduced a Bill to continue and amend the Act relating to Harbor Master, for the port of Charlottetown. Received and read. Ordered to be read a second time tomorrow.

Mr. Brecken also introduced a Bill to continue and amend the Act relating to the running at large of Hogs in the Royalty of Charlottetown. Bill received and read.

The Bill to incorporate St. Andrew's Church, at Cardigan, was read a third time, and passed.

The Bill to alter and amend the Act of Incorporation for the City of Charlottetown was also read a third time, and passed.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Davies, several Resolutions from Committee of Supply were reported and agreed to.

On motion of the Hon. Leader of the Government, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the Bill to be intitled "An Act for the regulation of Benefit Building Societies." In explaining the object of the Bill, the hon. member observed that the Bill was an Act incorporating Societies for the purpose of lending money upon Freehold or leasehold Estate. Loans were secured by Mortgages taken in the names of Justices appointed by the Society, and the repayment of sums thus advanced would extend over a period of ten years, with interest at 6 per cent., payable by monthly, half-yearly, or yearly instalments. The Society also partook of the nature of a Savings Fund, and depositors were allowed compounded interest at the rate of 6 per cent., upon their monthly deposits. Persons of limited means would, by the aid of such institutions, be greatly assisted in their laudable efforts to become the owners of property; and they also afforded a good investment for the more affluent of the community.

The Bill was then committed to a Committee of the whole House. Mr. Howlan in the Chair. The Bill was then read clause by clause, and reported agreed to, without amendment.

House adjourned.

A. McNEILL, Reporter.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

TENANT LEAGUE.

(Continued from page 13.)

Hon. Sol. Gen. (Mr. HAVILAND.) What the ideas of the hon. member, the Leader of the Opposition are with respect to the constitutionality of the Tenant League it was certainly very difficult to understand. According to the dictum of that hon. member, the League, at one moment, was a perfectly loyal and constitutional association; and, the next, they had gone a little too far — nay, had actually brought disgrace upon the country by the unwarrantable and illegal character of their proceedings. Yes, the hon. member had gone so far, even whilst endeavouring to palliate their open and violent infractions of law and order, as to denounce them as having struck at the very roots of public confidence and tranquility as well as of the rights and security of property. If in that House, continued the hon. and learned member, an organization, so illegal, seditious, and dangerous, could meet with countenance and support, we might, at once, bid farewell to the peace, good order, and adhesion of society, for the social fabric, deprived of all those constitutional supports by which it was upheld, would quickly collapse, and become an irreparable ruin. The keystone of that organization was a determination to violate one of the most legal and binding of obligations—an obligation, assumed by leaseholders of their own free will and accord, to pay the owner of their farms the rents set forth, stipulated and agreed upon by their leases. And that determination, it had been but too convincingly proved, was not intended by them to be confined to mere passive resistance to the legal demands of their landlords, by simply withholding the payment of their rents until, by legal process, they should be compelled to pay them. No: it was intended to be carried to the very verge of open rebellion; and was, indeed, so carried out, by organized physical resistance to the officers of the law, in the discharge of their official duties, and by the most open and undisguised contumacy to the protective authority of the land. The statement made by the hon. leader of the Opposition touching the concessions which had been made, by reduction of rent, to the tenants on the Cunard property in the Murray Harbour District, was altogether wrong. No assertion indeed could be more unfounded than that these concessions were owing, either to any resistive demonstration, falsely alleged to have been made to the officers of the law, by the planting of a cannon and otherwise, on Peters's Road; or for any political stratagem for securing, at the hustings, the votes of the tenantry in favor of supporters of the Government. He could tell the hon. the leader of the Opposition that he (hon. Sol. Gen.) was the law agent both for Cunard's and Sullivan's estates, and that, consequently, he was fully cognizant, not only of the reduction which had been made in the rents of those tenants from 1s 6d to 1s per acre, but also of the cause or reasons which had induced the proprietor to authorize the making of that reduction. As to the resistance said to have been made to the officers of the law on Peters's Road, he knew that no official complaint touching any such alleged resistance had ever been made to the Government.

Hon. Mr. COLES. He had not said that any official complaint of the kind had been made to the Government, but that the facts of the resistance had been fully detailed in the newspapers; and, consequently, the Government could not have been ignorant of them.

Hon. SOL. GENERAL. Would the Government be

justified in acting upon no better authority than mere newspaper reports? No; they would, assuredly, require something more tangible for the justification of any executive proceedings. The hon. the leader of the Opposition had made an assertion, intended to criminate Government; and, when asked for his proofs of the correctness of that assertion, he had to confess that it was based upon no better authority than newspaper reports! He (Hon. Sol. Gen.) was the law agent for the estate (Sir Gray Montgomery) and no complaint had been made to him of resistance having been made to the Sheriff or his officers, by the tenantry on that estate, as it was only reasonable to conclude would have been done, had any such resistance been made. Again the hon. the leader of the Opposition had asserted that the Tenant League originated in King's County; and that assertion was also incorrect. The League originated in Queen's County, as was clearly proved by the evidence of indisputable facts. If it had originated among tenantry in King's County—if any body of tenantry in that County had been the fathers of the organization, was it not most natural to suppose that they would have given their support to the members of it in Queen's County; but it was very well known that in none of the proceedings of the League in Queen's County, or in any of the civil disturbances occasioned by them in that County, had any of the tenantry of King's County afforded them either countenance or aid. In every Session of the Legislature since the passage of the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill have the Opposition assailed the Government, on the assumed grounds that that Bill was no boon to the tenantry, was unacceptable to a majority of them, and could not by any possibility be made advantageous to them. He, however, confidently maintained that the Bill was a handsome instalment of all the benefits promised to the tenantry, by the party in power, through legislative action with respect to the Land Question. By means of it large arrears of rent have been expunged from the books of proprietors, and declared irrecoverable, as against all tenants who shall avail themselves of the provisions of the Bill for the purchase of the fee-simple of their farms. Whilst the tenants' improvements were in existence they were a sufficient security for the recovery of all arrears of rent. On one-third of Lot 34, the property of Sir E. Cunard, the tenants by having availed themselves of the advantages extended to them by that Bill, had had over £1,000 of arrears wiped off, every farthing of which could have been recovered by the proprietor, because the tenants were, in reality, men of wealth. It was the same on the Sullivan property. There were many tenants upon the estates affected by the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, to whom, before the passing of it, the proprietors would not consent to sell the fee-simple of their farms, even at 20s, or 30s per acre; but those proprietors were now compelled to part with the fee-simple of their leased lands at 15 years' purchase. When put side by side with the Land Purchase Bill, the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, in a fair comparison of their respective merits, would not appear to be less directly calculated to effect the emancipation of the tenantry from the leasehold system, than its elder brother, the other Bill, if it were not indeed admitted that it was still better calculated to effect that most desirable object than the other. Of the great merits of the Land Purchase Bill, he had, from the first, been fully aware; and although he was in opposition at the time of its being introduced by the hon. the leader of the Opposition, at that time the leader of the Government, he (hon. Sol. Gen.) gave it his hearty concurrence and support through all its stages. The first purchase made under it, that of the Worrell Estate, had indeed been a rather unfortunate one;

but that of the Selkirk property had been, in every point of view, an eminently successful one; and the large balance which had accrued from it in favor of the Government, would enable them to ward off the tax consequent upon the deficiency of returns from the Worrell Estate. The remarks which had lately been made by the editor of the *Examiner*, depreciative of the late purchase of a part of the Montgomery property by the Government, contrasted strangely with remarks which, some years ago, he made touching the purchase of the Stansfield Estate. At that time, he characterized that estate as little better than an extensive bog, and as fitted only to be the home of the toads and frogs by which it was occupied. Now, however, still intent upon the same worthy design, that of damaging the Government through his observations concerning any of their acts—even be they ever so much in accordance with the principles by which his party profess to have been actuated when they were in power—he condemns them for the purchase of the Montgomery property, and maintains that the Stansfield Estate was a much more advantageous purchase. It certainly was a pity that public men of acknowledged worth and ability should so often, as they certainly did, belittle themselves by the groundless nature and inconsistency of the charges preferred by them against their political opponents. That part of the Montgomery property lately purchased by the Government was all good and tenanted land—no part of it was in a wilderness state—and though, in the purchase of it, the Government had gone a little beyond the price per acre, which had been given by them for other lands purchased by them, there could be no doubt that although it could not be expected to prove a profit-yielding purchase, like the Selkirk estate, it would be fully self-sustaining and entail no loss upon the country. With respect to the rise and progress of the Tenant League, the hon. the leader of the Opposition had maintained that, had the Government done their duty, they would have crushed it in the bud, in the very inception; but he (hon. Sol. Gen.) verily believed in his conscience that had the Government, at the time the existence of the organization first became known to them, taken any stringent measures for its suppression, that gentleman, the hon. the leader of the Opposition, would have immediately cried against their repressive action, and accused them of tyrannically endeavouring to abrogate, restrain, and repress the constitutional rights, liberties and privileges of the people. As for the Government's having sent for the troops, the emergency of the occasion fully justified their having done so; and for a recognition of that necessity they confidently depended upon the loyalty, public spirit, and independence of that House. As for the cannon of which the hon. the leader of the Opposition had spoken, it could have had no existence, save in his own imagination or as a nightmare pressing upon his breast in his sleep. He would ask the hon. the leader of the Opposition if he had ever seen that cannon?

Hon. Mr. COLES. No, I have not, nor you either; and neither do I think you would have been very willing to march up to it, especially if it were loaded.

Hon. SOL. GENERAL replied he had no desire to infringe upon parliamentary courtesy by condescending to personalities, but he would wish the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to understand that he would be found prepared to stand before a loaded cannon, or any other weapon of warfare whenever and wheresoever he (the Hon. Leader of the Opposition) pleased.

Hon. Col. GRAY begged leave to remind hon. members that these were times of danger from abroad, and that such

being the case, nothing was more needful than that we should be at accord among ourselves.

Hon. SOL. GENERAL observed he had not commented the altercation. The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition had fired the first shot, and he (Hon. Sol. Gen.) had merely returned the compliment by firing one in return, and he (the Hon. Leader of the Opposition) was perfectly at liberty to take it in whatever way he thought proper. It was asserted by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition that the Tenant League did not exist in his district; but the incorrectness of that assertion was proved by the disturbances which took place at Tracadie. And about the *Posse Comitatus*, he begged leave to inform the Hon. Leader of the Opposition that the Government had nothing to do with it. The power to call out the *Posse Comitatus* was vested in the Sheriff in every country in which the British law and civil regulations prevailed. In the event of any civil commotion or disturbance involving resistance to the officers of the law and their ordinary powers, the sheriff was in the first place to have recourse to the *Posse Comitatus*; and, if that failed, it then became his duty to call upon the Government for such assistance as they might deem it expedient to grant him. Whether the calling out of the *Posse Comitatus* had been a prudent step or not, under all the circumstances of the case, it was not for him to say; but the power to do so rested wholly with the Sheriff himself; and it was not the first time that it had been had recourse to in this Island.

Hon. Mr. WARBURTON. The *Posse Comitatus*, he believed, had never before been called out in this Island. It was true, indeed, that, some years ago, when Mr. Bearisto was Sheriff of Prince County, a large number of special constables, of whom he was one, were sworn in, for the purpose of quelling some commotion which had arisen at Tignish, and they nearly made as great fools of themselves as the *Posse Comitatus* had done.

Hon. SOL. GENERAL observed that whether it was the *Posse Comitatus* that was called out on that occasion, or merely a large body of special constables, W. Clarke, Esq., formerly a member of this House, was prosecuted by the Crown Officers and heavily fined because he had refused to obey the call or summons of the Sheriff. Then again as to the Proclamation against the Tenant League, which the hon. the Leader of the Opposition had said ought to have been issued so many months before it was, he (Hon. Sol. Gen.) had to reply that the proper time for issuing it was when it was seen that the League had determined to carry their words into deeds; and when, on the 17th March, 1865, the Deputy Sheriff attempted to arrest a man, and it was found that his attempt was defeated by the active resistance of the congregated Leaguers—of whom that man was one—it was very clear that the time was come to issue an authoritative warning to all persons to stand aloof from the illegal and seditious association, called the Tenant League or Union. But that Proclamation was entirely disregarded. It was mocked and ridiculed. It was no more regarded than an idle blast of wind; and the Government were taunted as imbeciles for having supposed that it would have any weight in restraining the action of the League, or in intimidating them in the least. They, on the contrary, grew bolder and bolder. They advanced from one step of resistance and contumacy to another, until at length the Deputy Sheriff had his arm broken in his most justifiable endeavours to retain property which he had, by due process of law, taken in execution, and the property so seized was actually forcibly taken out of his possession, and that by parties who had no interest in it, for the man whose property it was, was not there, and they would not allow him to settle

his own business. The intention of the leaguers, therefore, was, evidently, to resist by force whatever attempts should be made to levy distrains for rent, and to set both proprietors and the law at defiance, which—strong in their numbers—they imagined they could safely do so long as they had to resist nothing but the civil power in the form of Sheriff and constables. So far the Government trusted to the good sense, discretion, and loyalty of the people. But they soon became convinced that—law-abiding, peaceable, honest and industrious as, generally speaking, the people of this Colony most assuredly are—in order to maintain the supremacy of the law against so numerous, determined, and contumacious a body as the league, it would be necessary to have recourse to military aid. On the day on which it was known the man Dickieson, who had been arrested, and was held prisoner for his share in the commotion and rescue of the distained property at Curriedale, was to be brought up for examination by the magistrates, the members of the League had flocked into Charlottetown by hundreds—yes, he said it emphatically, by hundreds—with the evident intention of rescuing the prisoner. Seeing that, fifty or sixty special constables were sworn in by the Mayor for the preservation of the peace on that day, and to prevent the intended rescue of the prisoner. In compliance with an urgent request of the Sheriff, the Government caused pistols to be issued from the armory, for the service of the special constables on the occasion; and, reluctant as the Government were thus to arm the civil force, it soon appeared that, in doing so, they had acted wisely. He was present from the beginning to the end of the emeute: brick bats and stones were thrown boldly and plentifully at the special constables and magistrates, and he felt that, as they approached the jail, had they had fifty yards further to go, the prisoner would have been rescued. When the Sheriff applied to his Honor the Chief Justice, at that time the Administrator of the Government, he was given *carte blanche* upon the Treasury to enable him to employ as many special constables as he might require to enable him to carry out the processes of the law; but he could find none who would consent to act in that capacity, upon so disagreeable and obnoxious a service for any pay he could proffer, how liberal soever. His Excellency the Administrator of the Government then, yielding to the painful necessity of the case, sent for a detachment of Her Majesty's Troops from Halifax, and, very happily, they were promptly despatched, and fortunately had proved—without the occurrence of a single mishap or the shedding of one drop of blood—a sufficient help and protection in our hour of need. Before the arrival of the Troops, the leaders of the Tenant League sedulously strove to re-inspire their somewhat discouraged dupes by assuring them that Her Majesty the Queen would never allow her troops to be sent to the Island for the purpose of enabling the landlords to collect their rents. The troops, however, arrived; but their presence in Charlottetown was not, at first, sufficient to divest the leaders of the League of confidence in their ability to resist the law. The troops had been sent contrary to their assurances to their dupes that they would not be sent; and then a change came over the spirit of their dream. They then confidently declared that neither the Sheriff nor even the Government had power to send the troops from their cantonment into the country for the purpose of enabling the Sheriff either to serve writs or to levy distrains. But when the troops were actually employed upon that service at Bagnall's and at the West River, they were forced to lower their tone, and to desist from active resistance to the authority of the law. Still, however, although so far cowed into sullen submission—although they ceased to assemble for the purpose of repelling by force the officers of

the law—they continued to be actuated by the same contumacious spirit which they had previously manifested in acts of violent insubordination; and they then counselled their dupes patiently to bide their time, assuring them that the troops would be withdrawn from the Island before the closing of the navigation, and that, then, they might wreak their vengeance upon their oppressors. The Government then saw that it would be necessary to build Barracks for the accommodation of the troops, as it could not have been expected that the Military authorities would consent that they should be left here under canvas during the severity of our winter.

Hon. Mr. COLES. They might have rented accommodations for them, and at no greater a cost than the interest of the money which they had expended in the erection of the Barracks.

Hon. SOL. GENERAL. Where, he should like to know, could such accommodation have been procured in Charlottetown, in which it was well known, that the population was in excess of house accommodation, so far that respectable persons wishing to rent houses could not obtain them, and tradesmen's families, consisting of three or four individuals, were, in some instances, obliged to rest satisfied with the accommodation afforded by only one or two apartments—and that accommodation, scanty as it was, procured with much difficulty. He (Hon. Sol. Gen.) and the Hon. Mr. Lougworth were aware of the fertile imagination of the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, had—in order to be able to ward off any attacks of that hon. member, in the House, on that score—actually tested the Town as to the possibility of renting accommodations for the troops. They first thought of the old Wesleyan Chapel, but, on application to the trustees of that property, they found they would not let it for such a purpose as the accommodation of a body of soldiers; but even had they been willing to rent it to the Government for such a purpose, it would have been necessary to make so many alterations in the building and additions to it, that the needful expenditure for that purpose would have amounted to a very serious sum. Well, then, when they found that all their enquiries to that end were useless, they determined to take the bull by the horns, and purchased ground as a site for the barracks. One half of what was realized by the sale of the old barracks would meet that outlay, if the people, speaking through their representatives, were satisfied, and the Home Government also, that it should be so. It was late in August when the Government advertised for tenders for the erection of the Barracks. Only two tenders were sent in, and there was a difference of £2000 between them. The Government accepted the lowest.

Hon. Mr. COLES. That subject we had better not enter upon until we take up the next paragraph of the Address.

Hon. SOL. GENERAL. No; he thought it would be better to take it up at once. He disliked the drib-drib mode of discussion. The erection of the barracks having been proceeded with, according to the plan and specification for which the tender had been made and accepted, it was found that the plan and specification fell short of the proper military requirements; and, in order to secure the retention of the troops, it became necessary, in compliance with the established military regulations, to erect additional buildings for hospital, quarters for non-commissioned officers, quarters for married officers, guard-house, &c.; and as when this necessity was pressed upon the Government, in the latter end of October or the beginning of November, it was too late to issue calls for tenders, and as only two architects in Prince Edward Island had been found to respond to the

first call, it was deemed most advisable to accede to the proposal made by Mr. Alley, the original contractor, for the erection of the additional buildings. That proposal was, in every point of view, fair and liberal. Mr. Alley offered to make the additional erections required at the same rate and scale of charges made by him under the principal contract; and the Government, acceded to his terms, thinking they could not possibly do better under all the circumstances of the case. Mr. Alley must certainly have made less by the latter than by the former contract, for the days had become much shorter than they were when he commenced the fulfilment of his original contract, and yet he had to pay his workmen the full amount of daily wages at which he first engaged them. The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition had said that the Sheriff Mr. Dodd had told him that if the Government had granted him the assistance of 20 or 30 special constables, there would have been no occasion to send for Troops. If Mr. Dodd had said so—and he would not say he had not—it was very strange that he had made no such representation to the Government; and he (Hon. Sol. Gen.) was very certain that he had not. This however he would say—the Government, even before sending for the Troops, had done all that lay in their power to suppress the disturbances caused by the Tenant League movements; and he could, moreover, truly tell the hon. leader of the opposition, that the Government were quite as willing and anxious as he to redress the grievances of the tenantry as he ever had been. He, the hon. leader of the opposition had been very severe in his censure of the Government for having called in the Troops to assist in the suppression of Tenant League contumacy and commotions; but he could assure that hon. member that our retention of our Constitution was wholly attributable to the action of the Government in calling in the Troops; for, had they not done so, it would have been impossible to execute laws and maintain the peace of the country; and the evidence of such inability would necessarily have involved the suspension or withdrawal of our Constitution. Had he (Hon. Sol. Gen.) been as anxious for Confederation as it was the pleasure of some to represent him, he would, in his place at the Executive Council Board, have objected to the proposal of sending for the Troops, great as the emergency was; instead of fully concurring, as he did, in the necessity, wisdom, and propriety of doing so. No stronger argument against the maintenance or existence of independent Responsible Government, in little Prince Edward Island, could be afforded, than that which might have been derived from our inability to enforce a due observance of the law, and to preserve inviolate the general peace and good order of the community. Had he, then, been influenced by that unpatriotic desire of self-aggrandizement at the expense of his country, through the accomplishment of the Confederation Scheme, which, by some, had been so unjustly attributed to him, he would not have failed to argue, in Council, with all his might against the proposal of sending for Troops, and to deny the existence of any necessity for doing so. He, however, with respect to that question, took a much more correct view of his position and duty as a Prince Edward Islander, and no member of the Government had more unhesitatingly given his sanction to that step than he had done. He was not mean enough to seek for, or to desire any personal advantage which could be procured only through an injury to his country, and neither was he so base and craven minded as to hesitate to sanction, as a member of the Government, an extreme measure, however likely it might be to be unpopular, when he was fully persuaded that its adoption was imperatively called for by a due regard for the best interests of the country. The responsibility which attached to the

Government on account of their having sent for Troops, he fully shared with his colleagues; and, on that score, he was willing to stand or fall with them according to the judgment or verdict of the country. He would die happy, provided it could justly be engraved on his tomb that he had been condemned only because, in opposition to contumacy and sedition, he had sustained the laws, and upheld the authority of constitutional government, through no other incentive than that of a sincere and patriotic regard for the good of his country.

Hon. Col. GRAY. Sir, I did not intend at this early stage of our proceeding, to offer any observations respecting the matter now before the Committee but I deem it a duty I owe to myself, as well as to those of my late Colleagues with whom I was associated at the time the Hon. member the Leader of the Opposition alludes to, not to suffer one or two points in the Hon. member's address to pass unnoticed. The Hon. member is of opinion the Duke of New Castle should have sent back the Award to the Royal Commissioners for their amendment, surely I need not remind the Hon. member that no court of Arbitration dares pursue such a course without the consent of all parties; and it is well known the Proprietors would not consent. As to the Sixteen Years' Purchase Bill, with its sliding scale, the Proprietors from the first absolutely refused to even consider it, and the Duke of New Castle declared without their consent it must remain inoperative. The Hon. member stated that owing to the people of Murray Harbour placing a cannon on the road and having recourse to other acts of intimidation, the Agent of the Proprietor hastily went down to those and lowered their rents from one shilling and sixpence and one shilling and ninepence down to one shilling per acre. I can positively assure this Committee that this statement is altogether incorrectly reported to the Hon. member. Indeed I myself had occasion to read in one of the local Newspapers an equally unfounded statement respecting this matter, to the effect that this great boon had been procured "owing to the interference of the Lieut. Governor," I appeal to the Hon. members now sitting here for Murray Harbor, if they do not well know that the boon was altogether of a private nature; and that the person who procured that boon from Sir Samuel Cunard would never have applied for it if he had heard that any intimidation had been used. I can also positively declare that no report of an official or other nature ever reached me that the people of Murray Harbour had turned out thus illegally; on the contrary, I never heard the slightest complaint of such a character during my tenure of office and I owe it to this people thus publicly to declare it, for to them I am under no less an obligation than that they actually offered in a petition signed by the wealth and sinews of the whole district to elect me to the highest honor which any People can confer upon an entire stranger, that of being chosen their representative in this chamber; their district must ever be dear to me and I owe them far more than the little I have accomplished for them. With respect to the subject of the paragraph now before us, I am of opinion it would have been better if it had come before us in any other shape, for I much regret that remarks have already been made sufficient possibly to induce some of our misguided people to imagine their late proceedings were not so totally unprofitable as they were. I may here say that it was well for the people of this Colony that at that juncture the seat of Government was occupied by one whose dignified character irreproachable life and high attainments so eminently qualified him not only to administer the Government of this Island but that of any of Her Majesty's Provinces; and I can safely declare having had the honor of personal interviews with

His Excellency the Administrator, that it was only after a painful struggle, when further delay would have been culpable and disastrous, that he found himself able to do that which his duty both as a ruler and Christian impelled him to; as a ruler to show fidelity to the trust committed to his hands by his Sovereign, and as a Christian to use the only means left to prevent what no one among us can doubt would eventually have ended in the foul crime of bloodshed or murder. Certainly this Colony presented a curious spectacle when we have it stated that highly respectable men of sound sense are among those who so openly led our people in resistance to all law and order. (Mr. Coles explained that he did not say they were the leaders.) Well, then, if there were men of high standing and sound sense among them, I assume they would be the appointed leaders—but, on this head, I may say, I dare say, there are men of sound sense among the leaders of that singular organization which has spread of late throughout the neighbouring continent, but I have often asked who were the leaders of the League and yet failed to discover them—in this the leaders of the other organization show a different sense of their duty to their misguided followers. I am of opinion General Sweeney is a man of sense; I believe, in every revolutionary plot there are not only men of sense but many of them sincere in their views and efforts to effect redress of real or imaginary wrongs. The people of Ireland have grievances, but I believe they are only to be redressed constitutionally, as my namesake, the member for Kilkenny, is now trying to do in the Imperial Parliament. The people of this Island have grievances ever since the original Grants of our lands were issued under impossible conditions; but I would say that every unprejudiced person must allow that no Legislature in Her Majesty's Colonies, since the time the Hon. Leader of the Opposition assumed the reins down to the present, ever strove harder to redress this grievance than the Legislature of this Island, but our people expect us to do impossibilities. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition makes the strange assertion that this is the only country in which Her Majesty's troops have been called upon to perform a similar duty. Why, it is exactly thirty-six years ago, in this month of April, when I myself, then a subaltern in the same Regiment which is now here, was sent with thirty men on a similar duty, from the town of Newcastle upon Tyne; and I need not refer to the hard times a subaltern in the army has of it, performing the like duties in Ireland. Therefore, after a calm and dispassionate consideration of all the circumstances attending this truly painful question, I am of opinion the Government had no other course to pursue than to call for the aid of the Military power. The hon. mem. speaks of the Barracks as a mere shell, and describes the sufferings of the officers from the cold. I do not believe that any of my old comrades in the line, ever consider cold or heat when doing their duty. I know what it is to have been in the open air on a range of mountains for weeks, with two feet of snow on the ground and only our cloaks to cover us, without fuel of any sort but that collected from the droppings of the animals. I was of opinion at first that the Government might have hired temporary accommodations for the troops, such buildings as the Temperance Hall or otherwise. His honor the Solicitor General has assured us the Government tried and failed in all endeavours of this kind, and nothing remained but to put the troops in barracks against the severity of the weather; for if they had been left under canvas, I must doubt, even with plenty of fuel, if they would have escaped frost-bites and perhaps serious injury. As, I believe, our people have now come to a right appreciation of their position, and the utter folly of attempting to violate the majesty of the law, it is likely the

troops may be withdrawn, and, if so, the buildings can be appropriated to an equally useful purpose; otherwise, I would only object to the site upon which they are built as being *too near to the Town*, all authorities of repute in these matters agreeing that no Barracks should be nearer than one or two miles from the town or village. There are many and weighty reasons for this which I need not repeat. Allusion has been made to that ever memorable Worrell Estate and Regged Regiment. I am of opinion these subjects had better be forgotten. Much may be said on both sides; but I would rather drop the consideration of them.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY. In the sentiments expressed by the Resolution in amendment, submitted by the hon. the leader of the Opposition, he fully concurred. With that hon. member, he was fully convinced that all the disturbances and infractions of law, which had proceeded from the Tenant League movement, were justly attributable to the feebleness and indecision of the Government; for, had they, at the first, had recourse to judicious and energetic action for the suppression of the movement, the country would have experienced none of the evils which had sprung from its progress, too long unchecked. If the Sheriff had, at the first, been duly supported, by the Government, in his endeavours to fulfil his duty in the serving of writs and in the levying of distrains, by a sufficient constabulary force, the Tenant League would never have proceeded to those serious and tumultuary infractions of the law, of which they had so unfortunately been guilty; and neither, perhaps, would they have risen to that numerical strength to which they had attained. From his professional, as well as his legislative, position in the community, it became necessary for him, at different times, to hold intercourse, in both those capacities, with members of the Tenant League, and others who were disposed to join them. On such occasions, he endeavoured to ascertain, by closely questioning them, on what principles they, themselves, understood the League to be based, and by what mode of action they hoped to induce proprietors to accede to their proposals. They with whom he first conversed upon the subject, told him, in substance, that the only obstruction they intended to put in the way of their landlords, as respected any legal measures which might be had recourse to for the purpose of compelling them to pay their rents, was passive resistance to their demands, by allowing judgment to go against them; and, provided judgment should be followed up by execution, by depending upon the sympathy of their neighbours and others; which, they calculated, would restrain them from bidding for any property taken in execution at the suit of their landlords; and, in that way, by, time after time, defeating or disappointing the intentions or expectations of their landlords, they expected they would be able to weary them out of what they (the tenants) deemed legal persecution, and so make them glad to accede to the terms of accommodation and purchase offered to them by their tenantry. In reply, he explained to them, and endeavoured to make them comprehend, that even if they should so succeed in defeating the object of a sale of property taken in execution for rent, the loss would fall only on themselves. A valuable horse, for instance, he said, might, in that way, be knocked down to the Sheriff for £2; and although the landlord would not be able to recover an account of rent due to him, the real value of the horse, yet the tenant, to whom the horse had belonged, would be the real loser, and have the arrears of his rent lessened only by the £2 or any other trifling sum for which the horse might be knocked down. When simple and uninformed men thus expressed to him their scheme of passive resistance to the law, and the hopes which they entertained that, by certain not clearly defined

means, the members of the League would have it in their power to defeat the object of distraining for rent, he, at once, endeavored to convince them of the folly and absurdity of depending upon any scheme which might be concocted by the leaders of the League, or any other parties, for the purpose of defeating the law. The law, he told them, would have its course; and, whether they attempted to evade its operation by their passive resistance scheme, or by having recourse to a much more objectionable and dangerous mode of resistance, that was by any threatening physical demonstration or actual offensive opposition, endeavouring to prevent the officers of the law from either serving writs or levying distrainments, they would draw down upon themselves nothing but loss, distress, and perhaps legal punishment to boot. I emphatically warned them against listening to, or giving heed to, any parties who should recommend resistance to the law, as a means whereby they might obtain a redress of what they considered their grievances, or a release from the burthens of the leasehold tenure. He questioned much if any other member of the hon. House had as much knowledge of the evils which numbers of the unfortunate men who had become members of the Tenant League, had brought upon themselves. Instead of having been able, by its means, to advance their interests and improve their condition, as they had vainly hoped they should, their persistent connection with it had brought down upon them so much loss and distress, that persevering industry and economy for many years to come—provided they were so wise as to place their dependences upon those two best friends of the poor man—would, he feared, fail to enable them to redeem what they had lost through the foolish course which they had pursued. After his return from England, in October, he addressed a letter on the subject to the tenantry on Lot 32. The tenantry on that Lot had applied to him, by letter, when he was in London, and in his reply, after apprising them of the result of their application, through him, to their landlord, he cautioned them against being led into any resistance to the laws, and advised them to seek redress for any grievances under which they believed themselves to be labouring, only by constitutional means; that was by petitioning the Legislature, or Her Majesty, the Queen. As respected the sending for the troops, he, speaking and feeling as a British subject, must say that he rejoiced they were here; and he hoped they would be kept here. He, however, regretted to say, he could not exonerate the Government from the charge preferred against them by the hon. the leader of the Opposition, to the effect that their own dilatoriness, their own indecision, want of foresight, and timely energy, had led to the civil disturbances alluded to in His Excellency's Speech, and necessitated the calling in of the troops. The Government, indeed, said they had done their best for the suppression of the Tenant League movement, before they had recourse to the aid of the troops. Perhaps they had; but if so, he was afraid that their best could only be regarded as a proof of their administrative incapacity to deal with the emergency in which they were placed. The Government ought to have been alive to the fact that a very dissatisfied feeling pervaded the minds of a large portion of the Island tenantry, and was openly manifested on many occasions. Cognizant of all that, as most undoubtedly they were, it was their duty to have placed resources sufficient at the command of the Sheriff to enable him to employ a constabulary force strong enough to overawe the League, and compel submission to the law. No mode of proceeding which, to that end, they could possibly have adopted, could have been more absurd than their revival of the antiquated and barbarous resource of calling out the *Posse Comitatus*. Nothing, indeed,

could have been more ridiculous than the appearance of the *Posse* on their way to what was intended to be the scene of their destined action—the seizing of one man who had escaped from the grasp of the Deputy Sheriff, in open day in the public streets of Charlottetown. To see the *Posse*, amounting to one or two hundred men, floundering along the road, some on foot, some on horseback, some in carriages, but all alike liable to have their progress arrested by the depth and tenacity of the mud; many of those on foot sticking fast in it; several of the horsemen thrown over the heads of their horses, and many of the wagoners capsized, must really have been a most ridiculous sight; and was, in fact, nothing but a perfect burlesque upon the civil and administrative authority of the land. Many of the supporters of the Government thought so at the time, and he believed they thought so still. As to the alleged attempt, said to have been made to rescue the prisoner Dickieson from the custody of the constables at the time he was being conveyed from jail for examination before the magistrates, or as he was being reconveyed back to prison, he was not prepared to express any thing like a positive opinion in concerning it; for he was neither in Charlottetown, nor even in the Island at the time. In his condemnation of the Government, however, on the score of a want of promptitude and due energy on their part, at the commencement of the Tenant League movement, he was far from wishing it to be understood that he did not fully recognize the necessity which existed for calling in military aid to enforce a due observance of the law, at the time the Government took that step. He was very far, indeed, from saying the Government were to blame for having sent for the Troops at the time they did. What he blamed them for was not their having sent for the Troops; but for their having given rise to the necessity for so doing by their own supineness at the first. He would, therefore, support the amendment of the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition. As to the questions arising out of a consideration of the mode in which public moneys had been appropriated for the erection of the new Barracks, and other matters connected therewith, he would say nothing at that time; but reserve whatever observations he might have to make with reference thereto, until such time as the subject should be more immediately before the House.

Mr. BRECKEN requested the Chairman to read the amendment which was the subject of debate. The Chairman having complied with this request, the hon. and learned member (Mr. Brecken) spoke to the following effect: He regretted that he was not present when the hon. the leader of the Opposition commenced his speech in opposition to the paragraph of the draft Address which was then under consideration; but he did not suppose that, through his temporary absence from his place, he had lost an opportunity of hearing anything very novel or important from the lips of that hon. member; but, judging from what he had heard of that speech, he thought he would not be very far astray in setting it down as a feeble attempt at renewing his annual onslaught on the Government, mixing up many misstatements with matter entirely irrelevant. The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition had said that the paragraph to which he had moved an amendment, conveyed too severe a censure upon a portion of the people of this Colony, inasmuch as the civil disturbances which had unfortunately taken place in some parts of the Island, were mainly attributable to the deceptions which had been practised upon them by the Government and their supporters in the Legislature, and to the inactivity of the Government, in not having had recourse to more energetic repressive measures for the putting down of the Tenant League at its very inception; and that the unmitigated severity of the censure had a tendency to injure

and lower the people of this Colony in the estimation of those of the neighbouring Provinces as well as in the opinion of the Home Government. He (Mr. Brecken) would indeed feel it a painful duty to censure either the people of this Island, or any considerable portion of them, as a lawless and seditious body; for he was quite certain that they were not so. But that the disturbances alluded to in His Excellency's Speech had certainly taken place, and that they proceeded from, or were caused by, an illegal association of the tenantry for the subversion of the rights of property, formed at the instigation of certain ignorant or designing men, were facts which, he presumed, no hon. member would venture to deny. If then hon. members were truly anxious for the honor and good name of the country, was it not their most evident duty to state, in the clearest and most unmistakable language, on behalf of themselves and the great mass of their constituents, the condemnatory view which they entertained concerning the formation, the proceedings, and the principles of the unlawful organization in question. It was particularly unfortunate that any portion of the people of this Colony should at this time have been betrayed into such a line of conduct as characterized the proceedings of the Tenant League. We were pressed by the Home Government and Canada to go into Confederation; and among the arguments urged by those of us who were opposed to the Scheme was, that we had Self-Government with all its rights, powers and privileges—that we had at all times shewn ourselves able to uphold the supremacy of the law, and to ensure, to all living within our borders, protection and security in the enjoyment of their rights and liberties; but he feared that the late unfortunate and disgraceful disturbances had gone far to weaken that argument; indeed, he thought, the Leaguers had done more to drive us into Confederation than the most ardent supporters of the scheme here had been able to effect. It was not by drawing a veil over the civil disturbances which had lately taken place in the Island,—it was not by endeavouring needily to extenuate them; but by shewing—at the same time that we freely admitted they had unfortunately arisen—that we had possessed the necessary administrative courage and energy to suppress the organization from which they had proceeded, that we should be able to repel the insinuation that we are only fit to be part and parcel of a larger country, the government of which would be able to rule us in such a manner as would redound more to our credit and the promotion of our interests, than if we ourselves were to continue to be entrusted with the care of the one and the management of the other. The Leader of the Opposition was very severe upon the Government for not having suppressed the League at its origin; but he had not attempted to shew in what respect they had failed in that duty. The hon. member ought to know that times and circumstances often arise in the history of a country, when it becomes the duty of public men to throw aside party considerations and put their shoulders to the common wheel. But how had the leader of the Opposition acted in this matter? Hon. members well recollect that, during the last Session, a very large procession of Leaguers paraded the streets of Charlottetown; that, when the objects of this association were denounced by several hon. members on this side of the House, the leader of the Opposition shrank from condemning them, preferring to lay by, indifferent to the injury which the country might, in the meantime, sustain, content if out of the complications that might arise, he might advance his party interests. A man's responsibility must be measured by his position. The hon. member, as the leader of a large and influential political party, no doubt possessed considerable influence; and had he used it in the cause of order, and had

he denounced the League, last year, in the terms he now uses, he might have rendered good service to his country.

Hon Mr. COLES. All that the hon. member for Charlottetown (Mr. Brecken) has advanced in his charges against me, falsely accusing me of not having opposed or condemned the organization and principles of the Tenant League, is a mere subterfuge, a mere Will-o'-the-wisp, intended to lead astray the judgment of the country. This outcry against me reminds me very forcibly of the practice of the London thieves. When any of that renowned body has succeeded in extracting a watch or a purse from the pocket of its proper owner, and the crowd commence their pursuit to him with a view of his capture, then he himself, as he rapidly speeds along, takes up the cry of "Stop thief," and repeats it more loudly and frequently than any of those who are actually endeavouring to effect his capture. The hon. member for Charlottetown says I ought to have denounced the Tenant League as soon as the principles by which it was governed became known. I did denounce it, I can tell him, and that too twelve months before he raised his voice against it. I set my face against it from the first, and when some of their delegates called upon me, and solicited a subscription from me in aid of their funds, I, at once, positively refused it. I defy the hon. member to put his finger upon any single word, or to indicate one solitary action, by which he can make it appear that I ever gave the slightest encouragement to the League in their resistance to the law. The pick-pocket's cry of "Stop thief!" was never better illustrated than by the unfounded charge which he has preferred against me. I never called the people of the Island disloyal, nor, by any act of executive authority, when I was in power, attempted to brand any portion of them with the stigma of disloyalty and perjury; as was done by the present Government, in their treatment of the Volunteer corps. Before arms were put into their hands, the oath of allegiance had been duly administered to them; and, because of some groundless suspicion which had taken hold of the minds of the Government, they were, without having been guilty of any act of insubordination or mis conduct, suddenly disarmed. Such treatment of the Volunteers was most unjust and ungenerous. They had been encouraged and induced, by the Government, to spend not only much of their time, but a good deal of their money, in taking instructions in the military art, and in providing themselves with military uniform; and for what? To be, in the end branded by an ungrateful, unjust, and ungenerous Government, with the stigma of perjury and disloyalty; and even the officers themselves were subjected to the foul imputation, and deprived of their swords.

Hon. Col. GRAY. I rise to order. I say the officers were not deprived of their swords.

Hon. Mr. COLES. I was told by a Volunteer officer in town that he had been called upon to give up his sword.

Hon. Col. GRAY. The hon. the leader of the opposition said "swords."

Hon. Mr. COLES. Well I know of another Volunteer officer who was likewise subjected to the same demand—and two are "swords."

Hon. Col. GRAY. When it is said that the officers were obliged to give up their swords, the obvious, the plain and literal meaning of the words is, that all the officers were obliged to give up their swords; and I say that was not the fact.

Hon. Mr. COLES. The Hon. the Solicitor General (Mr. Haviland) has said that if the Troops had not been sent for, the disturbed state of the country and the unrepressed disturbances would have caused the suspension, or the withdrawal of our constitution; and that had he, at the Executive Council Board, opposed the motion of sending for the Troops, his doing so might have tended to hasten on the consummation of the Confederation Scheme.

Hon. SOL. GENERAL. I said and repeat that what the Government did, they did in good faith, and without any sinister design.

Hon. Mr. COLES. I say the sending for the troops has af-

forded the advocates of Confederation the most direct argument that circumstances could possibly yield in favor of that scheme, so far as this Island is concerned, and I have no doubt it will be argued as one reason why Confederation should take place. I have opposed and condemned the resistance pledge of the League as much, and with as much sincerity, as any man in the community, whatsoever his position may be—whether a member of Government, or of this House, or simply a private individual: although, in doing so, I have not been quite so profuse of abuse, or indulged so freely in the calling of hard names, as some. From the position which I at present occupy in this House, it is clear I must have some influence in the country; but if all that the hon. member for Charlottetown (Mr. Brecken) has said of me be true, I must certainly be a man of greater importance and power than I could have imagined myself to be. To say, as he has done, that I am responsible for the proceedings of the League and accountable for the disturbances which have been occasioned by their attempts to carry their resistance pledge into effect, is sheer absurdity, and nothing but a ridiculous subterfuge.

Mr. BRECKEN. The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition has said that my having charged him with having failed to lift up his voice in this House, last Session, against the proceedings and principles of the Tenant League, is a mere subterfuge. I would ask him to explain what he means, or what he understands by the word *subterfuge*. I do not think him a man of the greatest wisdom; I do not look upon him as a prodigy of political sagacity. But he is the acknowledged leader of a party, and, as such, it is quite clear that he must be possessed of a considerable degree of influence in the community; and that influence—if actuated by a sincere and patriotic regard for the best interests of his country, rather than by mere desire to make political capital, for the benefit of his party, out of what he may be pleased to represent as sins of omission or commission on the part of the Government, he would not have failed to exert by speaking out boldly and manfully in this House against the illegal and mischievous designs of the Tenant League. I say this, not because this side of the House wanted his assistance; for they are well able to maintain their ground, in the defence of law and order, independently of any aid which he may have it in his power to lend them. But I say again that, if he were a true lover of his country, and a steadfast friend of law and order, he would not have failed to denounce the League on the floor of this House. That, however, he did not do; and, I ask, considering his influential position, is it not reasonable to suppose that he refrained from doing so in order that he might have an opportunity, afterwards of making political capital out of any measures to which the Government might find it necessary to have recourse for the suppression of the League, unchecked by anything which he might have said condemnatory of that organization or its principles. He says, indeed, that he denounced the resistance pledge of the League, at a meeting of his constituents, held at Fort Augustus. Well, if he did so—and I do not dispute his word when he says that he did—it was so far well; but the denouncing of the principles of that illegal organization, at a mere hole-and-corner meeting of his constituents, fell very far short of the weight, power, and dignity which he might have imparted to a denunciation of it by himself, in this House—a session of which is the most influential public meeting that can be held.

Mr. HOWLAN thought that the hon. member for Charlottetown (Mr. Brecken) had—by his assault upon the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, and by the charge which he had preferred against him—directly struck at every member on the Opposition side of the House. He has said that the members in opposition did not use the influence possessed by them to check the rebellion of the Tenant Leaguers; but he maintained that that hon. member had not done as much to allay discontent, to pacify the ill-advised people, and bring them again under the control and guidance of right reason, as had been done by members in opposition. There was nothing like resistance to the law in either King's County or Prince County. He has, indeed, said that he was not able to have Writs served by the Sheriff

or his officers; but I am persuaded that the difficulty which he experienced in that respect was more owing to the very obnoxious character of the individual—the Deputy Sheriff—by whose means he attempted to have writs served, than to any determination of the people, otherwise, to resist the law on whomsoever the duty of carrying it into effect might devolve. Writs were served in his own (Mr. Howlan's) District; but, being served by a gentleman, by one who conducted himself with all due gentlemanly feeling and forbearance, in the discharge of his duty, and not by a man, notorious for all the savage characteristics of a bulldog, he was received, even by those upon whom he had to serve writs, with all that civility and hospitality for which the people of that section of the Island are so justly famed. Why did not the hon. member for Charlottetown (Mr. Brecken) mount the rostrum and harangue the people upon the subject of the Tenant League, denouncing the illegality of the association, and the dishonesty of their principles, and cautioning all Her Majesty's lieges in the Colony against having any connection with that body, or giving them countenance in any way? Had he done that, he might, with some show of decency, have accused and blamed others for not having done so. The hon. member, after drawing a very ludicrous description of the progress of the *Posse Comitatus* on their broken and irregular march to Fletcher's under the leadership of the Deputy Sheriff, proceeded thus: Were 80,000 people to be stigmatized throughout the Colonies and Great Britain as disloyal, seditious, and rebellious, merely because a few misguided and misinformed men had foolishly combined to resist the law, with respect to the service of writs and the levying of distraints on behalf of proprietary landlords? The people of King's County and the people of Prince County both repudiated the resistance principles of the Tenant League, and gave them neither countenance nor aid; and were they to share in the condemnation and stigma due to such only as had counselled, or actually made, resistance to the law? The Government had certainly, for too long a time, failed to recognize their duty with respect to the Tenant League; and, even when, at length, they were roused to action with the intention of repressing it, they were not as discriminating as a wise Government would have been, in singling out those who were truly worthy of censure or condemnation on account of their connection with that body; and among the first who were made to feel the weight of their displeasure, for having attended meetings of the League, were old and respectable magistrates, who had done so for the purpose of dissuading members of it and others from pursuing the illegal and absurd course which had been chalked out for them, as one by which they would be able to accomplish a fair and equitable compromise with their landlords. One of those, (Mr. Gordon) had been a magistrate for twenty years. He attended a tenant League meeting, but only for the purpose of denouncing the principle of the resistance pledge; and he did so. That he had attended such a meeting, however, became known to the Government, and, by their command, their Secretary immediately wrote to him, asking him whether he had attended a certain Tenant League meeting. He immediately replied, in a truthful and courteous manner, saying that he had attended the meeting in question, but the only part he took in it was that of denouncing the organization of the Tenant League and its principles. By return of mail, he received his dismissal from the magistracy! Such was one specimen of the wonderful discriminating power exercised by our Government in their endeavours to suppress the League. It was most unjust to the people of this Colony, to say that they could not be kept under the control of the law and constitutional authority, without the presence of 200 or 300 soldiers to enforce their obedience. The people of this Colony were a law-abiding people; and they were as loyal twelve months ago as they are now. They were as moral and as honorable and upright in every relation of life as any other body of men on the face of the earth; but until the grievances of the leasehold tenure should be redressed, there would be tenant leagues or associations; and if, hereafter, they confined themselves, as he doubted not they would, to legal and constitutional means, and, above all, used their utmost exertions to secure or effect

the election to the Legislature of men worthy of their confidence, known to be their friends, and unshakled by agencies or by any other immediate connexion with the proprietors, brighter and more cheering prospects, he trusted, would soon break upon their view than those by which they had so long been disheartened and provoked. The hon. member—after dwelling for some time, with considerable severity of condemnation upon what he asserted to be the most unconstitutional appropriation of £10,000 or £15,000 of the public money, by the Government, for the erection of the new Barracks, without the sanction of the Legislature—concluded by saying that, had the civil power been properly exercised by the Government, the expenses of the Tenant League might have been effectually repressed, the authority of the law fully upheld, and the peace of the country so well preserved, that no necessity whatever would have arisen for calling in the aid of Her Majesty's troops.

Hon. Mr. WARBURTON. As to the necessity of sending for troops, alleged by the Government, he denied that any such necessity had existed. He had seen, at a fair in Ireland, riots or disturbances of a much more serious nature than those which had lately occurred in this Island, and which were so emphatically alluded to in His Excellency's Speech, put down by a few policemen. He himself had been invited to attend a Tenant League meeting, held at Grand River, and he did so. He was told that unless he complied with the request his election might not be so safe as he could wish. He said in reply, that he had no desire to represent any but men who were, at all times, the friends of law and order. He said he could not be the consequences to himself, what they might, countenance such an association as the Tenant League. The hon. gentleman then adverted to the fact of his having been, at the time the Land Commission was sitting at St. Eleanor's, asked by his former constituents to represent them in that Court, and to his having complied with their request. He had, he said, so far recognized the authority of that gigantic humbug, as to appear in the Royal Commissioners' Court, and faithfully and earnestly, according to the best of his humble ability, to represent the position of those, whose delegate he was upon that occasion, as also that of the tenantry in general throughout the Island, and to urge upon the Court the recommendation of such measures, in their Report as, he felt persuaded, were alone calculated to relieve the tenantry from the spirit-killing grievances and disheartening disabilities under which they laboured. He spoke for four hours upon that occasion, but he was not then going to repeat what he said. That was unnecessary, as the result of the humbug was only too well known. When that scheme failed, the Government, a proprietary Government, took to another method of humbugging and deceiving the people, and, in their pretended eagerness to secure, for the tenantry, the benefit of the arbitration clause of the Award, with most ridiculous bravadoes, set at nought the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown, and defied the Imperial authority; but he was not going to dwell upon that just then.

Hon. Leader of the Government (Mr. POPE.) O do!

Hon. Mr. WARBURTON. If the Hon. the Leader of the Government were very urgent that he should do so, perhaps he might, although his doing so might occupy a long time, and certainly would not arouse the most agreeable reminiscences either in the mind of that hon. member or of those of his colleagues in the Government. Much as the Liberal Government had been taunted, rated and abused about the Loan Bill, the evidence of the Royal Land Commission in its favor was sufficient to establish the wisdom and expediency of the measure; and had not its passage through the Imperial Parliament been defeated by underhand

and scandalously false representations, with respect to the financial state of the Colony, it would have afforded the means—and that, too, probably, in the hands of the Liberals—to have carried the provisions of the Land Purchase Bill so extensively into operation as, years ago, to have brought about the emancipation of a great portion of the tenantry who were still held in proprietary bondage. The feeling which had been most sedulously instilled into the minds of the small freeholders, had certainly been one of the means, through inspiring a dread of taxation, by which the political opponents of the Liberal party had succeeded in depriving them of the Government, and in establishing themselves in their stead. But the peace and quiet, the social and friendly relations which subsisted throughout the length and breadth of the Island, unbroken and undisturbed by any narrow-minded mistrust or unchristian jealousy, under the Liberal Rule, would, he thought, contrast most favorably with the feuds, jealousies, and animosities—now, however, most happily dying out—which had sprung up amongst us under the training and indoctrination of Conservative agents; and, as to the late civil disturbances which had taken place in the Colony, and the widely-spread agrarian discontent, and disaffection to our present Government, which still affected the great mass of the tenantry, they were wholly attributable to the false promises and deceptive and inefficient legislation on the Land Question by the party at present in power. He would support the amendment submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, because he believed that, had the Government done their duty by a timely and energetic exercise of the civil power in their hands, there would have been no necessity for troops.

Hon. the Leader of the Government (Mr. POPE.) When the hon. member from Lot 11 (Hon. Mr. Warburton) rose to speak, I expected to hear from him a revival of the thunder of his famous four hours' speech, with which he electrified and astounded the Royal Land Commissioners, when they held their Court at St. Eleanor's; but, as he has thought proper to spare us the infliction of its repetition, I, for myself, will only observe with reference to it, that I am thankful to him for his forbearance. The proposed amendment, now under our consideration, is so mild and plausible, and so characteristic of the hon. and learned member for East Point (Hon. Mr. Hensley) that I am not surprised at his earnest support of it. Nay, more I am inclined to believe that it has been penned by himself, although submitted to the Committee by another hon. member. But I must say that I have been sorry to hear a gentleman, whom I so much respect as I do that hon. member, and who has had the honor to fill the high and responsible position of Attorney General of this Colony, exhibit so much inconsistency as he has done with respect to the sentiment of that paragraph of the draft Address, and the amendment proposed thereto which are now the subjects of the present debate. With one breath, he approves of the action taken by the Government, in sending for the troops for the suppression of the Tenant League resistance, and, with the very next, he says he will vote for the proposed amendment, yet, should it be rejected by this Committee, he will support the original paragraph. In such a declaration, there is surely an inconsistency, by no means in accordance with either the legislative or the forensic reputation of that hon. member for clearness of judgment and unwavering decision. It is not, I think, necessary for me to notice what has been said in the loud speech of the hon. member from Cascumpeque (Mr. Howlan) except in one or two cases. He said that no resistance had been made to the officers of the law, nor had any disturbances

arisen in any parts of the Island except in one instance. But what had been asserted by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. COLES)? He, on the contrary, had maintained that the League had had its origin in King's County, in the Murray Harbour District which however was not the fact, and had also further represented the tenantry of that section of the Island, as having risen into open rebellion, and detailed circumstances in connection therewith, which equally with the said alleged rebellion, had never had any existence, save in his own fertile imagination. The first time that actual prominence was given to the organization of the League was on St. Patrick's Day, 1865, when a large body of them paraded the streets of Charlottetown. With reference to that demonstration, I spoke thus, in my place in this House, four days after it occurred:

"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 their thus binding 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."

Now, continued the hon. gentleman, I thought it my duty, at that time, thus to express my opinion in the strongest terms; and after the forcible taking out of the Deputy Sheriff's hands property which had been duly taken in execution by him for arrears of rent, which occurred at Curtisdale, and after the assembling of three or four hundred of the Leaguers in Charlottetown, evidently for the purpose of rescuing the prisoner Dickieson out of the custody of the law—though by the wise precautions taken by the Government to prevent such rescues the intention was not accomplished—I became convinced that the time had arrived for acting under the authority of "the bloody despatch"—the despatch under which the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition not only took office, but accepted Responsible Government. [Hon. the Leader of the Opposition. No! I did not take office under that despatch.] I say, I then became convinced that the time for acting under the authority of that despatch had fully arrived, and I believed it to be the bounden duty of the Government to send for military assistance forthwith. The propriety of this opinion, was, as has been said by the Hon. Solicitor General, fully concurred in by every member of the Executive Council; but had it been otherwise, had every member of that Board entertained a contrary opinion, it would have been felt, by His Excellency, the Administrator of the Government, to be a duty which he owed to his Queen and to the people over whom, as Her Majesty's representative, he was placed as ruler, to send for the Troops, for the maintenance of law and order, although upon his own sole responsibility; and I firmly believe that, had he been unfortunately placed in so trying a position, he would have been found fully equal to the emergency, and would not have shrunk from the performance of his duty however painful. The Government were then unanimous in thinking it to be their duty to send for the Troops; they think so still; and are prepared to abide by the consequences. If we are to go down, we will do so, convinced of, and asserting the necessity and propriety of the course which we adopted. Under the protection of the Government, every man in the country is secure in the possession of his rights and constitutional privileges. The supre-

macy of the law has been asserted and maintained, and every man feels secure in the possession of what he justly calls his own. It is now no longer necessary for Schoolmasters or other holders of petty Treasury Warrants to submit to serious discounts before they can get them cashed. Such Warrants are now, and have long, under the present Government, been fully paid at sight; and the country was never before so prosperous as it is at present, notwithstanding the late agrarian disturbances, which, to a stranger might, perhaps, at first sight, have seemed to indicate a contrary state of things; and, no doubt, they have caused, to a considerable extent, a want of confidence on the part of moneyed individuals amongst us. There is certainly, just now, more money in the country than there ever was before; but the want of confidence, caused by the Tenant League movements, is the cause why much of it lies idle and is withheld from beneficial investments. There are, I believe, at present £40,000 or £50,000 lying idle in the Banks. At the misstatements and misrepresentation of facts made by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, I am not surprised; for they are in perfect accordance with his practice whenever he makes an onslaught upon the Government; but I am surprised at the countenance and aid given to him in his erroneous assumptions by the hon. and learned member from East Point. The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, in the face of undeniable and established facts, pertinaciously maintains that the Tenant League movement took its rise in the Murray Harbour District, when, at the same time, he must well know that its first outbreak was in his own District, at Glensadale.

Hon. Mr. COLES. No!

Hon. the Leader of the Government (Mr. POPE). But I say yes! and, before the close of the session, I will produce affidavits which will fully establish the fact. If we had sent a large body of special constables to make distrains for rent, that hon. member would immediately have exclaimed against the proceeding as an evidence of our proprietary leanings. He would, in fact, have denounced us as a proprietary Government, and as one actuated by so strong a regard for proprietary interests as to be ready to have recourse to the most arbitrary measures for their promotion, and for the oppression of the tenantry. When the Sheriff applied to the Government for assistance to enable him to carry the law into effect against recusant tenants, we pointed out to him the constitutional course—the employment of the civil force of the country which rested with himself. That course he, at first tried supported by five or six constables, but that number was found to be insufficient. The next disturbance was at New Glasgow and at Curtisdale.

Hon. Mr. COLES. Your own District was not exempt.

Hon. the Leader of the Government (Mr. POPE.) Next came the requisition of the Sheriff to the Government for arms. The Government felt it to be their duty to comply with the requisition; but yet they did so most reluctantly; for they were well aware that in the event of any one of the disturbers of the peace being shot, the unfortunate special constable who had shot him—however great the provocation and necessity which had caused him to fire, and however justifiable the act in the eye of the law—would be regarded as a murderer, and, perhaps, be compelled to leave the country, or have his house set fire to in the dead of night and burned to the ground, to the rendering homeless both himself and family, even if they escaped from the fire with their lives. It is the duty of a representative of the people, when he goes among them in times of civil disturbances, to denounce the

incendiaries, or the organization, if any such exists, by whom or by means of which the disturbances have been fomented or have arisen. I am prepared to go into my own District and to answer for the action of the Government with a view to the suppression of the Tenant League. I am prepared to justify all that we have done with a view to that end; and should it, in the end, be necessary that we should go out of place and office because we have done everything that lay in our power to maintain the authority of the law, to effect the restoration of peace in the disturbed districts, and to accomplish the preservation of life and property, I shall be well contented that it is so. It has been asked, why did we not call a session of the Legislature before we determined upon building the barracks and made the necessary outlay for their erection, or why did we not rent accommodations for the Troops? The reply which has been made to that question by the Hon. the Solicitor General is a sufficient answer to that question. (The hon. gentleman here gave an explanation of the difficult position in which the Government were placed with respect to procuring accommodation for the Troops, and of the fruitless, though anxious endeavours made by them to rent buildings for that purpose, similar to that which had been previously made by the Hon. the Solicitor General; and then proceeded as follows: When the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition stated that the Sheriff, Mr. Dodd, had told him that, provided the Government had given him the assistance of twenty or thirty special constables, to aid him in the discharge of his official duties, there would have been no necessity to send for the Troops, I said I did not credit the statement, and I am now enabled to prove that it was incorrect. Immediately after I had so expressed myself, I wrote a note to Mr. Dodd, wishing to know whether he had ever made such a statement to that hon. member. I hold a copy of that note in my hand, which I will read. The hon. gentleman then read his note as follows.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, April 11th, 1864.

My Dear Sir:—Mr. Coles having stated in the House, that you told him that if the Government had allowed you 20 or 30, special constables, there would have been no need of Troops. Doubting the correctness of Mr. Coles's statement, perhaps you will have no objection to inform me whether you ever made such a statement to him.

Yours truly,
J. C. POPE.

To this, my note, Mr. Dodd immediately sent me this reply. The hon. gentleman then read Mr. Dodd's note in reply to his own, as follows:

SHERIFF'S OFFICE, April 11th, 1864.

HON. JAMES POPE;

Dear Sir:—In answer to your note of to-day I beg leave to inform you that I never made any such statement to Mr. Coles. In conversation with that gentleman one day, I said I thought if the Government had allowed Sheriff Morris to employ 20 or 30 special constables to assist him, the Tenant League might have been quashed, but now they had given me the power, the country was in such a state of rebellion, I could not get men to consent to go at any price.

I remain yours truly,
(Signed) THOMAS W. DODD.

Hon. Mr. COLES. I say the statement made by Mr. Dodd is incorrect. What he said to me was exactly as I have stated it; and, if necessary, I can prove it by a witness, for his own brother was present when he made the declaration to me that, had the Government given him the aid of twenty or thirty special constables at first, there would have been no need of Troops. He alluded to himself, and not to Sheriff Morris.

Hon. the Leader of the Government (Mr. POPE.) Mr. Dodd is a man of undoubted honor and veracity; and, I be-

lieve, his version of the matter will be generally received as the correct one. A declaration made by the hon. and learned member from East Point (Hon. Mr. Hensley) has certainly very much surprised me, amounting from such a source. He has said that the Government should have taken the power out of the hands of the Supreme Court and of the Sheriff, and have sent special constables in sufficient force to carry the law into effect. God forbid that I should ever live in a country in which a Government could be found to set in so tyrannical a manner. The course pursued by the Government, I am satisfied, has been the correct one; and, if there be one act of my public life, upon which I can look back with entire satisfaction, it is that of my having, as a member of the Government, been instrumental in having the Troops brought to the Island, since, by their presence, the re-establishment of peace, law, and order has been so happily accomplished.

Hon. Mr. KELLY. The Hon. Leader of the Government has asserted that Fort Augustus was among the first places where resistance was offered to the Sheriff and such resistance was consequently one of the causes of bringing the troops. Now, Sir, I contest that if the alleged disturbances in Charlottetown and at New Glasgow were of a like nature to that at Fort Augustus there was no cause for bringing them at all, as I am fully cognizant of all that happened on that occasion. The said Sheriff (Curtis) having been sent there by Mr. Bourke (Mr. John McDonald's Agent) to serve a number of writs or processes, succeeded without the least annoyance or displeasure, in serving one on Mr. Brady and another on a Mr. Brogan, and when he was about that business, he read over the names and number of persons whom he was going to honor with a visit, and to whom friendly warning was forthwith sent, as he Curtis had advised James Simpson and others that the door of friends might be shut when he was found coming. He then proceeded to the Monaghan Settlement (over which the Hon. Leader of the Government is now the new agent) and after calling and regaling himself at Mr. Callaghan's Tavern, declared he had a process for the landlord, but whether he was then sober or otherwise, he did not serve the process on Mr. Callaghan who was working on the road, a few yards distant from Curtis, who never spoke to him, but wanted to force it on another boy who was there, alleging that he was Callaghan. He states in his lamentation to his principal, that Callaghan's wife told him her husband was in Charlottetown, but the wife was not there on the occasion and told him no such thing. He then tells a yarn about what a few boys who were coming from school said to him, and about three men he saw in a field, two of them having each a stick in his hands, and one of them a gun, and who stood and looked at him; and about another man and two little boys who looked "ferocious" at him. Now, Sir, this is the substance of the Deputy Sheriff Curtis's tale with regard to his raid to Monaghan from which had he gone on from Mr. Brogan's and kept the secret to himself concerning those for whom he had writs, and abstained from drinking and making a fool of himself at Taverns, he might, after having completed his business, have returned without any one looking "ferocious" at him. The hon. and learned member for the City (Mr. Brecken), in his annual attack on the hapless Leader of the Opposition, my Hon. colleague, asserts that he narrowly watched the Hon. Mr. Coles last session, when the subject of the Tenant League was under discussion, but that his (Mr. Coles's) conduct was not such as it should have been in discouraging that organization. I can assure this House that if the members of the city (where the principal disturbance appeared worst, in threatening the authorities) had exerted themselves

as successfully in keeping peace and quietness in their District of the Hon. Mr. Collet and myself had done for ours; but additional expense for sending for the troops would also have been avoided. At an aggregate meeting of the inhabitants of the Townships 25, 26, and 27, held at the house of James McDonald, Esq. at Fort Augustus, where the immediate Resolution to resist distress and rent paying in all shapes was brought forward by a gentleman who was always the supporter of the present Government, Hon. Mr. Collet and myself at once declared that if the resolution was attempted to be carried we would instantly leave the place. It was thereupon attempted to be put by its proposers, but was refused to be heard. So much for the maintenance of law and order in our District. Of course when the troops arrived, and after their campaign at Bagnall's and elsewhere, it was thought requisite to make a military display of them among us in order to terrify the Tracadonian and the Mossgashan Leaguers.

Hon. the LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT. Did you not subscribe to the tenant union?

Hon. Mr. KELLY. I did pay moneys to assist some of my neighbours who were put to heavy law expenses; but in no way or manner to assist or encourage resistance to the due execution of the laws. I never refused to subscribe when application was made to me for the relief of those in distress and never will. I was nearly forgetting that I was informed against the Government, for subscribing to, joining with, and supporting the said Union or League, by one McQuaid from Mount Stewart Bridge; but whose allegations by which he expected to get into favor or notice of the Government were sworn to be false by a neighboring magistrate of the County.

Hon. Mr. McEACHEN said he felt it incumbent on him to give his views on the subject under consideration. The fact that resistance to the lawfully constituted authorities took place in different parts of Queen's County, was undeniable, and admitted on all sides. The question now to be decided was, touching the necessity of calling for the aid of the troops for the purpose of suppressing those disturbances and preserving peace and order in the community. Or, in other words, were those disturbances of such a serious nature as to warrant the sending for the troops? That veritable chronicle or organ of the Tenant League party, *Ross's Weekly*, announced to the public that they were 14,000 strong. If any credit be given to such a statement as that made by the organ of the party, who, he would ask, could deny that the aid of the troops was called for? What force of Special Constables would like to face such a body of men as that? All must know that the appearance of ten red-coats would do more to quell a mob, than one hundred civilians, however well armed. And, independently of that view of the matter, it must be admitted by all that it would have been very cruel indeed to send volunteers to face, under such exciting circumstances, their own friends, neighbours, and perhaps brothers. What a heart-rending picture such a state of things would present to the gaze of the world. Men otherwise living on the most friendly terms, driven to take up arms against each other, and brother thereby driven to fight against brother. Far better, if the strong arm of the law is placed at defiance to support it, and defend the Institutions of the country by calling in the aid of those whose proper and legitimate calling it is, to use fire arms when required or called upon to do so—than to impose that painful task upon men who were called upon in every day life to struggle with the very men opposing the law. He was happy to inform the hon. House that there was not a single

Leaguer in the District which he had the honor to represent. He was prepared to give his best support to any scheme that might be devised for the relief of the tenantry, and that would in any way tend to alleviate their grievances, but he would never countenance or support such a dangerous and foolish organization as the Tenant League had proved itself to be. He would therefore vote for the paragraph in the address.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES. The Tenant Leaguers did not, at the first, profess that they would resist their landlords in their endeavours to enforce the payment of rents by distrains or other processes of the law. But, as their numbers increased, they grew bolder and bolder, until at length, fancying that they were actually strong enough to set the law and the authorities of the land at defiance, they were so foolish as to draw up their famous pledge; and had we sent special constables, armed, and sufficiently numerous to effect the serving of writs, the levying of distrains, and the taking of tenants' goods and chattels in execution, the great probability was, that the conflict which would have been the inevitable consequence of such a mode of proceeding, would have been of a most serious and disastrous character, involving murder itself. We then saw the necessity of energetic action. We sent for the Troops, convinced that our doing so would enable us, with the least risk of the loss of life, or dread of the occurrence of any serious disaster, arising from actual resistance to the law, to reduce to obedience and submission the misguided men who had banded themselves together for an illegal and rebellious purpose; and the result has fully justified the wisdom of the course we adopted; for peace, good order, security and the supremacy of the law have been fully re-established in every part of the Island in which, for a time, they were so unhappily broken and disturbed. It has been asked why did we not call a Session of the Legislature, and consult the whole body of the people's representatives before we sent for the Troops, and afterwards took steps to provide for their accommodation? I answer it would, indeed, have been a most unwise and dangerous course, when the country was actually in a state of rebellion, to have delayed taking measures for its suppression until we should have had time to consult with the Legislature concerning the best means of effecting its extinction. Had we done so, the consequences to the country would, in all likelihood, have been of a serious and ruinous a character to the Colony as we should never have been afforded an opportunity, by after legislation, to repair. I gave my consent for the arming of the special constables with the greatest reluctance; but I had less hesitation in agreeing to the proposal of sending for the Troops; for I was convinced that our doing so was the only means by which we could restore peace and good order in the disturbed districts, and that, too, with scarcely a shadow of a probability of its being attended with loss of life, or even a bare show of resistance to lawful authority when so sustained. Until the Troops came, the Leaguers really believed that they had the power to set the law and the authorities of the land at defiance; but the presence of the Troops soon dispelled their mistaken confidence; and I am very happy to think that we have got out of the trouble occasioned by the League without bloodshed, which, however, I do not think would have been the case had we not called in the aid of the military. The League had many sympathizers, and in Charlestown itself they met with encouragement, not in words only, but by substantial subscriptions to their funds on the part of doctors, ministers and others of most respectable standing in society. I myself indeed sympathize with the tenantry; but it is with the poor,

honest, and industrious portion of them, who really have it not in their power, even with their best exertions, to fulfil their engagements with their landlords. But I do not sympathize with the wealthy among them, who, if they were as honestly and uprightly disposed as they ought to be, would find it quite easy to pay their rents, or even to purchase the fee simple of their farms at the price per acre set upon them by their landlords. So long as mere passive agitation was kept up, landlords evinced a disposition to reduce the price which they had set upon their lands; but no sooner did the tenantry band themselves together, in an illegal and seditious association, with the avowed determination to withhold the payment of rents, and to resist distrainments, with a view to the compelling of their landlords to part with their lands at such prices as they themselves (the tenantry) should set upon them, than the proprietors—as if they had had their hands strengthened by the foolish and illegal determination of the League—asked 20s. or 30s. per acre for lands for which, a short time before, they would have taken considerably less. There is plenty of money in the country, but owing to want of confidence on the part of the holders of it, occasioned by the unsettled state of the country, it is kept back from such parties as would borrow it for the purchase of real estate or other prudent speculations, on what—were there less of ferment and discontent among the people—would be accounted good and sufficient security. Indeed, I believe that, had the Government at present occasion to effect a loan for the purchase of any proprietary estate, they might be able to effect it amongst ourselves, even to a very considerable extent, and without being obliged to have recourse to England for the purpose. I maintain that the present Government has done a great deal of good for the country, that, under their rule, the general prosperity has greatly increased, and that, had it not been marred by the late Tenant League disturbances, we would have had the fullest reason to congratulate ourselves upon our material progress, our happy condition, and our inviting prospects. The hon. member for Cassinapogue (Mr. Howlan) had been very severe upon the Government for their dismissal of Mr. Gordon from the magistracy; but, when the correspondence connected with that dismissal came to be laid upon the table, as it would be, it would be found that his censure of the Government was altogether uncalled for, and based upon mere erroneous assumptions. Had Mr. Gordon been improperly dismissed from the magistracy, he would have been reinstated by the Imperial Government, provided he had petitioned Her Majesty the Queen against his removal, and been able to show that it was without sufficient cause.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH. Mr. Chairman, at this late hour of the evening, it is not my intention to say much upon the subject of the present debate—the Tenant League and the necessity, which, out of the proceedings of that organization arose for sending for the troops; but, as a member of the Government and a representative of the people, I feel I am bound to give, at least, some explanation of the motives by which I was actuated, and of the very delicate, as well as responsible, position in which I felt myself to be placed when the disturbances occasioned by the Tenant League movement, had assumed so serious and threatening an aspect as to make it imperative upon the Government to have recourse to the most stringent action for their suppression. Many of my constituents, I assumed, were members of the League; at least many who were either actually members of that body, or sympathizers with it, resided in the District which I have the honour to represent in this House; and therefore, considering the relation in which I thus stood to

such of my constituents and others resident in my District as were either directly or indirectly connected with that association, I felt my position to be one of no ordinary difficulty, and such as was calculated to put both my private feelings and my public principles, unavoidably and painfully, to the test. The path of duty was, however, quite obvious, and I did not hesitate to pursue it. The peace, the welfare, the prosperity of the country were at stake; our constitution was imperilled, and even life itself was in jeopardy. Resentment, indeed, then to every sentiment of patriotism, to every feeling of humanity, most I have been, if, at such a time, I had not dared, as a member of the Government and a representative of the people, to assume my full share of the responsibility, ay, and of the unpopularity and odium, which their having recourse to military aid for the suppression of civil disturbances and the maintenance of the law, was almost certain to draw down upon the Government. I gave my sanction then, my full sanction, to the notion of sending for the Troops; and I would do so again, if so alarming an emergency should ever again occur, and I, at the same time, occupied the same position of trust and responsibility in which I then stood, and still occupy. I, indeed, deeply regretted that any among my constituents should be connected with that unfortunate association—the Tenant League—or even that any others resident in my District had been so foolish as to enroll themselves among its members. From the first moment of my having heard of it, I did all in my power to warn them against the most ruinous and disastrous consequences which would inevitably overtake all who belonged to it, and who should continue to pursue the object which they had in view, by so mad and rebellious a course as resistance to the law and the constitutional authorities of the land. But, although my efforts to stay the progress of the League, by the most friendly and earnest counsels, were unceasing, it grew and spread to such an extent, assumed such formidable dimensions, and wore so threatening and alarming an aspect, that I and my hon. colleagues in the Government felt we should be fully justified in having recourse to the most prompt measures for its suppression; and, as the only one by which we felt convinced the re-establishment of peace and good order could be effected, and the supremacy of the law upheld, we were unanimous in our decision as to the propriety and necessity of sending for a detachment of Her Majesty's Troops; and, I am happy to say, the result has most fully justified the measure and our expectations of the good which would result from it. I need not go over the grounds which, in justification of the course pursued by the Government—at first, by the mildest means to check the progress of the Tenant League, and, finally, by the most stringent and energetic, to effect its suppression—have been so ably examined and laid bare by the Hon. the Solicitor General, the Hon. the Leader of the Government, and the hon. and gallant member for Belfast (Hon. Col. Gray.) Some hon. members in opposition—in a spirit which, I am afraid savours more of a regard for the interests of their party, than that of impartial devotion to the good of their country—are most anxious to inculpate the Government on the charge of having, at the first, been too lax in their endeavours to arrest the progress of the the Tenant League movement; but I do not hesitate freely to tell those hon. members that, had the Government had recourse to any of these extraordinary and stringent modes of exercising the civil power of the country, which they profess so much to regret that the Government did not put in force when the League was merely in a state of incipientcy, they would have been amongst the very foremost to accuse us of endeavours to suppress the civil rights and privileges of the people, and of a design to establish the rule of a proprietary oligarchy. It was, however, on the contrary, actuated by no other sentiments, than the most tender regard for the civil rights and privileges of the people, the most anxious desire to promote their best material interests, and extreme solicitude to preserve unimpaired, for the good of all, the blessings of our free

constitution, that the Government shared their cause, and regulated their proceedings, with a view to the suppression of the Tenant League, association and eradication of their dangerous and ruinous principles, wherever they had taken root in the minds of the people. The Government had then, throughout their season of difficulty and trial, throughout the day of danger—a duty to perform, far higher and nobler than any obligations imposed upon them by the relationship or ties of party; and, to the best of their ability, uninfluenced by any unworthy fears or selfish considerations, they acquitted themselves of that duty, confidently relying upon the justice, wisdom and independence of this hon. House, for a verdict of justification and approval, whenever their executive proceedings with reference to the Tenant League and the civil disturbances attributable to it, should come under its deliberative review and consideration. I did not intend, at so late an hour, to occupy the attention of the Committee for so long a time as I have done; but, in justice to myself and my hon. colleagues in the Government, I felt I could do up less than advert to the highly responsible position which we occupied under the trying and peculiar difficulties in which this Colony was placed by the important proceedings of parties associated with the Tenant League, and the manner in which the high duties, incumbent upon us as a Government, were discharged.

Mr. DUNCAN. The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition has declared that the Tenant League had its origin in the Murray Harbour District, among the supporters of the Government; but I maintain that it was not got up by supporters of the Government, but by friends of the Opposition; and not in the Murray Harbour District, but in the school-house at Sturgeon. A very few of those who attended the meeting held there by the concoctors of the League, were, I admit, from Peter's Road; but that was all the connection which the Tenantry of the Murray Harbour District had with the discontented and mischievous parties who called that meeting. With respect to the steps which had been taken by the Government for the repression of the rebellious proceedings of the Tenant League, some hon. members taxed them with having been too slow; and others, on the contrary, said they had been too quick in sending for the Troops to effect that object. But, when it was known that the Tenant League organization numbered 14,000, no man of common sense, I think, would have argued that they could be suppressed by the exertions of a few special constables. Powerful men they must, indeed, have been, if they could have overcome the combined resistance offered to them, by a body of determined men, numbering several thousands. Nothing could have effectually intimidated the League, but the presence of the Troops. It appears that some of the members of this hon. House have attended meetings of the League; and I do not hesitate to say that their having done so was disgraceful to gentlemen of their position. If the League, instead of 14,000 had numbered only 5,000, or 4,000, what, I ask, could 200 special constables have done in opposition to them? Twenty red coats would have done a great deal more. I am afraid that I am treading upon the skirts of some hon. members in making these remarks. But be that as it may, I feel I am justified in speaking out. And not only, I must further say, have members of this hon. House disgraced themselves by giving countenance and assistance to the League, but merchants in Charlottetown—gentlemen, in every other respect of the highest respectability—have not been ashamed to encourage and abet it by the most liberal subscriptions in aid of its funds. Thus persons of less information were induced to think that their association and its principles were neither unlawful nor unconstitutional. The hon. member then concluded by emphatically saying that he would rather that the public revenue should suffer to the extent of £20,000, than that, through remissness with respect to the adoption of energetic measures and efficient means for the putting down of the Tenant League disturbances, a few should have lost their lives, which, had the people been set against each other—on the one side as Tenant Leaguers, and on the other as armed special constables—would undoubtedly have been the case.

Mr. BRECKEN—with reference to Mr. Duncan's declaration that respectable merchants, in Charlottetown, had sub-

scribed to the funds of the Tenant League—observed, that he believed some Charlottetown gentlemen had, at the encouragement of the League, done so; but in ignorance of the real objects of the association, and with no intention of encouraging an unlawful combination, although it may have been different with others who contributed to its funds.

Hon. Mr. KELLY. If the hon. member, in asserting that members of this hon. House disgraced themselves by attending meetings of the League, intends to include me in that reflection, let him please to say so. I believe, on the contrary, that it is the duty of hon. members to attend any public meeting of their constituents, and conscientiously counsel them, as far as in their power, against running into mischief.

Mr. SINCLAIR. Mr. Chairman, I have listened attentively to the many eloquent speeches by hon. members of the Government on this paragraph in the address; but they have failed to convince me that the Government were justified in importing Her Majesty's Troops from the other Provinces, to aid the civil power in carrying out the laws of the Colony. It appeared to me, at the time, and I think it was the opinion of a good many of the people, that it was done out of something like a spirit of revenge; that the Government, believing that the Tenant League had a great many sympathisers throughout the Island, were determined to make the people pay pretty dearly for the Tenant League follies. Indeed, some of the Government declared, in a boasting way, last Session, that they would spend the last shilling in the Treasury to crush out the obnoxious organization. Now, I do not believe such a course, for a Government placed and kept in power by the people, to be the very best one to allay discontent and disaffection among that people. I believe that counsel and advice, in the first instance, shewing the people the folly of seeking to redress their grievances by unconstitutional means, and also proving, by their action, that they were what they professed to be, the friends of the tenantry, and were also keenly alive to the necessity of having their grievances removed, would have a far greater effect in quieting the minds of the people, and preventing disturbances, than bringing in the aid of brute force against them. I do not, in any way, justify the conduct of the Tenant League: I think they ought to have known that it was folly for them to attempt to resist the laws of the land; that, before they could do so, they must be prepared to resist the power of Great Britain; but I do see reasons which, in my mind, would, to some extent, palliate their offence. They have grievances to complain of, and grievances which they have almost despaired of seeing removed. The hon. member, Mr. Longworth, said he could not see how this organization could have originated. I think I can account for its origin. The tenantry considered that they were deceived by successive Governments, that they were deceived by the proprietors, and even by the British Government. They agreed to submit the whole matter of dispute between them and the proprietors to the decision of impartial and disinterested men. The proprietors agreed to the same, as also the British Government. These men gave their verdict: it was confirmed by this Legislature, on behalf of the tenantry; but the proprietors refused to submit to it, and the British Government, to its discredit, backed them out in their dishonourable conduct. The Government then, and the British Government, passed a measure for settling the land question in lieu of the decision of the Commissioners, in opposition to the expressed wishes of the Tenantry, and in opposition to numerous signed petitions from the tenantry to the Colonial Minister to have it disallowed. Is it any wonder, then, that the spirit of the people was aroused, and that they even exceeded the bounds of moderation? It is possible, sometimes, to excite a loyal, but spirited and independent-minded people to rash and unlawful deeds. A patient, docile, law-abiding and peace-loving people is all very well, and certainly would be easily governed; but the very fact of their allowing themselves to be governed like slaves, would sufficiently prove them to be fit subjects to make slaves of others. I confess I would rather have a people who would even resist the law, than a people who would tamely submit to a monstrous wrong. I believe that had the Liberal party been in

power they would have had no difficulty in affixing the ex-
 ceptions of the people, without resorting to the means taken
 by the present Government. They would have compelled and
 secured the people, instead of irritating and exciting them,
 to be brought out of power and in opposition to the Govern-
 ment, they, in the most magnanimous and liberal manner,
 even at the risk of their own popularity, gave the Government
 the opportunity of altering the exemption. I am afraid the
 people would have received very different treatment, had
 they been in the place of the present Government. I was
 one day in the place of a Tenant, I suppose, marched
 through the town. Some of them, no doubt, had been drink-
 ing, and were somewhat excited; and what did I see but a
 most imprudent and fool-hardy act, by an officer of the Go-
 vernment, the Deputy Sheriff. He was foolish enough to rush
 in to take a man out of that procession. Could anything else
 have been expected than a resistance to the lawful authorities
 in such a case? That officer was most obnoxious to the ten-
 antry, yet he was persistently sent throughout the country to
 execute the writs and carry out the laws, thus exciting the
 tenantry to acts of resistance. I believe that if the Govern-
 ment had taken the trouble to advise the people, and had sent
 prudent officers, men who had respect for themselves and were
 respected by the people, there would have been no difficulty
 in executing the laws; therefore, I do not think the Govern-
 ment were justified in spending so large an amount of the
 public money to bring discredit upon the Colony. I will vote
 for the amendment submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the
 Opposition.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS.

Thursday, April 26.

Mr. Sinclair, Chairman of the Committee to whom was re-
 ferred the petition of certain inhabitants of Lot 18, com-
 plaining of the late survey of parts of the County line road,
 whereby they alleged that one chain had been taken off their
 farms, presented the Report of the Committee on that subject,
 in which they state that having had said petition under their
 consideration, they have been unable to arrive at any satis-
 factory conclusion, but, observing that Commissioners had
 been appointed to estimate the damage that might accrue to
 parties through whose lands the said line of road was intended
 to pass, would recommend the Government to instruct said
 Commissioners to examine and report what damage said peti-
 tioners would sustain by the proposed new line of road.
 The Report of said Committee was then adopted.

A Bill to continue certain Acts therein named was read a
 third time and passed.

The House in Committee on the Bill to continue and amend
 the Act relating to the running at large of Hogs in the Com-
 mon and Royalty of Charlottetown, reported said Bill
 agreed to.

The House in Committee on the Bill to continue and amend
 the Act relating to the appointment of Harbor Master, was
 also reported agreed to.

The Bill to amend the Incorporation Act of the Church at
 Valleyfield, Brown's Creek, was read a third time and passed.

The Bill to amend the Act relating to Jail limits, was read
 a second time and reported agreed to.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Davies, the House went into
 Committee on Supply.

When the Resolution relating to the salary of the Solicitor
 General was read.

The Hon. Mr. Warburton moved to amend said Resolution
 by striking out the words, "£100 paid the Solicitor General."
 In the discussion which followed on the said amendment, it
 was admitted on all sides that the salary of that officer was
 not too large, but objections were taken to the mode of grant-
 ing an annual vote for that purpose, on the ground that it
 would be more consistent with constitutional principles to fix
 the salary of that officer by Statute, and not leaving it sub-
 ject to an annual vote of the Legislature.

The question having been put, Hon. Mr. Warburton's
 amendment was negatived on the following division:
 For the amendment: Hon. Messrs. Warburton, Cole,
 Kelly, Theobald, Macle, Conroy, Bowlin, Walker, Sinclair,
 Sothebyland, Havel, &c.

Against it: Hon. Messrs. Pope, Gray, McMillan, Long-
 worth, Davies, Duff, the Speaker, Ryle, Hendley, Nesbit,
 Brockton, Haslam, Montgomery, McLeaud, &c.

The Resolution granting £700 towards the erection of a
 Light House at East Point was agreed to.

In relation to the subject of Light Houses, the Hon. Mr.
 Coles remarked upon their heavy cost to the country, and the
 propriety of entering into some permanent arrangement with
 Canada and the other Provinces for the purpose of securing
 from them an annual grant towards the keeping of the Light
 Houses on the North Side of our Island in repair, on the
 ground that the said Light Houses were of equal, or more,
 service to the shipping interests of the neighbouring Provinces
 than to that of P. E. Island. Charges were made against the
 Island for the use of Wharfs and Booms for the accommodation
 of our Mail Steamers in the neighbouring Ports, and we
 should protect our interests by imposing upon them charges of
 a like nature.

Hon. Mr. Pope remarked that the Government of New
 Brunswick agreed to give £300 sterling towards the erection
 of our Light House at North Cape, which sum, when received,
 would be placed to the credit of the Colony. That Light
 House, it was true, cost a large sum of money, yet it was
 pleasing to know that it was pronounced by competent
 judges to be the best in British North America, and he hoped
 the one about to be erected at East Point would prove equally
 creditable to the Island. The Provinces, he said, supplied us
 with Light Houses, towards which we were not called upon to
 contribute. The hon. member then instanced the Picou Is-
 land and other Light Houses, the value of which, to our ship-
 ping interest, should be considered.

The sums voted towards repairs to the Model or Stock Farm,
 and the erection of a new Barn on Government Farm, drew
 forth several remarks from hon. members on both sides of the
 House.

Hon. Mr. Coles remarked that he had no objections to offer
 relative to the grant for the Model Farm. Fencing and
 other improvements were absolutely necessary, and required
 to be made on that Farm, in order to its being made a credit
 to the Colony. He regretted, however, that, for the present
 season, at least, there would be no young stock of Horses pro-
 duced from the Mares imported last year. It was better that
 younger Mares had been selected. The Entire Horses was too
 light. Horses of stouter bone were far better adapted for the
 general wants of this country. The Sheep, however, were ex-
 cellent; no better stock than which could be seen in any of
 the Provinces.

Hon. Col. Gray remarked that it was high time to put a
 stop to the imposition practised upon our little Colony for
 want of a judicious and proper selection of stock in the Home
 Market. He also spoke of the expenditure required for Breed-
 works and other improvements about Government Farm. He
 observed that some 20 acres of that farm should have been set
 apart for Government House, and the remainder, being some
 60 acres, thrown open as a Park for the Citizens. The abso-
 lute necessity of such a Park was becoming more evident every
 day, especially as the Market House was to be erected on
 Queen Square, and the other Squares of the City were being
 enclosed. He alluded to the petition of the Citizens on that
 subject, presented to that House last Session, and said it would
 be well still further to agitate on that point. The facilities
 that so large a Park as 60 acres of land would afford, in front
 of the new Barracks, in a military point of view, he (Hon.
 Col. Gray) also explained.

Hon. Mr. Coles said it was considered by the petitioners alluded
 to very desirable to procure a portion of Government Farm for a
 Park. The Citizens of Charlottetown were deprived, by the build-
 ing of a new Market House, and the enclosures of the Squares, of
 places for recreation; it was, therefore, considered by them, that a
 portion of the waste ground attached to Government Farm might be
 set apart as a Park and place of public resort.

The several Resolutions under consideration were then reported agreed to.

On motion of the Hon. Leader of the Government, the Bill to extend the Land Purchase Act was committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Mr. Green in the Chair.

Hon. Leader of the Government then explained the object of the Bill, and stated that, in asking for an extension of the provisions of the Land Purchase Bill, the Government contemplated the purchase of the Cunard and Sullivan Estates on the Island, and expressed his hope that these purchases would be effected on such terms as would enable the tenants therein to secure the free title of their farms. He then entered upon the general question of land tenure, and reviewed the different modes which, from time to time, had been adopted, relating to that question. He was followed by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, who also glanced at the various Legislative enactments of the Colony touching the settlement of the Land Question, and expressed his approval of the Bill, just introduced by the Hon. Leader of the Government, and was glad to observe that the principles of the Land Purchase Bill were admitted to be the most effectual scheme that had been found for the amelioration of the tenantry of P. E. Island.

The debate on the Bill was again resumed in the afternoon, and kept up till the hour of adjournment, during which Hon. Messrs. Hensley, Warburton, the Solicitor General, Col. Gray, Davies, and others addressed the Committee, all of whom, though upholding their differences of opinion, respectively relative to the general policy of their party on the Land Question, unanimously concurred in the desirability of effecting a final purchase of all the Proprietary lands in the Colony, on terms just and equitable to both Proprietor and Tenant.

After which, progress was reported.

The Bill to incorporate the Grand Lodge of British Templars was read a third time, and passed.

Mr. Sinclair introduced a Bill to prevent the running at large of dogs in Princetown and Royalty.

The Bill relating to the Winsloe Estate was read a third time and passed.

House adjourned.

FRIDAY, April 27.

The Bill to prevent the running at large of Hogs at Princetown and Royalty, was, on motion of Mr. Sinclair, committed to a Committee of the whole House, and reported agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Coles, Chairman of the Committee to whom was referred the petition of the inhabitants of Covehead, relating to the prevention of Cattle on the Sandhills, introduced a Bill to authorize the Commissioner of Highways for that District to place a gate, or sliding bars, at the northern end of a certain road therein mentioned. He (Hon. Mr. Coles) when presenting the Bill, explained its provisions, and said it was considered advisable to prevent, as far as practicable, the shifting inland of the Sandhills on the Northern shore, which threatened the destruction of some valuable property, and to protect the said Sandhills from the constant tramp of Cattle, and thereby promote the growth of grass thereon. The Bill provided for the placing of a gate, or sliding bars, at the extremity of the road leading to the shore; said gate to be kept closed, excepting when required for the passage of the public with carts, carriages, horseback, or on foot; and any person wilfully damaging or leaving open the said gate, or bars, to be subject to a penalty of twenty shillings for every such offence.

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

On motion of Mr. Brecken, the Bill to continue and amend the Act relating to the appointment of Harbor Master for the Port of Charlottetown, was read a third time and passed.

On motion of Mr. Duncan, the Bill to amend the Act of Incorporation for the Church at Valleyfield, was read a second time and reported agreed to.

On motion of the Hon. Leader of the Government, the House in Committee resumed the consideration of the Land Purchase Bill.

Hon. Mr. Longworth addressed the Committee and entered fully into the working of the Land Purchase Act, pointing out the advantages that had already accrued to many of the tenantry of the Island because of the purchases effected under the provisions of that Bill, the extension of which would, doubtless, lead to the purchase of other large estates yet in the hands of Proprietors.

Hon. Leader of the Government then submitted a Resolution to the effect, that whereas it was deemed necessary to give His Excel-

lency the Lieut. Governor, in Council, power to further increase the amount of money authorized to be loaned for the purchase of land, by virtue of the Land Purchase Act of this Island; it was, therefore, resolved that the said Act be so amended as to authorize the amount of loan to be extended to and limited and not otherwise pounds, in addition to the forty thousand pounds already authorized by that Act.

The said Resolution was then unanimously adopted.

The 19th section of the Land Purchase Act, which declares that no Debentures under that Act be issued, exceeding any greater principal sum than £100 or less than £50, was also proposed to be amended, so that Debentures might be issued to any amount not exceeding £3000. It was also resolved that the 13th clause of said Act be so amended as to authorize the payment of 6 per cent interest on one-half the amount of any purchases which might hereafter be made by the Government under said Act.

The several Resolutions alluded to, and submitted by the Hon. Leader of the Government, were, after some time spent in Committee, unanimously adopted, and reported to the House agreed to, and the following Committee appointed to bring in a Bill in accordance therewith, viz:—Hons. Messrs. Pope, Longworth and Davies.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Longworth, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole to consider the expediency of enlarging the provisions of the Act intitled "An Act for the establishment of a Bank of Savings in Prince Edward Island." He (Hon. Mr. Longworth) then remarked that so great were the benefits conferred upon the poorer classes in the community by the operations of the Savings' Bank, that its provisions were becoming too limited for the wants of the community. It appeared from the advantages arising from that Act, to persons of limited means, that they have availed themselves of the privileges it afforded to the utmost extent, or nearly so, of its whole provisions. It was, therefore, necessary to extend the same, by increasing the aggregate amount of deposits to be made therein, from ten thousand pounds, the sum to which it was now limited, to twenty-five thousand pounds. He then submitted a Resolution to the effect, that it was expedient so to extend the provisions of the said Savings' Bank Act, as to meet the requirements of the public by increasing the amount of deposits aforesaid. He also submitted a Resolution, the object of which was the increasing the amount of deposit which any individual depositor might be entitled to make, and hold, in the said Bank, by extending the sum from £75, as at present, to £100.

After some time spent in Committee on the subjects of the said Resolutions, the same were reported unanimously agreed to, and the following Committee appointed to introduce a Bill in conformity therewith, viz: Hons. Messrs. Longworth, Hensley, and Solicitor General.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Hensley, the Bill to Incorporate the Souris Bank was read a third time and passed.

House adjourned.

SATURDAY, April 28.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Pope, the House went into Committee to take into consideration all matters relating to Roads, Bridges and Wharfs.

After some time spent in Committee several of the Road Scales for different Districts were agreed to and progress reported.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Coles, the bill to authorize the Commissioner of Highways for Covehead District to place a gate at the terminus of a certain road therein mentioned, was committed to a Committee of the whole House, and reported agreed to with an amendment, namely, the striking out of said Bill the words, "or sliding bars."

Hon. Mr. Coles asked the Government for the Despatch accompanying Blue Book for the year 1884.

Hon. Leader of the Government directed the attention of the House to the present mode of paying the Salary of the Solicitor General of this Island, with the view of fixing the Salary of that officer by Statute. He therefore submitted a Resolution to the effect that a Bill be introduced to amend the Act, 16 Vic., Cap. 3, for the purpose of fixing the Salary of the Solicitor General at £200 per annum—the same to be in lieu of all fees of office, charges, allowances, and emoluments, hitherto payable by the Government of the Colony.

After some discussion, during which the principle of the Resolution received the concurrence of hon. members on both

...Committee was appointed to bring in a Bill to amend the law...

Mr. Hingling was asked that he would, on Monday next, send the Government for any correspondence that may have been received from Robert Gordon, formerly a Justice of the Peace, and the Government, relating to the dismissal of that gentleman from the office of Justice of the Peace.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Davies, several Resolutions from Committee of Supply were reported agreed to.

The Leader of the Government introduced a Bill to amend the Election law—so that Poll Clerks, Returning Officers, and others employed at any Election, might be empowered to receive their wages at the Polling Divisions, where they might be so employed, subject to certain restrictions therein named.

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

Hon. Mr. Longworth introduced a Bill to further extend the Savings Bank Act. Received and read.

Hon. Mr. Longworth directed the attention of the House to the Bill to incorporate the Presbyterian Church at Sanshaw. The motion on which that Bill was introduced had gone through the usual stages, but owing to certain allegations set forth in a counter petition, which had been presented subsequently to the introduction of that Bill, the second reading thereof was indefinitely discharged. He, therefore, suggested the expediency of appointing a Committee to whom should be referred the two petitions in question, in order that justice might be done to both parties, they being interested in, and belonging to, that influential body, the Presbyterian Church of the latter Province. He would not then enter into the relative claims of the petitioners, as the whole matter would come up when the Report of the Committee would be submitted for the consideration of the House. He would, therefore, move that a Committee for that purpose be appointed.

Hon. Mr. Hasleley seconded the motion, and stated that it would be but fair to hear the matter on both sides; he, therefore, would support the mode proposed by the Hon. Mr. Longworth.

Mr. Howat said the Presbytery should be the proper place to hear matters of dispute of that nature; it was, therefore, in his opinion, better not to entertain the motion.

Hon. Mr. Coles agreed with Mr. Howat, and said he was of opinion that the Congregations interested in the question of dispute, were quite competent to settle the matter among themselves without the action of that House.

Mr. Brecken said he was instructed to say that the contending parties were not amenable to the same Ecclesiastical Court; the course proposed by the hon. member (Mr. Longworth) was therefore just and proper and fair to all parties.

Hon. Mr. Davies was also in favor of allowing the petitions in question to lay over till next Session, as it was very probable the parties concerned would settle the point in dispute before that time.

Hon. Mr. Pope said that the Committee moved for might report that further action on the subject, on the part of that House, was unnecessary; he considered, however, it was but fair to appoint the Committee.

Mr. Belmont was also of the opinion that the matter would be amicably arranged by the parties themselves, independent of the interference of that House.

The question was then put on the motion to appoint a Committee, proposed by the Hon. Mr. Longworth, and negatived as follows, viz:—

For the motion—Hons. Longworth, Pope, Sol. General, Howley, Messrs. Montgomery, Ramsay, Haslam, Green, Brecken—9.

Against it—Hons. Coles, Warburton, McKichen, Rye, Thomson, Davies; Messrs. Walker, Sinclair, Howlan, Dunlop, Howat, Curroy—12.

On motion of Mr. Brecken, the Bill to prevent the venting at large of Hogs in the Royalty of Charlottetown was read a second time, and reported agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Sinclair, the Bill to prevent the venting at large of Hogs in Princetown and Royalty was read a third time, and passed.

Hon. Leader of the Government introduced a Bill to amend the Act relating to the Oyster Fisheries of the Island, with the object of protecting the right of the public to take from any River, (whether within the boundaries of any Oyster Fishery granted under said Act, or otherwise) mud, shells, or mud mixed with shells of any description, bonafide, intended for the purpose of manure, to be used within said Island, although some of the Oyster brood, within such prescribed limits, or otherwise, should be thereby unavoidably taken, removed, or disturbed.

After some discussion on the subject of the amendments contemplated by the said Bill, it was received and read, and ordered to be read a second time on Monday next.

House adjourned.

Monday, April 30.

The Bill to extend the provisions of the Savings Bank Act, was read a second time and reported agreed to.

The Bill to amend the Act relating to the venting at large of Hogs in the Royalty of Charlottetown, was read a third time and passed.

On motion of Mr. McLennan, the House went into Committee on matters relating to Roads, Bridges and Wharfs.

Mr. McLennan directed the attention of the Committee to the repairing of a Road in the vicinity of Summerside with the shore stone to be had in that vicinity.

Hon. Mr. Coles said that any attempt to Macadamise roads with the Island sandstone, would prove a failure, and alluded to experiments made in the vicinity of Charlottetown in proof of his remarks.

Hon. Mr. Davies said it would be a useless expenditure of public money to attempt effecting any permanent improvement on roads subject to much traffic, with Island stone, and referred to a portion of the Charlottetown Royalty road where an attempt of that nature had been made, but which had proved a useless waste of public money.

Hon. Mr. Pope observed that it was customary to leave the expenditure of grants for roads with hon. members representing such districts, to be appropriated where they, in their wisdom, considered it most required; he was, therefore, in favor of allowing the representatives for Summerside to exercise their own judgment in regard to using the shore stone, which would cost but a trifle compared with the impure material used in the vicinity of Charlottetown.

Hon. Mr. McLennan said it was well known to his honor the Leader of the Government that, some six years ago the roads in the vicinity of Summerside were a perfect bog. The hard stone taken from the shores of that place were found to answer the purpose of improving the roads very materially, and he had the authority of the Mail Stage driver for stating that the roads at Summerside and vicinity were in a better state of repair than those of Charlottetown and Royalty.

Messrs. Howat and Haslam concurred with Mr. McLennan, and supported the propriety of using the shore stone as the best material that could, under existing circumstances, be applied.

The Resolution in question, with several others, were then reported agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Duncan, the Bill to amend the Act to incorporate the Church at Valleyfield, Brown's Creek was read a third time and passed.

The Dispatch which accompanied the Blue Book for the year 1864, was then submitted by the Leader of the Government, as asked for by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Howlan asked for the correspondence relating to the dismissal of Robert Gordon from the office of Justice of the Peace.

From the leader of the Government said the documents alluded to would be submitted.

Hon. Mr. Coles gave notice that, on to-morrow, he would ask the Government for a copy of the tenders relating to steam Communication on Hillsborough River.

Hon. Mr. Kelly asked for the report of the proceedings that had taken place relative to certain charges alleged against James McQuaid, a Justice of the Peace.

Hon. Leader of the Government said the papers asked for would be submitted.

Mr. Phelan presented a petition from seven inhabitants of Fintona, relative to the appointment of a third Judge of the Supreme Court, alleging that the time had arrived when the highest business transactions, as well as the necessities of the Colony imperatively demanded that such an appointment should be made.

Hon. Mr. Coles moved for the withdrawal of the petition on the ground that it had for its object the granting of money, and should therefore have been presented through the Executive Government. He then quoted authority on that point.

Hon. Sol. General said that the objections offered could not affect the capacity to receive the petition, because of the Rule of that hon. House, adopted in the year 1863, and under which that House acted.

Hon. Mr. Warburton supported the motion to withdraw the petition, on the ground that the subject to which it alluded should have originated with the Government.

Mr. Howat said he was inclined to support the motion for the withdrawal of the petition on the ground that any action on the subject thereof would be premature until it would be submitted to the people, they were the proper tribunal to pronounce on its merits.

Hon. Mr. Pope said that it would be a want of courtesy on the part of that hon. House to vote for the withdrawal of the petition. It was not the intention of the Government to introduce any Bill on the subject of the petition, yet it was but fair and proper to receive it, and order that it do lie on the table, that being the ordinary mode of procedure in such cases.

Hon. Mr. McFadden said that a large number of his constituents, as well as others, had, by petition, made application for a third Judge on the Bench. On that question, he would vote as an independent member of that House; he deemed it his duty to the country to support the receiving of the petition.

Hon. Mr. Longworth said it would be highly improper to deal with the petition in the summary manner proposed by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. It was but ordinary justice to the country to have the subject laid before that House.

Hon. Mr. Davies said that the allegations set forth in the petition were not without foundation; the prayer of the petitioners should not therefore be treated discourteously.

Mr. Brecken said the motion to withdraw the petition was a very illiberal one indeed; to throw out a petition on a subject of such vast importance would, in his opinion, be a very illiberal act, and an insult to the people.

Hon. Mr. Coles said he wished it to be distinctly understood that his principal objection was to the mode in which the matter was accompanied to be received. The Government should have grappled manfully with the subject, and submit it to that hon. House, in the same manner as all Bills for the initiation of money votes were received.

Hon. Mr. Listed saw no reason for submitting the matter at that late stage of the Session, especially as the Government were not prepared to take action on the subject.

Hon. Mr. Hensley would support the motion to receive the petition without expressing any opinion on its merits, on the ground that he considered it in perfect harmony with the rule of the House, as quoted by the Solicitor General, to receive

The question was then put on the motion to withdraw the

petition, which was negatived on the following division:

Yeas—Hons. Messrs. Coles, Warburton, Kelly, Laird, Messrs. Howat, Walker, Conroy, Howat, and Sinclair—8.
Nays—Hons. Messrs. Pope, Longworth, Solicitor General, Davies, Kaye, Hensley, McFadden, Messrs. Green, Manning, Montgomery, McLennan, Huxton, Fox, Brecken and Duncan—15.

House in Committee on Pauper Scares—agreed to several Resolutions and reported progress.

Hon. Solicitor General introduced a Bill to prevent the clandestine training of persons to the use of arms, and to the practice of military evolutions. In explaining the object of the Bill, he observed that the unlawful assembling of men for practices of that nature tended to create alarm in the minds of many, and to endanger the peace of the community. It might, perhaps, be said that an Act of that nature was not required on our Statute Book; but when it would be remembered that a band of Fenians had recently made enquiry in a town in Maine, U.S., to know if they could ship, in fishing schooners, fire-arms, in order to land them on our shores, he thought that an objection would be offered to the Bill—which provided that all meetings for the purpose of training or drilling for the use of arms, or for practising military exercises or evolutions, without the lawful authority of her Majesty, or the Lieutenant Governor, or two Justices of the Peace of any County, or Commission for so doing would be considered illegal, and that parties offending against the provisions of the Bill, would be punished by fine or imprisonment.

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

Hon. Mr. Pope submitted the Bill in amendment to the Land Purchase Act. Received and read.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Coles, the Bill to place a gate at the shore of Covehead, was read a third time and passed.

Mr. Montgomery, Chairman of the Committee to whom was referred all petitions relating to Post Offices throughout the Island, presented the Report of said Committee. Ordered that said Report be committed to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

The Bill to amend the Election law was committed to a Committee of the whole House, and after some time spent therein progress was reported.

On motion of the hon. leader of the Government, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, to take into consideration the Despatches and Correspondence transmitted by Message from His Excellency.

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

TUESDAY, May 3.

On motion of the Hon. Leader of the Government, the Bill to extend the Land Purchase Act was committed to a Committee of the whole House and reported agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Brecken, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the Bill to amend the law relating to Real Property.

Mr. Brecken explained that the object of the Bill was to give a retrospective effect to the Act of last session touching the title deeds and the leases of many people of the Island, which, having been drawn up by non-professional men, were defective. The object of the Bill was to secure the owners of such lands in their possessions, in accordance with the original intent of the grantors of such lands.

Hon. Mr. Hensley supported the Bill, which, he said, was a just and equitable measure, and spoke of the defective manner in which many of the deeds held by the people of the Island were drawn up for want of compliance with the laws relating to conveyances.

Hon. Mr. Coles would ask hon. members of the legal profession if, to their knowledge, any cases of dispute were pending that might be affected by the Bill?

Hon. Solicitor General said he was not aware of any case of that nature pending, or that any process was issued against any parties who would be affected by the Bill.

Hon. Mr. Langworth spoke of the justice and necessity of the Bill, and remarked that a large number of the deeds on record in the Registry Office had been drawn up by non-professional men, and were generally defective, because the necessary references and recitals, provided by Statute, had not been inserted in such deeds of conveyance.

Hon. Solicitor General, though not aware of the existence of any case that would be disturbed by the Bill, yet deemed it proper to protect the rights of parties in such cases, and would therefore submit that the Bill be amended to the effect, that nothing therein contained should interfere with any case or process now pending in the Supreme Court. The object of the Bill was to confirm the original intent of the grantors of deeds, however imperfectly executed, and thereby set at rest any doubts that may have existed on that subject.

The Bill was then reported agreed to.

The House then went into Committee on the Bill to amend the Act relating to the Oyster Fisheries.

Hon. Mr. Coles said that the rights of private individuals, who had leased Oyster Fishing grounds, should be protected in their rights; it would be unfair to allow their beds, or oyster broods, to be in any way molested without ample compensation. Such cases should not be deprived of their rights by any act of the Legislature.

Hon. Mr. Pope said it would be a difficult matter to ascertain what losses could possibly be sustained under the provisions of the Bill. Farmers, however, were threatened with prosecutions for taking such mud from the grounds leased for the protection of oysters, if they, in any way, should disturb a single oyster when digging mussel mud. It was therefore high time that all doubts on that point be set at rest; the evident intention of the Legislature was to allow farmers full liberty to take mud, or shells mixed with mud, for manuring purposes, without restriction; their rights, therefore, must be protected as well as that of the lessees of such oyster fishing grounds.

Hon. Mr. Hensley said it was to be regretted that any enactment of the Legislature should have restricted the farmers of the country in their rights to procure mussel mud for manuring purposes, yet it must be remembered that the oyster grounds have been laid off and surveyed, and possession of such grounds, in some instances, given to the lessees thereof, whose rights should not now be disturbed without ample compensation. He was, however, prepared to throw off any restrictions that might exist to impede the rights of farmers to such grounds, for the purposes aforesaid, by supporting any measure giving compensation to parties who might be prejudiced by the Bill.

Mr. McLennan said it was unnecessary for him to go into details touching the point upon which differences of opinion had arisen among parties in his vicinity. In running the lines, when laying off the oyster grounds in the Harbor of Bedeque, a mistake was committed. He was, however, of the opinion, that farmers could not be prosecuted, even under the provisions of the Bill of last session. Hon. members of the legal profession, on both sides of the House, gave their concurrence to that Bill, and he did not think they would have sanctioned any measure that would restrict the rights of the farmers of the Colony. The amendment introduced by the Hon. Leader of the Government would remove all doubts on the subject, by giving farmers the free and unrestricted use of mussel beds; he would therefore give it his hearty support.

Mr. Howlan—If the Government had made wrong surveys, it would be highly improper to inflict punishment on a Lessee who may have expended hundreds of pounds in planting and sipping his Oyster grounds, because of the errors that the Government, or their officers, might have committed, by having his labors disturbed and his plans for the prosecution of the Oyster Fishery frustrated.

Hon. Mr. Dwyer recommended that Oyster beds, or grounds, so leased, be protected and guarded by the insertion of a clause

in the Bill to that effect; but all future leases, for such grounds, to be subject to the amendments contemplated.

Mr. Howat could not understand what the Lessees of such grounds had to complain of; it was never intended to prohibit farmers from the uninterrupted use of mussel beds, for the purpose of procuring manure; and as doubts appeared to exist in the minds of some touching that question, the sooner all such doubts and fears were removed the better.

Hon. Mr. Langworth regretted that conflicts or disputes had arisen between parties on the subject under consideration. In proceeding to legislate on this subject it would be necessary for the House to exercise caution. It was entirely the first duty to protect the farming interests, but in doing that they must not legislate to the injury of private interests. To obviate all difficulty, therefore, it would be better to make the Bill prospective in its operation; and with regard to any grant that may have been already made by the Government, provisions might be made for granting compensation to the grantees or lessees, in cases where he could show that he had been injuriously affected by the operation of the Bill. The Bill should make provision to that effect, or it should contain a suspending clause in accordance with the Royal Instructions. Existing contracts should not be disturbed to the prejudice of any party.

After some further remarks from hon. members, progress was reported.

Mr. Green, Chairman of the Committee to whom was referred all petitions relating to the opening of new roads, presented the report of that Committee.

House in Committee on matters relating to Roads, Bridges and Wharfs, reported several Road Scales agreed to.

Mr. Yeo, Chairman of the Committee to whom was referred the petition of divers inhabitants of Prince County, asking for the establishment of a Small Debt Court at Lot 8, presented a Bill in conformity with the prayer of said petition. Said Bill was received and read.

Hon. Solicitor General introduced a Bill relating to the better securing of the Crown and Government of the United Kingdom within this Colony. Received and read.

The Bill to amend the Savings' Bank Act was read a third time and passed.

House resumed the consideration of Despatches, &c. When the Despatches and Correspondence relating to the expenditure caused by the sending for Her Majesty's troops to suppress civil disturbances was read—

Hon. leader of the Opposition rose, in his place, and submitted a resolution to the effect, that the heavy expenditures to which this country has been subjected, and the extreme agitation on the land question, involving and causing the presence of a military force in the Colony, had been caused by the many promises made by the Government to settle that vexed question between landlord and tenant, which promises had never been fulfilled, to the great detriment of the tenantry.

A debate then ensued touching the several actions and measures of both the Liberal and Conservative Governments, since the purchase of the Worroll Estate down to the present, in relation to the Land Question. During the debate, which was kept up to a late hour, each party contended that they were actuated by the best motives in the adoption of the various schemes which had been from time to time legislated upon, for the final settlement of that question.

Hon. leader of the Government, and several other hon. members of the majority, contended the beneficial results had accrued to many of the tenantry from the different measures introduced during the present administration. The purchasing of several estates from Proprietors, the cancelling of large arrears of rents on other estates, the reduction of rents on certain Townships, and the extension of the Land Purchase Bill, were measures which could not fail to meet the approval of all impartial minds, and which afforded ample proof of the desire of the Government to promote the best interests of the people.

Hon. Messrs. Coles, Whelan, and others, in supporting the Resolution on the contrary, contended that the whole policy of the Government, from the year 1859, had been calculated to create false hopes in the minds of the people—their failure in the fulfilment of their promises led to the formation of the Tenant League, which necessitated the bringing of the troops, and involved the country in the large expenditure alluded to in the Despatches before the Committee.

The question was then put on the Resolution submitted by the Hon. Mr. Coles, and resulted as follows:

For the Resolution—Hons. Messrs. Coles, Warburton, Whelan, Henley, Kelly; Messrs. Sinclair, Howlan, Conroy, Walker.

Against it—Hons. Messrs. Hope, Longworth, Solicitor General, Davies, McCulloch, Kaye; Messrs. Howat, Haslam, Dunlop, McLennan, Montgomery, Green, Ramsay.—13.

Progress was then reported and the House adjourned.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

TENANT LEAGUE.

(Continued from page 36.)

Mr. HASLAM. Mr. Chairman, I conceive it to be due both to the country and the Government, and to myself, that I should give some explanation of my own views touching the Tenant League movement. I am surprised, not at the strength, but the weakness of the arguments which have been advanced by members in opposition, in support of their condemnation of the policy adopted by the Government for the suppression of the League, the prevention of civil disturbances, and the protection of the sacred rights of property. And, I may say, I am also surprised at the disagreement, as respects the grounds, on which different hon. members on the other side of the House have, on this occasion, brought forward their charges against the Government. Some of these hon. members charge the Government with culpable remissness and want of determination in the discharge of their duty; inasmuch as they maintain that no serious disturbances would have been occasioned by the League, and that there would have been no necessity for calling in the troops, had they (the Government) at the first, caused a due and energetic exercise of the civil power for its suppression. Then, on the other hand, other hon. members in opposition charge them (the Government) with having been a great deal too precipitate; and argue that the best policy for the Government to have pursued would have been prudent, but vigilant, forbearance, gentleness, and good advice. Such different and contradictory grounds, assumed by hon. members in opposition for the basis of their condemnation of the Government—their having been too quick, with some; their having been too slow with others—reminds me very strongly of an anecdote which I have heard of a fellow who, on the road, was heard soliloquizing in a very determined, although strangely, contradictory manner, as he was reeling home, at night, from the tavern. "Now," said he aloud, "if, when I get home, I find that my wife is not gone to bed I will beat her for sitting up so late, and wasting fire and candles." And, then, having made a reeling lurch to the other side of the road, he resumed his soliloquy, and said: "And, if she is gone to bed, I will beat her for not having sat up to get me my supper." Thus, it seemed, the drunken fellow's determination was to beat his wife at all events, whether he found her sitting up, waiting to give him his supper; or whether, to economize their coal and candles, she should be found, by him, to have gone to bed in good time; and, exactly in the same contradictory manner, hon. members in opposition condemned the Government,—

one part for having been too quick, and another part for having been too slow, in having recourse to energetic action for the suppression of the foolish and unlawful proceedings of the Tenant League; and, although thus divided as to their grounds of censure, they were perfectly at accord in their determination to condemn the Government at all events. It is, indeed, much to be regretted, I fully admit, that it has not been found possible to inflict legal punishment upon the mischievous and designing leaders of the League, who incited numbers of poor and uninformed men to withhold the payment of their rents, and to organize themselves for the purpose of resisting the law; whilst they themselves, at the same time, took care to pay their rents, although in a secret and covert manner. I have been told, by a gentleman in Town, that some of those leaders have entered his office in the dusk of the evening, paid their rents, and then gone off for the purpose of advising others, ever whom, by their craft and plausibility they had attained an ascendancy, to resist all demands for rent. Such mischievous and designing men were, undoubtedly, deserving of being punished with all the rigour of the law; but they had acted with so much caution and cunning, as respected their own individual interests, that it had been impossible to lay hold of them, for punishment by any proceedings at law. There had, likewise, been a clique, in Chesham, who, for party political purposes, had, not only by evil counsels, but by liberal subscriptions, given encouragement to the League, and so induced the mass of its simple and uninformed members to believe, not only in the justice and propriety, but also in the safety and efficiency, of the course they were pursuing for their emancipation from the bonds of the leasehold system. These individuals, equally with the more open and desperate leaders of the League, were certainly to blame for the extreme length to which the organization had proceeded, for the disturbance which had ensued, and for the great outlay of public money which had been consequent thereon, for the restoration of peace and good order in the community, and the due assertion of the supremacy of the law. The individuals who composed that clique—gentlemen of knowledge and education as they were—were, undoubtedly, morally guilty to as great an extent as any of the more openly active leaders and encouragers of the League; but they had acted with so much selfish prudence, and reserve that it was impossible to make them amenable to the laws at the bar of public justice. There were some of such designing crafty men—such instigators to rebellion and resistance to the law—in many parts of the country; and, as they were returning home, after they had been prevented, by the special constables, from carrying into effect their intention of releasing Diskeisson from the custody of the law, a party of them were met upon the road by a friend of mine, and, referring to the exciting occurrences of the day, and the object of their visit to Chesham, they told him the next time they made such an attempt they would be prepared to carry it into effect by force of arms; they would not go again unarmed for such a purpose. When such was known to be the determination of some of the most influential and most trusted leaders of the League, it was surely high time to think of calling in the aid of Her Majesty's Troops for the suppression of the organization, and for the preservation of life and property.

Mr. HOWLAN: Did you, as it was your duty to do, make the government acquainted with your knowledge of so alarming an intention on the part of leaders of the Tenant League?

Mr. HASLAM. I admit that I gave no direct information to the Government concerning my knowledge of this determination on the part of such leaders of the League;

for, having perfect confidence in the vigilance and wisdom of the Government, I believed they would not fall by effective precautionary measures, to anticipate and prevent any such insurrectionary proceedings on the part of the League. The hon. member then proceeded to say: By invitation, I attended a certain meeting which had been called by some of the Tenant League delegates, and was held within two miles of my own house. The tenants assembled upon that occasion—none of whom were members of the League—said to me, in substance, on my appearing among them: "You have always professed to be our friend, and have frequently declared your readiness to lend your aid for the promotion of any just scheme, which may be devised for the lessening of our grievances under the leasehold system; and we would now be glad to know what you think of the Tenant League, and whether or not you would advise us to become members of it." Well, in order that, to my friends—the tenants there assembled—I might, in a way the most likely to be effectual, convince them of the folly and illegality of the League, and of the ruinous consequences which would inevitably attend, or follow the carrying of their dishonest and seditious principles into practice, I proceeded, by means of direct questions, put by me to the League delegates who had called the meeting, to shew that what they called their Constitution was wholly based upon a seditious resolution or pledge, to resist "distrain, coercion, seizure, and sale for rent and arrears of rent, until their landlords should consent to sell their farms to them, at such a valuation as they (the Union) should place upon them." Having elicited this, I endeavoured to convince the assembled tenants of the district of the dishonesty of the principles of the Constitution by which the League was governed and held together, and to prove to them how utterly impossible it would be, by any such organization, to evade the just demands of their landlords, or to resist the authority of the law, and escape the ruinous consequences of such dishonesty, folly, and madness; and happily, so successful was I in my endeavours to that end, that not one of those for whose benefit my explanation and counsel were especially intended, either gave in his adhesion to the principles of the League, or subscribed one farthing to its funds. I have much satisfaction in thinking that, on that occasion, I was successful in my endeavours to defeat the mischievous designs of the Tenant League delegates who called the meeting; but I was sorry to find, afterwards, that greater success attended their mission in another quarter, not far distant, in which they, soon after, held other meeting; and, as an evidence of the terrorism, by means of which, more than by the plausibility of their arguments, they succeeded in increasing their numbers and supplying their exchequer, I may mention that amongst others who attended those meetings, was a poor, illiterate man, a Scotch Highlander, who had the wit—more than he was suspected to possess—to expose both the dishonesty and impracticability of the Tenant League pledge, with respect to their intention of compelling proprietors to sell the fee simple of their lands at Tenant League valuation; and this he did by putting to one of the delegates, this simple question: "If I owed you £30, would you be willing to take from me 30s as full satisfaction for the whole debt?" So indignant, however, were the Leaguers, at this exposition of their dishonest principles, and so threatening, towards the poor man, were they in their words and looks, that, through very fear, he allowed himself to be enrolled a member of the association. His having done so, however, becoming known to the agent of his landlord, a writ was issued and served upon him, and he was mulcted in 50s costs; and that he says, was the only benefit he derived from his connection with the Tenant

League. The case of this poor man is not, I believe, a solitary one; for many—mechanics and others—through the force of the terrorism which was brought to bear against them, by the League, allowed themselves to be enrolled as members of it, and contributed to its funds, whilst, at the same time, they looked with just detestation upon the dishonest and seditious principles by which the organization was governed.

Hon. Mr. KELLY. The Hon. member as a justification for bringing the troops, says he heard it said in his neighbourhood by some person that stronger resistance would be made against the sheriff and constables the next time they returned, although he did not then advise the Government, thereof, I might also say that I heard similar ill tales in my locality, told by a person who escaped from the lunatic asylum some time previous, of which however I did not think it worth while to inform the Government.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN. Mr. Chairman, as it seems to be the determination of the Committee that we should come to a decision, at our present sitting, concerning the paragraph having reference to the Tenant League, which, together with the amendment submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, is now the subject of discussion, I rise, though the hour is late, not only for the purpose of simply voting in favor of the amendment, but also with the intention of publicly declaring the reasons by which I am influenced in giving my support to that amendment. These reasons, I hope, it will be seen, as I state them to the Committee, are such as ought not, by any means, to subject me to the charge of having taken a mere party view of the question. I am decidedly of opinion that had due diligence been exercised, in the beginning, by the Government, for the suppression of the Tenant League movement, it would never have been carried to the extreme height of illegality and danger to which it attained; nor would it have become necessary to have recourse to military aid to sustain the officers of the law in the due performance of their duty, and to bring about the re-establishment of peace and good order in those quarters of the Island in which they had been so unfortunately broken or disturbed. I do not deny that, by the serious disturbances which had arisen through the Tenant League movement, and the attitude of determined defiance of the law and the constitutional authorities of the land,—the Government were perfectly justified in sending for a detachment of Her Majesty's Troops at the time they did so, six or seven months ago. But I maintain they should have done so at the time, when, confident in the power which the boasted magnitude of their organization gave them to resist the law, they boldly published, in their organ, *Ross's Weekly*, that dishonest and seditious pledge, by which they bound themselves, "individually and collectively," to withhold payment of their rents, and to resist every legal measure which might be had recourse to for the purpose of compelling them to pay them. In 1864 the League formed their Constitution, taking for its basis that seditious pledge, which I will now read. The Hon. member then read, as follows, the pledge to which he alluded:

"Resolved, That we, the Tenantry of ——— individually and collectively, virtually and solemnly pledge our honor and fidelity to each other to withhold the further liquidation of rent and arrears of rent; and thus voluntarily enroll our respective names, as a tenant organization, to resist the distrain, coercion, ejection, seizure, and sale for rents and arrears of rent, until a compromise be effected in conformity with resolutions proposed and carried by the meetings of Lot 48, 49 and 50; and further understood that each signature hereto annexed bear a proportionate share of expenses in connection with this organization."

Soon after this pledge was made public, I published in the *Examiner* my opinion of it, as well as my sentiments touching the propriety of the organization of the tenantry into Societies or Leagues, based upon lawful and constitutional principles, with a view to the acquisition of that power which they would derive from unity of action in their struggles against the leasehold system. What I wrote at that time, concerning the propriety and utility of such Societies or Leagues, I will now read. The hon. member then read as follows from the *Examiner* of—1866:

"The organization of the tenantry into Societies or Leagues is very proper, and would, if managed with care and judgment, be eminently useful to the tenantry in their constitutional struggles against the leasehold system. Heretofore they have been only remarkable for their distrust of each other—for their national and religious antipathies—and for their disunion, where union was most required, at election contests. The Irishman and the Isle-of-Skys man—taking these as types of the tenant population of the country—have felt the yoke of landlordism more keenly than others in a like condition; yet the son of the Emerald Isle and the son of the Heather seldom meet without scowling upon each other, and without indulging in mutual taunts about religion and national characteristics. These taunts prompt them to pursue different courses when they go to the hustings; and we behold there the singular spectacle of two classes of men, both burning to break the shackles of the proprietary system, in fierce antagonism—one class voting dead against the supporters of that system, and the other upholding it, as far as they possibly can do, by voting for the creatures and nominees of the proprietary party."

"Give us, then, a Tenant League, subdivided into as many branches as possible, that will serve to remove national and religious prejudices, that will work harmoniously for the attainment of a common object, and we shall most heartily encourage it to the utmost of our power. Such an institution would be a standing protest against the leasehold system as long as it lasts—it would keep landlord tyranny and oppression in check—it would rebuke the petty insolence and oppression of Agents and Bailiffs—and it would or should come to the relief of unfortunate tenants when cruelly distressed by unfeeling landlords. In these respects a Tenant League or Union would be of great benefit to the rent-paying portion of our population."

"We agree with them that it is very desirable to have the tenantry united in giving a moral opposition to landlord oppression—we will labour with them to have the leasehold tenure abolished, in the speediest and most honest way, by Government purchase—we will join heart and soul with them to have their views fairly and fully represented in Parliament—we will help them, as far as we can, to destroy the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill—we will encourage, to the extent of our ability, the good work of charity in sheltering the houseless and the helpless that may be singled out as the victims of landlord tyranny; but we shall never advise any man to repudiate his obligations, or to do what is still more foolish—to rebel against the constitution and the laws of the land in which he lives."

Such were my sentiments concerning Tenant League associations at the time when I wrote what I have just read; and such they continue to be. Upon the Constitution which they framed upon the illegal and seditious pledge which I have just read, the League continued to act, as was well known to the Government, and, indeed, to the whole country, from August, 1864, to August, 1865, or thereabouts, when they made a slight alteration in the basis of their union, to the effect that it was permitted, to all such members of the League as felt disposed to do so, to pay their rents. How magnanimous! Now, Sir, I beg leave to ask why did the Government, as respects the League, remain inactive all that time? Why were no efforts made by them to put it

down? Was it because it had its origin in two districts—one of which is represented, in this House, by a member of the Government, and the other by another hon. member of this branch of the Legislature, a quondam supporter of the Government—I know not, indeed, whether or not he is so now; but if not so at present, it is not impossible he may be so again? Was it, I ask, because of the existence of the Tenant League in these two districts, that the Government so long forbore to have recourse to proper and efficient means for its extinction? I fear it was; nay, indeed, I really believe it was the sole reason by which they were so long restrained from the adoption of stringent and energetic measures for the suppression of the Tenant League movement. When the improper pledge by which the members of the Tenant League had bound themselves together, first appeared in their organ, *Ross's Weekly*, I did not hesitate to condemn it in the columns of the *Examiner*, and published my condemnation without previously consulting either my hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition, or any other member of the Liberal party. I took the whole responsibility of doing so upon myself, and there I am satisfied that it shall remain. I have, indeed, been indirectly censured by my hon. friend on my left (Hon. Mr. Coles) for what he considers the rather undus asperity of the language in which I conveyed my detestation of the principles which the League had laid down as their rule of action; but considering the adoption of those principles—principles in every point of view dangerous and disloyal—directly calculated to loosen the bonds of society, in the fervour of the abhorrence which their adoption by the League excited in my mind, I believe I was not over nice in the choice of epithets by which to characterise the guilty leaders and instigators of the contumacious and seditious movement; and, even now, I do not regret the language which I used, in condemnation of the Tenant League leaders and of the principles which they instilled into the minds of the misguided and ill-informed people whom they urged on to the commission of breaches of the peace, and to such a course of resistance to the lawful demands of their landlords, as have brought upon them incalculable distress and misery. Nevertheless, I am very far from denying that the tenantry had many causes of complaint, both against proprietors and the Government, or from saying they had not very good and sufficient reasons for organizing themselves into Leagues or Societies with a view to their struggling more successfully, by means of such organizations, than they could do singly, to free themselves from the burthens which weigh them down under the leasehold tenure. On the contrary, I believe the non-fulfilment of the promises made to them by the party now in power, on their assuming the reins of Government, in 1859, to have been the primary cause of all the disaffection which has lately been manifested by large bodies of the tenantry, to the Government; and also of all the civil disturbances which lately took place in the Colony. At that time, the party at present in power, denouncing, even through the mouth of His Excellency, the previous acts of their predecessors in power as illusory, assured the tenantry that by means of their superior wisdom, and through the efficacy of a measure which they were about to introduce and carry through the Legislature, complete redress of their grievances might be afforded in less than eight months; and even His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor himself was not one whit behind the members of his Government and their supporters in his denunciations of the measures of the party which had just gone out of power, and in the exuberance of his promises of speedy and effectual relief to the tenantry; and in directly addressing them, he bade them confidently

...and denounced the very best, the most equitable, the most practicable, measure which had ever been devised for their relief—the Land Purchase Bill...

Hon. Col. GRAY. Mr. Chairman, I would wish to put this question to the hon. member: Did he himself hear His Excellency so express himself with reference to the Land Purchase Bill, or has he it under His Excellency's own handwriting that he so expressed himself?

Hon. Mr. WHELAN. I certainly did not myself hear His Excellency so express himself with reference to the Land purchase Bill, and neither have I it under His own handwriting that he did so, but the words to which I have alluded, as used by His Excellency, condemnatory of the Land Purchase Bill, may be found, I think, in a reply of His Excellency to an address presented to him by the Belfast tenantry.

Hon. Col. GRAY. I accompanied His Excellency in his tour through my District and never heard him give utterance to any thing of the sort. On the contrary, I have not a shadow of a doubt that his Excellency, neither in the reply alluded to, nor at any other time, will be found to have expressed such sentiments as that the Land Purchase Bill was visionary and delusive. Still I will say without doubting, the hon. member's veracity. I doubt very much his source of information, and I would now ask the hon. member to produce the address alluded to and His Excellency's reply.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN. It is in the Royal Gazette, I cannot lay my hand on it now, but can easily get it by to-morrow. The hon. gentleman then continued his speech as follows: I wished only to show that the expectations which were excited in the minds of the tenantry by the large and confident promises made to them by the Government and their parliamentary supporters, and the great and grievous disappointment which, in consequence of the non-fulfilment of those promises, has for a length of time past, preyed upon the minds of the tenantry, have, together, caused the combination, the unlawful proceedings of which, too long disregarded and unexpressed by the Government, have brought about the necessity of sending for troops. At the time the Tenant League Constitution made its appearance in print, after having been signed by the poor uneducated men who had been duped into a recognition of its principles by the crafty organizers and promoters of the League, I wrote the editorial article which I have just read. The sentiments thereby expressed were my sentiments at the time; they are my sentiments still; and by them I am prepared to stand though good report and through evil report. If, as it is stated in the letter of the Sheriff, Mr. Dodd, which was read a short time since, the aid of 20 or 30 constables would have been sufficient to enable the Sheriff—whether it may have been Sheriff Morris or Sheriff Dodd—to discharge his official duties among the tenantry, are not the Government very culpable, in not having afforded that assistance, and thereby warded off the necessity of sending for the troops? As for their having sanctioned the calling out of the Posse Comitatus by the Sheriff, in doing so they exposed themselves, the Sheriff, and the whole Possessors to ridicule and contempt; the greatest share of which was, however, due to the Government; and well may they be deservedly asked, How could they expect that the man to be apprehended by the Posse, would, after having three or four days' notice of their design, stupidly remain at home to be arrested at his own fire-side, or possibly in his bed? However, the Sheriff, Mr. Morris, himself,

...of two respectable men, calling on constables under his direction, had in due time gone quietly about the business. There is little doubt that it could easily have been effected. But instead of recommending the Sheriff to adopt so prudent and easy a course, they intimated to him his power to call out the Posse Comitatus; and, great as it, allowed him to put the whole under the guidance and direction of the most obnoxious character in the country. The Hon. the Solicitor General had defended the Sheriff for having had recourse to the ridiculous measure of calling out the Posse Comitatus, as a proceeding fully authorized and sanctioned by law in every country in which the British Constitution prevails. But I would ask him, if he (as a lawyer) very well knew that there are still extant upon the Statute Book of Great Britain, many absurd and antiquated laws, which, though unexecuted, have been rendered completely obsolete, merely in consequence of their gross absurdity? And will he pretend seriously to maintain that this statute which empowers the Sheriff or bail to call the Posse Comitatus, is not one which ought to come under the same category as many others which have been recently allowed to become dead letters in law, simply on account of their absurdity? And, besides, I think it very serious on the part of the Government to throw the onus of having called out the Posse Comitatus wholly upon the Sheriff. He writes to the Government, requesting instructions as to the course which he ought to pursue in the difficult position in which he found himself; and, in reply, they referred him to the power of calling out the Posse Comitatus, with which he, in his official capacity, was alone vested. This reference he doubtless understood as a suggestion from them that the best course for him to pursue would be to call out the Posse Comitatus; and, therefore, I say that the Government, and not the Sheriff, are fairly chargeable with the folly of having caused recourse to be had to so absurd and antiquated a practice.

Hon. the Solicitor General (Mr. HAVILAND) rose to a point of order, and explained that the law empowering the Sheriff to call out the Posse Comitatus, is so far from having become obsolete that when he (the Sheriff) finds himself unable to execute a writ by ordinary means, the calling out of the Posse Comitatus is the only way by which he can secure himself against the civil consequences for having failed to effect its execution.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN resumed. I will not, Mr. Chairman, trespass upon your time much longer, considering how long you have been in that chair this evening. I support the Resolution in amendment, because it is nothing but a simple proposition affirming what I believe to be a fact, namely, that the alleged open and systematic defiance of the Law might have been averted by a more prompt and energetic use of the civil authority when the danger of disturbances first became manifest, and, thereby, the necessity of sending for the Troops has been avoided. That necessity was, however, allowed to arise; and I, for one, freely acknowledge that such was the dangerous and infamous state of the country, that the Troops were not sent for a moment too soon. Their presence has had the desired effect, that of reducing the disaffected and contumacious to obedience to the Law; and peace and order now happily again reign within our borders. The presence of the military has the effect of imparting to the community, socially and individually, that sense of security as respects the possession and retention of whatever we highly prize or hold dear, without which we can know no real pleasure or happiness. Their presence imparts to the minds of the well disposed a feeling

of satisfaction, arising from the conviction that, deterred by it, the most evil-disposed amongst us will make no attempts at riot or commotion—that the laws will not be set aside, nor the administrative power be contemned, insulted, or defied. In another point of view also, I regard the presence of the Troops as highly beneficial. Their officers are, almost invariably found to be men of talent, education and knowledge—men actuated by a most scrupulous sense of honor, and possessed of all the accomplishments and graces of mind and body which are so acceptable and so highly prized in good society; and I feel certain that, in the social intercourse accorded to them—and which is always extended to their class in this community—they will, in every circle in which they move, be found the means of adding much to its refined and intellectual enjoyments, and of calling forth into more expanded form and into greater activity all its social amenities—every grace, accomplishment and virtue, by which it is adorned. I will now say no more, but that I shall vote for the amendment, because I believe that, as set forth in that amendment, had proper means been had recourse to, at first, to repress the insubordination of the Tenant League, there would have been no necessity for having recourse to the “extraordinary measures” referred to in His Excellency’s Speech.

Mr. HOWAT said, he felt himself placed in a very peculiar position, relative to the question under discussion. He could not support the paragraph in the address, which gave rise to that debate, and neither could he conscientiously vote for the amendment submitted by the hon. leader of the opposition. From the wording of that amendment and the arguments advanced in support thereof, it would appear that the principal complaint against the Government was, that action had not been taken at an earlier period than it, was to suppress the tenant movement, by which, it was argued, much of the trouble that had subsequently arisen might have been avoided. On that point he must differ with the supporters of the amendment, because he had failed to hear any arguments advanced on either side of the House, to change his views on the matter—that no emergency had arisen to justify the sending for troops, at any period in the history of that movement from the time of its commencement up to the present date. No people in the world could be more loyal and law-abiding than the large majority of the people of this Colony. In fact, the main body of the Tenant League organization were never guilty of the resistance to the laws, which has been attributed to them. Those who were unfortunately suffering imprisonment for an infraction of the law, were placed in that painful situation more through ignorance, than from any wilful intention on their part to commit breaches of the peace. There were, in his opinion, sufficient means at the disposal of the Government within the Island, for the suppression of any trouble that had arisen, and it was the duty of the Government to have tried those means before they sent for troops. He had no desire to attribute improper motives to the Government, but he would not admit that they were infallible. The opposition censured the Government for not having taken action sooner for the suppression of the League movement; but he was of the opinion that they took action too soon as respected the sending for the troops. The hon. member for Murray Harbor (Mr. Duncan) appeared to think that no member of the majority should offer any opposition to the action of the Government on any question. He (Mr. Howat) however would not bow with submission, and yield implicit obedience to all the actions of any party. He was sent to that House to guard the rights of the people and he would unflinchingly discharge the trust reposed in him by his Constituents, regardless of the insinuations of that

hon. member. In regard to the question before the Committee, as he conscientiously differed, not only from the opinion set forth in the draft Address, but likewise from that expressed in the amendment submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the Government, he could not vote for either. The Resolution in amendment which he then held in his hand briefly expressed his own opinion relative to the question under consideration, which, by permission, he would read, and then submit as an amendment to the amendment which had been submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition. The hon. member then read and submitted his amendment, as follows:

“That the House of Assembly regret the disturbances and troubles which occurred in this Colony in the past year; but the House, at the same time, are of opinion that the alleged open and systematic defiance of the law might have been set aside by a further recourse to the aid of the Civil Power at the disposal of the local authorities, before calling in the aid of Her Majesty’s troops.”

Hon. Mr. GOLES. The hon. member from Tryon ought to understand, that the amendment before the Committee does not mean that the Government ought to have sent for the Troops sooner. It only means that, had they, at an earlier period than they did, had recourse to a more energetic exercise of the civil power, the disturbances would have been prevented, and consequently there would have been no necessity for sending for the Troops.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES, in a few words, explained—in accordance with previous statements of hon. members of the Government—what had been done by the Government for the repression of the Tenant League movement, and the prevention of disturbances, before they felt themselves compelled, by the force of circumstances, to recognize, and act upon, the necessity of calling in the aid of the Troops; and concluded by observing, that, had they (the Government) carried the exercise of the civil power, for the support of the law, to a greater extent than they did, the outcry raised against them, on that score, by members in opposition, would, he verily believed, have been still greater than that in which they now so freely indulged concerning the bringing in of the Troops.

Hon. Mr. GOLES replied that when the Liberals were in power, they were continually censured by the party now in power, but then in opposition, for having taken power under “the Bloody Despatch.” Now the fact was, as he had often asserted and proved, that when he and his party took power, they were entirely ignorant of the existence of that despatch; and more than that, he rejoiced in being able to say that, although that despatch came to light soon after the formation of the Liberal Government, and was, in a manner, thrust upon them, they never had recourse to it during the whole eight years they were in power. Their rule was a rule of peace, prosperity, and confidence. It was left to the present Government—first, by their mismanagement of public affairs and public interests, by their deceptive and unfulfilled or broken promises, to excite discontent and disaffection on the part of thousands of our peaceful, industrious, freedom-loving, but shackled tenantry, to the provoking, as they allege, of open and systematic defiance of the Law; and then, to draw forth that despatch from the recesses of the public archives, and, in virtue of the power which it conferred upon them, call in the aid of the military, and, for the maintenance of their own power and for a due assertion of the supremacy of the laws, to establish in the country something very nearly approaching to military despotism. With the Liberal Government; the Bloody Despatch, had, on the contrary, remained nothing but a dead letter. They had not during the whole period of their power, ever found it neces-

sary even to authorize the swearing in of special constables for the preservation of the peace; no, not even on the occasion of the famous monster meeting called by the Charlotte-town Tories; and yet of the thousands who had flocked to Town on that occasion, both Liberals and Tories, not even one had his head broken, or received a scratch; but, on the contrary, all returned safely to their homes, sound in wind, limb, and eye-sight. (Laughter.) The rule of the Liberals was found to be just and equitable; and all their legislative measures were, so obviously intended for the general good, that, though the tenantry keenly felt their grievances, and earnestly desired a redress of them, yet they had perfect confidence in the good intentions and integrity of the Government—were satisfied patiently to wait until their liberation from proprietary bonds could be effected by the constitutional legislation, which they saw in progress to that end; and never, not even, in one solitary instance, during the liberal rule, did a tenant stand up to oppose the lawful demands of his landlord, or offer resistance to the authority of the law when exercised on his landlord's behalf. He maintained that it was the duty of a Government so to rule, that the people, fully convinced of its honesty, truthfulness, good intentions, and ability to rule for the common good, should feel no disposition—as they could have no provocation—to set themselves in open and combined opposition to the supremacy of the laws and the constitutional authorities of the land. And, he further maintained, that had the Liberals continued in power, such disturbances and resistance to the operation of the Law, as were referred to in His Excellency's Speech would never have taken place in the Island. He, however, believed that the present Government—notwithstanding the great disaffection which had been caused by their unfulfilled promises and inefficient and unsatisfactory legislation—notwithstanding the great exasperation of the tenantry on that account—might, by simply having afforded to the sheriff, in due time, the assistance of twenty or thirty special constables, have enabled him effectually, and with but little difficulty, to discharge all his official duties among the tenantry, in the serving of writs, the effecting of distrains, and the levying of executions. This the Sheriff, Mr. Dodd, himself had told him, in plain and express terms, he could have done, had the Government given him such assistance, at the commencement of the difficulties with which he had officially to contend. In reply, however, (continued the hon. member) to a note addressed to him by the Hon. the Leader of the Government, desiring to know whether or not he had made such a declaration to me, as that to which I have just alluded, that gentleman (Mr. Dodd) has, it seems, thought proper to contradict his former self, by saying that he spoke, not of himself, but of Sheriff Morris, his predecessor in the shrievalty, in the conversation which took place between him and me concerning the disturbed state of certain districts of the country, and the difficulties which he, consequently, experienced in the discharge of his official duties, in those districts. With respect to that denial, or rather equivocation, of Sheriff Dodd, I have now again only to say, that, in the conversation which I before alluded to, and to which he refers in his reply to the Hon. the Leader of the Government, he as clearly and distinctly spoke of himself, as Sheriff, and of no other Sheriff, as it was possible for him to speak. I took especial notice of his assertion; I have a most distinct recollection of it; and I positively declare that it was substantially as I have stated it to have been. Mr. Dodd is a gentleman, of whom I have always entertained a very high opinion, and I am very sorry to think that he can be forced to eringe so far to any Government as, at their dictation, to prevaricate, or to deny

his own words. However, for the nonce, even admitting his version of what he said to be correct, it serves my purpose quite as well as if he had admitted mine to be the true one. I repeated the assertion merely for the purpose of showing that even a gentleman, whose official position qualified him to speak with certainty upon the matter, entertained the same view of it as myself, which was, and is, as I have expressed it in the amendment which I have just submitted, that “the alleged open and systematic defiance of the Law might have been averted by a more prompt and energetic use of the civil authority, when the disturbances first made their appearance, and thus the recourse to extraordinary measures, as referred to in His Excellency's Speech, might have been avoided.” Well then, admitting for the moment that Sheriff Dodd spoke of Sheriff Morris, and not of himself, I will now say that, had the aid of twenty or thirty special constables been granted to Sheriff Morris, by the Government, when resistance to the law was first apprehended, there would have been no necessity either for calling out the *Posse Comitatus*, or for sending for the troops; and I maintain that the calling out of the *Posse Comitatus*, before the Sheriff had proved the assistance of a party of special constables to have been inefficient, was an undue exercise of the power with which he was officially vested to call out the civil force of the county. And, as for the sending for the Troops, I myself would have had no objection to the Government's having recourse to that last shift, had they, in the first place, duly tested the civil power.—The hon. member for the first District of Queen's County (Mr. Haslam) had told the Committee that he had been most credibly informed that a party of Leaguers, on their way home from Charlotte-town, on the day on which it was supposed that the reason for their having assembled in a large body—to the amount of four or five hundred, it was said—in the City, was their having conspired to effect the rescue of Dickieson, having been met by a certain individual, not a Leaguer, and twitted by him on the failure of their supposed intended exploit, one of them replied that they would not fail the next time, for they would take care to go armed. Now, if this was really the case, it was the duty of that hon. member, as he was a magistrate of the County, either on its becoming known to him, immediately to issue a warrant for the apprehension of the utterer of so seditious a threat—for it seemed he resided in his (the hon. member's) own neighbourhood; or, if not thinking it quite proper for him to proceed so far merely upon his own responsibility, it must surely have borne upon his mind that, in failing to communicate the fact to the Government, he himself became guilty of misprision of treason. The Hon. the Leader of the Government has said that there was no better way of estimating the merits of a Government, than by having regard to the state of public credit under it; and had endeavoured to disparage the Liberal Government, on that score, by a comparison of the state of public credit under it with that under the existing Government; but his comparison had been most unfairly made. In doing so, he had, on the one side, failed to admit that if at one time, under the Liberal Government, Treasury Warrants were at a discount, the reason was that, just at the time when the Liberals came into power, £30,000 or £40,000 which might have been invested in Warrants were locked up in forming the capital of our first Bank; and the consequence to the Government was that, in monetary matters, they were curtailed and hampered; and a depreciation of Treasury Warrants was the inevitable result. And on the other side, in asserting the improved state of public credit under the Tory Administration, he had failed to give the true reasons for it. He had failed to acknowledge that, since they came

into power and the Liberals went out, the trade of the country had been doubled, and that they had also doubled the amount of taxation. By the alteration made by them in the mode of converting the amount of Sterling invoices into the lawful current money of the Island—that is, first by adding one-half, instead of one-ninth—and then by raising the *ad valorem* duty from 6½ to 10 per cent., they had increased that and other taxes 100 per cent.; and, at the same time, they had doubled the public debt. And, as for any legislative measures ameliorative of public or tenant grievances, they could take credit for none of their own framing; for, in fact, for every measure of that kind, the country was indebted to the Liberal Government. Had not the present—the Conservative Government—clothed themselves, as it were, with the measures of their predecessors in power—the Liberals—they would not have had a shred wherewith to cover their deficiencies, or protect themselves from the keen blasts of public reprobation. The Land Purchase Act, the One-ninth Act, the shortening of the importer's credits at the Treasury, the Free Education Act—which, however, they had almost tinkered into a self-retarding and most unsatisfactorily-working piece of legislative machinery—and every other measure which they had worked, with any degree of success, for the general benefit and satisfaction of the country, are all measures which were framed, carried through the Legislature, and brought into operation by the Liberal party—and that too in the face of the most determined opposition made to them—one and all—by the the Tory, or *Conservative* party, as they now choose to call themselves. Their conduct as respects their adoption of our measures—which they strenuously opposed and loudly decried when we brought them forward—reminds me forcibly of what was lately said by an hon. member of the Liberal section of the House of Commons, touching the practice of the Tories when in power, in adopting those liberal measures which, when in opposition, they had opposed with all their might. He compared the Liberals, on going out of power, to a man who, preparatory to his going into the water to have a swim, had divested himself of his clothes, and left them upon the bank, and the Tories, on coming into power, to another man who, coming along and finding the swimmer's clothes upon the bank, should carry them off, array himself in them and declare them to be his own. Exactly in the same manner have the party in power acted with the Liberals. When we had happily completed our work for a season, and—convinced that what we had done was satisfactory to the country—were swimming away at our ease, the Tories came stealthily along, picked up our clothes which we had left upon the bank, put them on, and boldly claimed them as their own.—The hon. gentleman then spoke at some length, condemnatory, not only of the Government's having accepted the tender of the Superintendent of Public Works for the erection of the new Barracks; but also of the manner in which the contract had been performed. He had, he said, visited them only once, and then in company with a gentleman who had some skill in architecture; but they went through the whole, and found not only that they had not been built according to the specification, but that, in almost every part of them, posts, doors, windows, floors, and roofs, there was very imperfect work; and that the timber and deals used in their construction were very far from being what they ought to have been; that they were, in fact, not only unseasoned but of a very inferior quality; and so far were they from being in a finished state, that, he believed, a further outlay of £2,000, in addition to the £10,000 already expended upon them, would be required to make them at all comfortable, or anything like what they ought to be for the accommodation of troops. It is well known that when a building is set on

posts instead of a stone wall, the posts are sunk in the ground a sufficient depth to prevent the frost from raising them, but in this one, we found several posts, which had been too short, with pieces of a foot or eighteen inches stuck or nailed on the tops; and we also found several joints, in one end of the building, nothing but refuse deal, split from one end to the other, and a partition running across them without any foundation under them. Had the old barracks been allowed to stand, they could have been made much more comfortable and convenient, in every way, than the new barracks are, at an outlay of only £500; and they would then, he believed, have lasted longer than the new erection. The troops, he said, had been brought here at an expense of £1800 to the country, and, perhaps, we should also have to pay for sending them away. The Hon. member for Belfast (Hon. Col. Gray) had said that, as they had been sent here for a mere temporary purpose, the probability was that they would be withdrawn when that purpose should have been served. In that case he (Hon. Mr. Coles) would like to know to what desirable use the barracks could be appropriated. He feared it would be to one of the very worst kind. They would, in all probability, become a harbour for the very lowest and most abandoned characters in the community—a perfect den of iniquity. In conclusion the hon. gentleman said, he hoped the hon. member from Tryon (Mr. Howat) would see that his (Hon. Mr. Coles's) amendment did not censure the Government for not having sent for the troops at an earlier period than they did, but for not having made a more prompt and energetic use of the civil power; and that, therefore, he (Mr. Howat) might support it without any abandonment of his own view of the question.

Hon. the Leader of the Government (Mr. POPE). Mr. Chairman, I will take the bull by the horns, and, if possible, confine the hon. the Leader of the Opposition to the truth. The alteration made in the mode of estimating the *ad valorem* duties upon imported goods, invoiced in sterling money, which he says was made by the present Government, was, in fact, made under his own Administration, in 1852, seven years before we came into power. Up to the time when that alteration was made, in 1852, the *ad valorem* duty on goods, invoiced in Sterling money, had been calculated on the value thereof, converted from Sterling money into Island currency, by adding one-ninth to the sterling value. But, by the alteration made by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition and his party, when they were in power, the sterling value was brought into Island currency, in accordance with the Currency Act of 1849, by the addition of one half instead of one ninth. It is, therefore, the Liberal, and not the Conservative Government, who are open to censure—if censure on that account be due at all—for the increase of the impost duty through the alteration made in the mode of estimating the value in Island currency of British goods invoiced in sterling money.—In corroboration of what he had asserted with reference to the alteration in question, the Hon. gentleman referred to the Revenue Act for 1852, and read from the second section thereof, these words: "And the said Duties shall be calculated on the actual value or amount of the Invoice when reduced into lawful Current Money of this Island."

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH. Mr. Chairman, in reply to what has been said by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, condemnatory of the Government for having accepted the tender of the Superintendent of Public Works (Mr. Alley) for the erection of the new Barracks, I will merely observe that the reason why the Government did so has already been sufficiently explained and justified, both by some of my hon. colleagues in the Government and by myself;

and that, therefore, I do not think that anything more, exonerative of the Government, should be said on that score. A few words, however, I would say in refutation of that hon. member's condemnation of the manner in which Mr. Alley has executed his contract for the erection of the Barracks. The buildings erected by Mr. Alley under that contract, will, I maintain, bear a strict and minute examination, and such examination will afford, to any competent and impartial judge, most satisfactory evidence of the skill and fidelity with which Mr. Alley has fulfilled his contract. The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, in his review and condemnation of those buildings, has spoken of a certain post as being defective and insufficient. The post to which the hon. member has alluded is, I believe, a corner post of the Western building which it was found necessary to piece. The posts were, at first, all prepared of uniform height, so as to admit of being shortened after being inserted in the ground, in accordance with the proposed elevation of the building; but afterwards, when the posts had been sunk in their proper places, and after this post had been shortened by a part cut off, when the ground had been properly graded, it was found it would be necessary to raise the sill of the building some few inches higher than the post so out, and the residue of the foundation posts having been cut so as to give the increased elevation to the building, a small section was placed upon the post in question to give it the required height; but the addition made to its height was effected in so perfectly workman-like a manner, that, although consisting of two parts, it is fully as strong as any of the others; and the whole, as any skilful artificer or architect must admit, are of the most durable wood, and as strong and substantial as the weight which they are intended to sustain requires them to be. The Hon. member has said, that when he inspected the new barracks, he was accompanied by a gentleman skilled in architecture, and who was capable of judging correctly, both as respected the materials used in their construction and the mode in which they were constructed; and that he and that gentleman (the Hon. Mr. Lord, he believed it was) had discovered what they believed to be imperfections in the buildings. These imperfections, it seems, consisted of some one or two joists which they held to be not sufficiently strong. Now, Sir, on this head, I have no right to contradict the hon. member; but I would say that had the hon. member and his friend examined the joists before the floor was laid down, it would not have been possible for them to find one defective joist in the buildings; and for this reason,—that the Hon. the Colonial Secretary and myself had made a strict and thorough examination of the buildings, before the laying down of the floors, and afterwards, from time to time, whilst the buildings were in progress of erection, and that we condemned every stick which was at all defective. With respect to the tenor of what has fallen from the lips of the hon. member from St. Peter's (Hon. Mr. Whelan) I am happy in being able to say that he has gone over the whole question, arising out of a consideration of the principles and proceedings of the Tenant League in a truly fair, impartial, and masterly manner; and the condemnation of those principles and proceedings, which he has pronounced, must be fully, and heartily concurred in by every true friend to the country, by every one who desires to see it prosperous and happy, by every friend of good government, and lover of constitutional freedom who has had the pleasure to hear his enunciation of it; but, at the same time, I must confess that I am sorry to find that he has very inconsistently abandoned the grounds of his argument, and, although having expressed his belief in the necessity and propriety of sending for the

troops, he supports the amendment submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, in condemnation of the Government for having taken that step. By the argument so ably advanced by himself, for the purpose of proving the illegality of the Tenant League and its dangerous character, and of shewing the imperative necessity under which the Government acted in sending for the troops, he should, I think, have felt himself bound to vote for the paragraph of the draft Address which,—beyond an expression of regret that the general prosperity of the country had been marred by the late civil disturbances—merely acknowledges the necessity under which the Government lay to call in the aid of the troops for the reestablishment of the peace and good order of the country.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD. It is too bad, Sir, to keep you in that chair until so late an hour. (It was nearly 12 o'clock.) I will, however, take the liberty of saying a few words with respect to course which gave rise to the Tenant League. The country had been led to believe that something effectual would be done for the relief of the tenantry. Great promises to that end had been made by the Government; but they had not been fulfilled. The tenantry had, for many years, patiently borne the burthens of the leasehold system and as a law-abiding class had looked only to the Legislature for relief. But, at last, finding that relief, though often promised in that way, was still deferred, they were induced to believe that it could only be obtained by taking the matter into their own hands. They did so; and, for a time, they seemed to be in a fair way to accomplish their object, and all they did was lawful and constitutional. At length, however, I am sorry to say, they went beyond due bounds; and I am very far from seeking to justify their having done so. But, at the same time, I do not hesitate to say that, had the Government been as diligent about the settlement of the Land question, as they were ready in sending for the troops, it would have been settled before this time. There had been no necessity for calling in the troops. The doing so and the disarming of the volunteers were tyrannical acts; and, indeed, it seems to me as if the main object in doing so was to bring disgrace upon the country. The Government, in these acts, did not deserve the support of the country. At this late hour I will only say further that I will vote for the amendment submitted by the hon. member from Tryon (Mr. Howat).

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY. The Resolution of amendment, submitted by the hon. member from Tryon (Mr. Howat), is not, I think, so clearly worded as to make it quite evident what construction it will fairly bear. Does the hon. member mean to say that, at the time the Government sent for the troops, there was no necessity for their doing so?

Mr. HOWAT. Yes, that is my meaning.

The question was then put on Mr. Howat's motion of amendment, and negatived upon the following division:

For the motion—Honbls. Messrs. Laird, Coles, Thornton, Kelly, Warburton, Messrs. Howat, Howlan, Sinclair—8

Against it—Honbls. Messrs. J. C. Pope, Kay, Davies, Longworth, Solicitor General (Haviland), McEuben, the Speaker, Col. Gray, Whelan, Hensley, Messrs. Brecken, Duncan, McLennan, Montgomery, Ramsay, Green, Haslam—17.

Then the question having been put upon the paragraph of the draft Address, as at first submitted, it was agreed to on the following division:

Yeas—Honbls. J. C. Pope, Longworth, Sol. General (Haviland), the Speaker, Kaye, Davies, Gray, McLachen,

Messrs. Duncan, Brecken, Haslam, McLennan, Montgomery, Ramsay, and Green—15.

News—Hombis, Coles, Dawd, Warburton, Whelan, Hensley, Thoracoh, Kelly, Messrs. Howlan, Sinclair, Howat—19.

Progress was then reported and the House adjourned, at 10 minutes after 12, till 10 o'clock to-morrow.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS.

WEDNESDAY, May 2.

Hon. Leader of the Government presented to the House various papers relating to certain charges preferred against James McWade, Esquire, a Justice of the Peace, including account of costs and expenses incurred in investigating the charges alleged against the said Justice of the Peace, as asked for by the Hon. Mr. Kelly.

Ordered, that said papers do lie on the table.

His honor also presented to the House a copy of a Despatch from His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Sir Fenwick Williams, of Nova Scotia, to the Lieutenant-Governor of this Colony, transmitting copy of a joint address of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of that Province, to Her Majesty the Queen, on the protection of the fisheries.

Report of the Superintendent of Public Works on the feasibility and probable cost of erecting a Breakwater at Campbell's Cove, East Point.

Also a report of the same officer, on the site of a new Road, laid out by him, leading from St. Peter's Road through the farm of Alexander Hayden to Robert Longworth's Shipyard, opposite Fisher's Wharf, on the South side of the Hillsborough River.

Return of the number of barrels Mackerel inspected during the quarter ending 31st December, 1865, at the ports of Cascopec and Tignish, all of which, presented by his honor the Leader of the Government, were ordered to be laid on the table.

The Bill for the regulation of Benefit Building Societies was read a third time and passed.

The Bill in addition to, and in further amendment of, the Land Purchase Act, was read a third time and passed.

The Bill to amend the law relating to Real Property was read a third time and passed.

On motion of Mr. Montgomery, the House in Committee resumed the consideration of matters relating to roads, bridges, and Wharfs.

After some time spent in Committee, several Resolutions were reported agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Yeo, the Bill to authorise the establishment of a Small Debt Court at Lot 8, Prince County, was committed to a Committee of the whole House and reported agreed to.

The order limiting the time for the reception of private petitions having been suspended, the Hon. Mr. Hensley presented a petition from divers inhabitants of the First Electoral District of King's County, setting forth that they had experienced much inconvenience and loss by the legal standard weight of oats being higher in this Island, by two pounds per bushel, than the general run of oats in that district could be cleaned up to.

Hon. Mr. Hensley, in presenting the petition, said that at Halifax, N. S., the standard weight of oats was 34 lbs., and at Boston, U. S., 32 lbs. per bushel; it therefore appeared to the petitioners unnecessary and unjust that they should be compelled, by the Island statute, to give 2 lbs. per bushel more than was required in the sister Provinces, and 4 lbs. per bushel over what was required in the neighbouring Republic. They therefore asked relief by reducing the legal weight of oats per bushel, as set forth in their petition. He observed that whilst he did not consider the petitioners would derive that advantage from the proposed alteration which they imagined, yet he conceived no injury would result from making the alteration prayed for. And as the petition was very

numerously signed by his own constituents and those of his colleagues, the Hon. Mr. Eachen, he felt it to be his duty, in conjunction with his colleague, to bring the matter to the notice of the House.

Said petition was then received and read and ordered to be laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Green, the House went into Committee on the report of the special Committee appointed to examine and report on petitions praying for the opening of new roads. After some time spent in Committee, progress was reported.

Hon. Mr. Pope laid on the table, for the information of hon. members, a petition of divers inhabitants of this Island, praying that a bounty of one dollar per barrel be granted on all mackerel exported from this Colony, so that those engaged in that important business might prosecute it successfully, and be enabled to export their fish to the United States market, that being the only remunerative market for that article.

The House again in Committee resumed the consideration of the Report relating to the opening of new roads.

The Report was then read, paragraph by paragraph, and, after a great deal of argument and discussion in Committee, touching the claims of petitioners from different parts of the Island, praying for the opening of new roads, during which hon. members representing the various Districts claiming new roads urged with the utmost zeal and fervor, the peculiarly urgent claims of their respective constituents, and pleaded the necessity of complying, as far as possible, with the wishes of the petitioners, as expressed in the various petitions on the table, the Report of the Special Committee, as amended, was adopted and reported agreed to.

The opening of the following new lines of road was recommended in the above Report:

The opening of a road from the end of that part of the Highway, leading from Charlottetown, through Covehead, terminating at the farm of Neil Shaw, and to continue the road to the Gulf Shore, fronting the farm of Angus McMillan, Lot 34—provided all the parties through whose lands said road would run (excepting Neil Shaw and J. O. Lawson,) gave the required quantity of land without compensation.

The extending of the new line of road leading from Free-town to the Princetown Road.

The opening of a road from J. B. Perry's, Miscouche Road, to the Linkletter Road, and Eastwardly to Harvey's farm, and thence to the Road from Summerside to St. Eleanor's, between Charles Green's Mill, and James Darby's.

Extending the road leading from Fortune Cove to Mill Road. Opening a road on the line between the farms of Michael Shaw and Thomas Foley, to the shore of St. Andrew's Settlement; provided the parties through whose lands the said road would run gave the land required to the public without compensation.

Extending the road from Skinner Pond Settlement, along the line between the farms of Peter McKenna and Peter Aylward, to Palmer's Road.

A road from the Settlements on the South side of Townships Nos. 7 and 8, to the Leary Road, North from the Cross Roads to Pierre Jacques' Schoolhouses.

Opening a road across the farms of Chas. Dingwell and James Dingwell, to the shore of Howe Bay.

When the Report, as agreed to, was read by the Clerk—Mr. Duncan moved that it be referred back to Committee for the purpose of securing the opening of a new line of road from Wood Island Road to Murray River Bridge, which motion was negatived.

Mr. Howat moved that the Report be referred back to Committee for the purpose of providing for the opening of a new line of road from Cape Traverse Road to Benjamin Robinson's—the petition praying for which was not recommended in the Report of the special Committee.

Hon. Mr. Pope moved in amendment that the Report of the Committee be agreed to.

The question was then put on the amendment and carried as follows:—

For the amendment—Hons. Pope, Davies, Sol. General, Coles, Longworth, Thornton, McEachen, Hensley, Warburton; Messrs. Haslam, Ramsay, Montgomery, Brecken, Green—14.
Against it—Hons. Kelly, Kaye, Laird; Messrs. Sinclair, Howat, Conroy, Howlan, Duncan, Yeo—9.

The House went into Committee to take into consideration the paragraph in His Excellency's Address at the opening of the Session, relative to the Militia and Volunteers of the Island.—Mr. Yeo in the chair.

Hon. Sol. General submitted a Resolution to the effect that it was expedient to introduce a Bill for the regulation of the Militia and Volunteers, and to repeal the laws now in force relating to the same.

Said resolution was reported agreed to, and a Committee was appointed to bring in a Bill in conformity therewith.

House in Committee—the Hon. Solicitor General, from the Committee appointed, presented a Bill for the regulation of the Militia and Volunteer forces. Said Bill was received and read. Ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Pope, the House went into Committee on the Bill to amend the Act relating to the Oyster Fisheries.

Said Bill was then amended, to the effect that the Lieutenant Governor in Council shall have the power and are required (on application of the grantee or grantees of such fishing grounds made within six months after the passing of the Bill) to cancel or revoke any grant or grants which may have been issued under the provisions of the said Act, by paying compensation to any party whose grant shall be so cancelled or revoked, such compensation to be fixed by three Commissioners to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, for the purpose of fixing the damage such grantees or grantees may have suffered. It was also provided that every such grantee, who might feel aggrieved by the decision or award of the said Commissioners, might appeal therefrom to the Supreme Court in the ordinary manner prescribed by law for appeals in matters of Small Debts.

After considerable debate on the principle of the Bill, it was moved that the Bill, as amended, be received, to which Mr. Howlan moved, in amendment, that it be received that day three months. House divided on the question:

For Mr. Howlan's amendment—Hons. Coles, Warburton, Thornton; Messrs. Howlan, Sinclair, Conroy, Walker—7.

Against it—Hons. Pope, Kaye, Davies, Sol. General, Laird, Longworth, McEachen, Kelly, Hensley; Messrs. Brecken, Ramsay, Duncan, Howat, Montgomery, Green, McLennan, Haslam—17.

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

The House went into Committee on the Message of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, transmitting the Report of the Adjutant General of Militia for the past year.

A discussion then ensued, touching the details of said report.

The House again in Committee resumed the consideration of Despatches, and at a late hour reported progress.

House adjourned.

THURSDAY, May 3.

The Bill to establish a Small Debt Court at Lot 8 was read a third time and passed.

The Bill to alter and amend the Act relating to Oyster Fishing grounds was read a third time, and, on motion that the Bill do pass—

Mr. Sinclair moved an amendment, to the effect, that the Bill be referred back to a Committee of the whole House to amend it, by reserving to the public, in any future grants, the sole rights to any oyster beds in existence at the time of giving such grants, whether within the boundary thereof or otherwise.

His Honor the Speaker declined receiving the motion, on the ground that at that stage of the Bill the motion was unparliamentary.

The question that the Bill do now pass was then put and carried on the following division:—

Yeas—Hons. Messrs. Pope, McEachen, Thornton, Davies, Laird, Longworth, Sol. General; Messrs. Green, Howat, Duncan, Yeo, McLennan, Sinclair—13.

Nays—Hons. Messrs. Coles, Warburton, Kelly; Messrs. Conroy, Howlan, Walker—6.

Hon. Mr. Kelly moved that the papers, accounts, and report of the Commission, laid before the House, relative to an investigation of charges against James McWade, a Justice of the Peace, be referred to a special Committee to examine the same and report thereon.

Motion agreed to, and the following Committee appointed accordingly, Hon. Mr. Kelly, Messrs. Sinclair and Howat.

The House in Committee on Pauper Scales reported progress.

Hon. Mr. Coles asked for tenders relative to Contract for Steam Communication on Hillsborough River.

Hon. Mr. Pope, in reply, said that no action had been taken on the matter since the last Session of the House.

Hon. Mr. Coles said that it was not fair to parties who tendered to run a Steamer according to advertisement on that subject. The reason given last year for not producing the Contract was, that the Attorney General was absent on a Delegation, and had not prepared the papers. It was of great importance to his constituents to know the contents of the contracts.

The Bill relating to the Solicitor General's salary was reported agreed to.

Hon. Sol. General moved that the House go into Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the conveyance and transfer of Real and Personal Property vested in Mortgages and Trustees.

Hon. Sol. General explained the principles of the Bill, which relate more especially to real property vested in trustees appointed in trust; and it confers certain powers on the Court of Chancery, for the purpose of remedying grievances that may exist relative to the non-fulfilment of trusts so imposed.

The Bill is very voluminous, and similar in principle to the Statute of Great Britain, relative to the same subject.

Several hon. members observed that, as the Session was far advanced, and there appeared no immediate necessity for the Bill becoming law, it would be advisable to postpone any further action thereon for the present. It was therefore moved, in amendment to the motion to go into Committee, that the Bill be read a second time that day three months.

The question was then put on the amendment: Yeas—Hons. Coles, Kelly, Laird; Messrs. Howlan, Sinclair, Conroy, Howat—7.

Nays—Hons. Hensley, McEachen, Davies, Longworth, Sol. General, Pope; Messrs. Brecken, Walker, Ramsay, Montgomery, Haslam, McLennan—12.

The Bill was then committed to a Committee of the whole House, and after some time spent thereon was reported agreed to, and ordered to be engrossed.

House adjourned.

FRIDAY, May 4.

Hon. Mr. Coles said copies of the book containing an account of the Conferences held in the Maritime Provinces, and in Canada, in the year 1864, relative to the Union of the Provinces, should be placed before hon. members for reference, as it appeared the subject of Confederation was to come before the House.

The books asked for, and which had been in the Legislative Library for the use of members, were accordingly produced.

On motion of Mr. Green, a Committee was appointed to prepare an Address to His Excellency for the purpose of giving effect to the Report of the House on the subject of new Roads.

Mr. McLennan introduced a Bill to incorporate the Summerside Fishing Company.
Referred to Committee.

Mr. Montgomery, Chairman of the Committee to whom were referred all petitions praying for the establishment of new Post Offices, presented the Report of that Committee.

After some time spent in Committee thereon, progress was reported.

Hon. Solicitor General introduced a Bill to exempt property, belonging to Her Majesty or the government of this Island, from duties or assessments.

This Bill provides that all lands, tenements, goods, chattels, and effects, belonging to the Crown or Government of this Island, shall be exempt from all rates, duties, imposts, and assessments, whether imposed by any Statute of this Island, or by any Law of any Corporate Body, or otherwise.

Referred to Committee.

Hon. Solicitor General moved that the House go into Committee on the second reading of the Bill to prevent unlawful military drilling on this Island.

House in Committee reported the Bill agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Longworth introduced a Bill for settling doubts relative to titles acquired under the several laws of this Island for levying an assessment on lands, the provisions of which are in accordance with the Report of Committee on that subject.

The Bill provides that no Deed of Land, sold by the Sheriff in the Island for arrears of Land Assessment under any Act of the General Assembly, now or heretofore in force, shall be deemed invalid because the Sheriff may not have advertised the same for sale by metes and bounds, or otherwise, than generally or indefinitely as aforesaid, provided that all other requisites of the law, with respect to such Sales or Deeds of Conveyances, shall have been complied with. This Bill shall not extend to nor in any manner effect any suits which were commenced, or were pending, on the Ninth day of April last.

The House in Committee resumed the consideration of the report of the Special Committee relating to new Post Offices.

The following new Post Offices, the establishment of which was recommended in said Report, were reported agreed to, viz:—

A new Post Office at Bloomfield, Lot 5.

At Cross Roads, Miscouche, Lot 17.

At Higgins' Road, Lot 13.

At William Haywood's, Lot 2.

At Vernon River Bridge, Lot 50.

The Post Office at Bothwell to be removed to South Lake, near East Point.

Hon. Mr. Longworth moved that the said report be referred back to Committee in order to amend the same, by adding thereto the establishment of a Post Office at Nine Mile Creek, Lot 65.

A long debate then followed, touching the necessity of adhering more closely to the principle established relative to the initiation of all money votes. A compliance with which would tend very materially to expedite the business of the House, and obviate many of the difficulties arising from want of complying more strictly with the rule of the House on that subject.

It was also generally conceded by hon. members on both sides of the House, that it would be highly necessary, at no distant period, to appoint a Financial Secretary for the supervision of the monetary departments of the Colony. Much of the time now occupied in examining Public Accounts would be saved and the business of the Session would be greatly facilitated by the appointment of such officer.

The establishment of all the new Post Offices, recommended by the report of the Special Committee, was strongly urged, especially by hon. members the interests of whose constituents would be more particularly affected thereby. It was also contended that as the opinion of the Postmaster General had been consulted, and that officer did not consider the establishment of some of the Post Offices mentioned in the Report of any great importance to the public service, they might be for the present disagreed to.

Hon. Mr. Longworth's motion to refer the Report back to Committee was then put and carried.

Hon. Mr. Longworth then moved in Committee that the recommendation of the Special Committee relative to the estab-

lishment of a Post Office at Nine Mile Creek, Lot 65, be agreed to.

Which motion having been negatived, the Chairman reported to the House the Report agreed to.

Mr. Howlan then moved that the Report be adopted by the House; to which—

Hon. Mr. Pope moved, in amendment, that it be referred back to Committee for the purpose of amending the same by striking out the establishment of a Post Office at W. Haywood's, Lot 2.

The question was then put on the amendment, and carried in the affirmative, as follows, viz:

Yeas—Hons Messrs. Pope, Longworth, Sol. General, McEachen, Kaye; Messrs. Ramsay, Montgomery, Brecken, McLennan, Haslam, Green, Duncan—13.

Nays—Hons. Messrs. Warburton, Coles, Whelan, Kelly, Laird, Hensley; Messrs. Howat, Howlan, Conroy, Sinclair, Walker, Yeo—12.

The House then, in Committee on the subject, negatived the motion of the Hon. Mr. Pope to strike out of the Report the Post Office at Lot 2; and the Chairman again reported to the House the report agreed to.

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

Yeas—Hons. Solicitor General, Pope, Kaye, Longworth, Davies, McEachen; Messrs. Ramsay, McLennan, Brecken, Haslam, Green, Duncan—12.

Nays—Hons. Messrs. Coles, Warburton, Whelan, Kelly, Laird, Hensley, Thornton; Messrs. Howat, Howlan, Conroy, Sinclair, Walker, Yeo, Montgomery—14.

The Report was accordingly adopted by the House.

The Bill relating to the office of Solicitor General of this Island, and the Bill to prevent the clandestine training of persons to the use of arms, were severally read a third time and passed.

House adjourned.

SATURDAY, May 5.

Hon. Mr. Davies submitted Supplementary Estimates for the current year.

Ordered to be referred to the House when in Committee on Supply.

On motion of Mr. Montgomery, a Committee was appointed to prepare an Address to His Excellency for the purpose of giving effect to the recommendations contained in the Report of the House relative to the establishment of New Post Offices throughout the Island.

On motion of the Hon. Sol. General, the Bill to exempt the Crown and Government lands in this Island from duties and assessments, was read a second time and reported agreed to.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Davies the House went into Committee on Supply; and after some time spent thereon, reported progress.

Hon. Mr. Pope, from the Committee appointed last Session, to whom were referred a petition from divers inhabitants of Summerside, relative to an Act of Incorporation for that town, reported that said Committee had taken the matter into their most serious consideration, but as the names of a great number of the owners of property in the said town did not appear on said petition, it was inexpedient at the present time to grant the prayer of the petitioners.

On motion of the Hon. Sol. General, the Committee appointed last Session to report on the subject of the petition of divers inhabitants of Prince County, recommending the adoption of the Decimal system was discharged without reporting.

Mr. Howlan regretted that the Committee had not reported; it was high time that the currency of the Colony was assimilated as nearly as possible to that of the Sister Provinces. He was opposed to the postponement of that question from one Session to the other. The time had surely arrived when a change in the present confused state of our currency was necessary. In the Sister Provinces, the Public Accounts were kept on the Decimal Currency system, and Merchants and others readily adopted it in their private business.

Mr. McLennan said he had always been favourable to the introduction of the Decimal system—one desirable step

towards which was the adoption, by some of the New Banks of the Island, of the Dollar value of their notes; and he hoped that, ere long, it would become universal. It was however, deemed advisable to defer any legislative action on the subject at present, as the public mind did not appear to be prepared for the change it would effect in the monetary transactions of the Colony.

Hon. Mr. Davies favoured the adoption of the Decimal system, the superiority of which over the present conflicting and confused mode was very apparent. It would not, however, be well to force it on the people, till the public mind was prepared for its reception. The Banks, adopting the system, in the value of their notes, had acted wisely, and, in his opinion, anticipated the time when it would be the universal system in the Public Departments of the Colony. He hoped the next House of Assembly would effect a change, so very desirable.

Hon. Mr. Coles remarked that, in changing the system, much difficulty would arise from the great quantity of Copper Coinage afloat in the country—the real value of which should be regulated.

Hon. Mr. Pope observed, that strong apprehensions existed among the people, relative to the effect the change would have on the amounts payable for rent, as secured by the leases of the tenantry. It would not, therefore, be advisable to press the subject, until the public mind would be educated up to it. That the Decimal system, as a mode of keeping accounts, was preferable to that hitherto pursued, he readily admitted. Its adoption, however, must be gradual. The Copper Coinage, so very prevalent throughout the Island, was becoming almost a nuisance, and the sooner a change was effected, the better.

The motion to discharge the Committee of last Session on the subject, was then put and carried.

House in Committee on Pauper Scales—reported progress.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Pope, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, on the Bill relating to the Election Laws—Mr. Yeo in the Chair.

The Bill provides that Sheriffs and Presiding Officers may record their votes in any Polling Division in the County, in which they may be so employed, for any Electoral District within any such County, although that may not be the Division in which they may reside or hold property.

Poll Clerks, Candidates, and the Inspectors, Agents or Clerks of each Candidate, qualified to vote on any property qualification, shall poll their votes as prescribed in said Bill, wherever they may be so employed, for any Town, or Royalty, or Electoral District within the Island; and all persons holding property qualification in any Town, or Royalty, or Electoral District, within the Island; and all persons holding property qualification in any Town, or Electoral District, within said Island, shall be authorized to poll his vote in any such District, for any Town or Electoral District within the Island, where he may hold property.

The Bill also provides that any person holding the Office of Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Solicitor General, Colonial Treasurer, Commissioner of Public Lands, Postmaster General, Financial Secretary, or Collector of Impost, for Charlottetown, and being, at the same time, a member of the House of Assembly or Legislative Council, and shall resign his office, and, within one month after his resignation, accept any other of the said offices, under the same administration, he shall not thereby vacate his seat in the said Assembly or Legislative Council.

On motion of the Hon. Sol. General, the House went into Committee on the Bill for the Regulation of the Militia and Volunteer forces.

The Militia shall consist of all male inhabitants of the Island, from 16 to 60 years of age, not exempted by Law.

To be divided into two classes, namely, Active and Seditary Militia.

The Active to be divided into two classes, namely, Volunteer and Regular Militia.

For purposes of enrollment and organization, each County shall be divided into as many Regimental Districts as may be decided upon by the Commander-in-Chief; and each such District shall be again divided into Company Districts. Each of the former Districts to furnish one Militia Regiment, and each of the latter to furnish one Regular and one Seditary Company of Militia.

The Regular Militia shall consist of all male persons from 16 to 45 years of age, and the Seditary Militia, of all Male persons from the age of 45 to 60 years, not exempted by law, or enrolled in the Active Militia.

The Seditary Militia shall be carefully enrolled, from time to time, in each Company Division, by the Captain thereof, who shall transmit certified copies of the Roll to the Officer commanding the Regiment.

All the provisions of the Bill for the enrollment of the Regular Militia shall also be applicable to Seditary Militia.

The Commander-in-Chief may call out the Militia, or any part thereof, whenever, in his opinion, it may be advisable to do so, because of War, Invasion, Civil Commotion, or imminent danger of any kind, and, in such cases, the Volunteer forces shall first take the field, then the Regular force, and lastly, the Seditary Militia.

The Officer commanding any Regiment may, upon any sudden emergency, call out the whole, or any part of the Militia under his command, until the pleasure of the Commander-in-Chief be made known.

The Bill, which elicited but very little debate, was read a second time and reported to the House agreed to.

Hon. Leader of the Government then remarked that as many unfounded rumors were circulated, and groundless fears entertained by many, touching the course intended to be pursued in regard to the all absorbing topic, Confederation, he considered it would be as well to submit the Resolutions on that subject, which had been prepared in answer to the Despatches from the Secretary of State to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor relative to that subject.

Said Resolutions were then laid on the table, and are as follow:—

“This House having had under consideration the message of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor communicating a Despatch from the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, upon the subject of a Federation of the British North American Provinces, and having most carefully and earnestly considered the project in all its bearings—

“RESOLVED, As the deliberate opinion of this House, that any Union of the British North American Colonies which would embrace Prince Edward Island, upon the terms and principles set forth in the Resolutions of the Conference of Quebec, held on the 10th October, 1864, would not only be unjust to the inhabitants of this Colony, but prove disastrous to their dearest and most cherished rights and interests as a free people, enjoying the blessings of a priceless constitution guaranteed to them by the Imperial Government of Great Britain.

“That, considering the isolated, peculiar and exceptional position of Prince Edward Island, as contrasted with the other British North American Provinces and Colonies, this House deems it to be its duty, as the Constitutional Representative of the people of Prince Edward Island, to re-affirm the decision so clearly and unequivocally declared by this House in the Resolutions passed by it, in its last Session, upon the subject of a Union of the British North American Colonies, and afterwards communicated by the joint Address of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of this Colony to Her Majesty's Imperial Government.

“RESOLVED FURTHER, That even if a Union of the Continental Provinces of British North America should have the effect of strengthening and binding more closely together those Provinces, or advancing their material and commercial interests, this House cannot admit that a Federal Union of the North American Provinces and Colonies, which would include Prince Edward Island, could ever be accomplished upon terms that would prove advantageous to the interests and well-being of the people of this Island, cut off and separated as it is, and must ever remain, from the neighboring Provinces, by an immovable barrier of ice for many months in the year; and this House deems it to be its sacred and imperative duty to declare and record its conviction, as it now does, that any Federal Union of the North American Colonies, that would embrace this Island, would be as hostile to the feelings and wishes, as it would be opposed to the best and most vital interests, of its people.

“RESOLVED FURTHER, That while this House cannot assent to a Federal Union of this Island with the other Colonies, they recognize it to be the duty of this Colony to contribute, from its local revenues, towards its defence, in fair and just proportion to its means.”

MONDAY, May 7.

The Bill to incorporate the Summerside Fishing Company was read a second time and reported agreed to.

The petition of James Louis, and other native Indians, was presented to the House by the Hon. Mr. Kelly, and was received and read; and a Committee appointed to report thereon.

The Bill for settling doubts relative to titles acquired under Sheriff's Deeds was read a second time and reported agreed to.

The Bill relating to election law was read a third time and passed.

Hon. Mr. Longworth presented to the House papers relating to the Estate of the late Paul Mabey, claiming an amount due for assessment on six Pasture Lots, occupied as a race course in the Royalty of Charlottetown.

Said papers were then referred to the following Committee to report thereon; Hons. Longworth, Coles, and Mr. Brecken.

House in Committee of Supply.

A debate took place relative to the Resolution appropriating £240 for the purchase of an entire horse — the property of Mr. W. Cunard, of Halifax.

The Resolution granting £150 towards the encouragement of Steam Communication, connecting Souris and Georgetown with Pictou and Charlottetown, elicited some remarks.

Hon. Mr. Coles said the sum was altogether inadequate for the purpose contemplated, and appealed to the Hon. Sol. General for his opinion relative to that meagre vote for King's County Steam Communication.

Hon. Mr. Davies said it was desirable to open that route; a trip once a fortnight, for the present, would be of some service. He expressed the hope that the day was not far distant when a canal would be cut connecting the Hillsborough with Tracadie Harbor, which would give the great fishing interests of Souris and vicinity an impetus much to be desired.

Hon. Mr. Hensley remarked that, while he would support the Resolution submitted for the purpose of steam navigation between the places named, he could not help expressing great disappointment at the utter inadequacy of the sum proposed to be granted. He had no hope that the sum of £150 would be of any service for the purposes contemplated, and hoped that it would be increased to £500. Some years ago £200 was given for communication between Georgetown and Pictou; and if that sum proved insufficient, how could a less sum avail, when Souris, as well as Georgetown, was to be provided for. He trusted the Government would increase the amount, as the subject was really one of the greatest importance to the Eastern sections of the Island.

Hon. Mr. McEachen expressed his gratitude at the disposition manifested by the Government to encourage Steam Communication with Souris and Georgetown, and whilst he was desirous to see the grant increased, he would support the Resolution.

After some further remarks on the subject, the Hon. Sol. General expressed his desire to see steam extended to King's County, and was pleased at the feeling manifested in favor of that object. He would therefore move that the sum of £300 be granted for Steam Communication with Souris, Georgetown, &c., instead of £150 — which was unanimously carried.

During the debate on the subject of Steam Communication, Mr. Howat directed attention to the necessity of causing the steamers plying between Charlottetown and Summerside and Shediac, to touch at Crapaud occasionally; and alluded to the petition of the inhabitants of that place on that subject. Messrs. Haslam and Montgomery also strongly urged the claims of the people of that section of the Island, relative to the subject of Steam Communication, and alluded to their correspondence with the Government for the accomplishment of that desirable object, which they hoped soon to see consummated.

Mr. Duncan observed that a great deal had been said relative to Steam Communication with Crapaud, but it would be

well to know that a boat of 150 feet keel could not turn at the Crapaud wharf, even at high water. It was, therefore, useless to talk of a steamer calling there until a wharf was built at the outside of the harbor at that place.

Allusion was then made by several hon. members to a small steamer about to be placed between Shediac and Summerside, by a gentleman at Summerside, on behalf of the owners, and which was expected to ply daily between said places; the probability of procuring her services for the purpose of calling at Crapaud was entertained.

The Resolution granting £300 towards procuring a steam fire engine for Charlottetown called forth remarks relative to the necessity of procuring a greater number of water tanks in the City, and if a steam engine could not be readily procured, that another superior engine, similar to the one already had, and which performed such excellent service, should be purchased.

Hon. Leader of the Government directed attention to the fact that two hundred bushels of Hemp and Flax Seed, purchased by the Government, had just arrived from England, with the view of inducing the Colony to promote the cultivation of Flax. He would therefore like to hear an expression of opinion from hon. members on both sides, as to the best mode to be adopted for the sale and disposal of the seed so acquired.

A long debate then followed on the cultivation of Flax, during which a similarity of sentiment was very generally expressed.

Hon. Mr. Warburton alluded to the practical success, with which he met, in his production of flax, on his own farm, and by the machinery which he had procured for its manufacture. The want of a convenient and remunerative market having been alluded to, the Hon. Mr. Davies said that he was prepared to purchase all the scouted flax that would offer in our Market next autumn, at the most remunerative prices that the English Market would afford. The debate on the subject, and which will appear in the extended reports of the House, was highly instructive to those purposing to direct their attention to the cultivation of that article.

Hon. Mr. Pope presented certain complaints of Theophilus Stewart, Esq., Indian Commissioner, on the subject of certain Indian reserves on this Island.

House in Committee on said papers reported a Resolution to the effect that, Whereas certain Lands in Townships 55 and 15, heretofore set apart as Indian Reservations, have not, from their ineligibility for such purpose, or from other causes, been availed of as such by any members of the Indian population; and it was therefore desirable, in furtherance of the original design in making such reservations, to render them for sale by white settlers, and to apply the proceeds thereof in the purchasing of other and more suitable locations for the Indians, or otherwise, as the Government shall be advised.

The House of Assembly thereof recommend that the Crown Land Commissioner be authorized to take the necessary steps to sell and dispose of any and all of the respective tracts of lands on Lots 55 and 15, as aforesaid, for the highest and best price or prices that can be had for the same, and deposit the proceeds in the Public Treasury of the Colony — thence to be drawn by Warrant for Indian purposes as aforesaid.

Said report was then adopted; and a Committee appointed to wait on His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, with a copy thereof.

The Militia Bill was read a third time and passed.

House again in Committee on Supply.

The Chairman reported several resolutions agreed and Supply closed.

The Bill to settle doubts relative to titles of Lands sold for Assessment on this Island was read a third time and passed.

Mr. McLennan, Chairman of the special Committee on Public Accounts, submitted the Report of that Committee, which was ordered to be referred to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

The following Committee was then appointed to select such accounts as should be published in the Appendix to the Journals, viz: Hons. Messrs. Pope, Hensley, Longworth.

On motion of the Hon. Leader of the Government, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the Despatches.

A debate then ensued, and was kept up till a very late hour, on the subject of the Resolutions submitted by the Hon. Leader of the Government; in amendment to which, the Hon. Mr. Whelan submitted the following, viz:—

Resolved, as the opinion of this House, that the Confederation of Her Majesty's American Colonial Possessions would be—while in conformity with Her Majesty's frequently expressed desire—conducive to their welfare, individually and generally. And this House believes that a plan of Confederation might be so framed as not to involve the sacrifice of any material interests in the part of any Province; but inasmuch as the people of Prince Edward Island do not appear to be prepared to regard with any favor the project of Confederation, it is unwise to press it upon public attention, as its discussion is only calculated to produce excitement and apprehension, without reasonable cause.

And further *Resolved*, as the opinion of this House, that there should be no vote passed by the Legislature of this Colony in favor of a Confederation of the Provinces until the people shall first be afforded an opportunity of pronouncing their judgment on the question at a general Election.

Progress was reported.

House adjourned.

TUESDAY, May 8.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Davies, a Committee was appointed to bring in a Bill to appropriate Supply.

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

The Bill to incorporate the Summerside Fishing Company.

The Bill relating to Trust Deeds.

The Bill relating to the Crown and Government of the United Kingdom within this Island.

Hon. Col. Gray, Chairman of the Committee to whom was referred the petition of divers inhabitants of Queen's County, complaining of certain irregularities on the part of the Contractor for Hillsborough Ferry, submitted their report, to the effect: that they had heard the Petitioners as well as the Contractor and witnesses, and after maturely weighing and considering the facts as detailed before them, they were of opinion that the contractor should be called upon to use more caution and diligence in conforming strictly to the requirements of his contract, by night as well as by day. They also recommended that the Executive endeavor to make such arrangements with the Contractor as will cause the steamer to run more frequently across the ferry on market days, being of opinion that it was imperatively required by the rapidly increasing traffic on such days. They also recommended that steps be taken to procure the services of a Dredging Machine, to deepen the docks and the water in the middle ground in the River.

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

The appropriation Bill was submitted, received and read, and on motion, was ordered to be committed to a Committee of the whole House and reported agreed to.

The adjourned debate on the subject of Confederation was resumed at the hour of 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and kept up with much interest till after midnight.

Hon. Sol. General opened the debate by resuming his speech, which he had commenced in the forenoon, and spoke for nearly two hours.

He was followed by the Hon. Mr. Coles, who also spoke at great length.

During the debate on that great and momentous question, almost every hon. member of the House expressed his views on the subject, all of whom were present excepting the Hon. Colonial Secretary, absent from the Island on the Delegation to Brazil, the West Indian Islands, and Mexico.

Hon. Mr. Coles, in the course of debate, remarked that had he been consulted in framing the Resolutions, he would have suggested an alteration in that which stated, that any Federal Union of the British Provinces which would include Prince Edward Island could

never be accomplished upon terms that would prove advantageous to the best interests of the latter; but although that Resolution was not worded exactly as he would like to see it, yet, from the statements of one of the leaders of the Government in Canada, Mr. Cartier, to the effect, that the Resolutions at the Quebec Conference in 1864 should not be altered; and also statements published in Quebec reflecting the views of the Government of that country on the question of Union, to the effect, that should England favor the Resolutions of the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia, to the prejudice of the Quebec Scheme, she could not hold Canada against her will. With such statements as these before him, he felt bound to support the Resolutions, as submitted by the Hon. Leader of the Government, as there appeared to be no hope of getting any modification of the Quebec Report.

Mr. Sinclair, while expressing himself pleased with the Resolutions submitted against Confederation, thought the language in the second Resolution almost too strong. He believed terms could be given which would justify P. E. Island in going into a Federal Union, but, at the same time, he firmly believed such terms never would be given to this Colony.

Mr. Brecken also said, in his speech, that he would not go so far as to say that a Union of the Colonies, on terms advantageous to P. E. Island, was a matter of impossibility; but from the present construction of the question, as advocated by the supporters of the Quebec Report, he felt it his duty to give the resolutions in question his hearty support.

Hon. Leader of the Government admitted that the paragraph in question was worded in very strong terms, and had he consulted his own individual views on that point, he would have modified it. Last year he admitted the principles of a Union in the abstract; and he still thought that terms might be proposed which would be advantageous to this Island; but such terms could not be had, and in consequence of the very extraordinary course pursued with regard to this question in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, it behoved us to resist everything in the shape of a Union, lest we might be committed to the Quebec scheme. He believed nineteen out of every twenty of the people of this Island were opposed to Union of any kind with Canada. He, therefore, conceived it to be his duty, in deference to their wishes, and to secure a strong vote in this House, to pursue the course he had done. At the same time, he must say, expressing his own opinion, he wished the second Resolution were struck out.

The question was then put on the Hon. Mr. Whelan's Resolutions in amendment to the Resolutions submitted by the Hon. Leader of the Government, and negatived on the following division:—

For Hon. Mr. Whelan's amendment—Hons. E. Whelan, Col. Gray, Sol. General, Davies, Kaye, Messrs. McLennan, and Green—7.

Against it—Hons. J. C. Pope, the Speaker, Longworth, Coles, Warburton, Thornton, Hensley, Kelly, Laird, McEachen; Messrs. Howat, Brecken, Duncan, Haslam, Ramsay, Montgomery, Howlan, Conroy, Sutherland, Walker, Sinclair—21.

The Resolutions of the Hon. Leader of the Government were accordingly reported to the House agreed to.

Mr. Sinclair then submitted the following Resolution:—

Resolved, That inasmuch as there will be a general election this Summer, it is, therefore, inexpedient for the Government to appoint any further delegations on the subject of Colonial Union or Confederation, or to take any action calculated to commit the people of this Colony to any scheme of Union until authorized by the people and sanctioned by their Representatives, returned at said general Election.

The supporters of the Government on that question contended that the above Resolution was unequal for, inasmuch as hon. members of the Executive, in their places on the floor of that House, had during the debate just ended, declared that the Government would take no action whatever on the subject, and that therefore it would be unfair to throw a doubt on their expressed declaration.

The supporters of the resolution contended that their object was to arm the Government against making any concessions that might lead to the appointment of any delegation tending to commit the people of the Colony to any measure not sanctioned by their Representatives.

After considerable debate on the subject, the question was put and the Resolution negatived on the following division, viz:—

For Mr. Sinclair's Resolution—Hons. Messrs. Coles, Laird Warburton, Hensley, Thornton, Kelly, Messrs. Sinclair, Howlan, Howat, Walker, Sutherland, Conroy,—12.

Against it—Hons. J. C. Pope, Col. Gray, Sol. General, Whelan, Kaye, Longworth, Davies, McEachen, Messrs. Duncan, Yoo, Haslam, Montgomery, Ramsay, McLennan, Green, Brecken—16.

House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, May 9.

The Appropriation Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Report of the Committee relating to Hillsborough Ferry was submitted to a Committee of the whole House and reported agreed to.

The subject of a petition from inhabitants of Rustico and others, relative to the injurious effects on the Alewives and Codfisheries of the North Shore, from the practice of set-line fishing, was brought under the consideration of the House by the Hon. Mr. Longworth, who spoke at considerable length on the necessity of adopting some practical means for the protection of that branch of our industry; and expressed the hope that, during the next Session of the Legislature, some Law would be devised for the protection and regulation of the fisheries alluded to, and thereby prevent their destruction or total extinction, because of the injurious mode of fishing described; and called trawl or set-line fishing.

Mr. Howlan followed, and, from his own practical knowledge of the subject under consideration, gave much valuable information. He urged the necessity of adopting some stringent and practical regulations for the protection and fostering of the fisheries alluded to, the total extinction of which, on our coasts, would eventually be inevitable, if the mode of fishing alluded to was not prohibited. By allowing the fish to be caught at improper seasons of the year, myriads, in a state of spawn, were destroyed. It was high time that action was taken by the Legislature on a subject of such vital importance to the interests of the Colony.

Mr. Conroy said that he had the authority of the Report of the Fishery Commissioners of England for stating that the natural increase of fish was so plentiful, that it was impossible to diminish, much less destroy them. Whilst he was always ready to encourage the fishing interests, he would not favor their obstruction by any stringent or unnecessary law.

Hon. Mr. McEachen—It would be unjust to adopt any measure that would obstruct our own people in the prosecution of that branch of industry; whilst, at the same time, our American neighbors were catching fish on our coast. The latter were the parties whose encroachment should be guarded against.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Longworth, it was ordered that the petition presented to the House, the subject of which had called forth the remarks of hon. members, be published in the *Royal Gazette*, for the information of the public.

On motion of Mr. McLennan, Chairman of the Committee on Public Accounts, the Report of that Committee was committed to a Committee of the whole House.

The Report shows that the expenditure for the financial year, ending January 31st, 1866, was £75,950 8s. 3d., leaving a balance against the Colony of £7,909 4s. 4d.; which amount, added to the balance standing against the Colony on the 31st January, 1865, shows the public debt to be £74,640 on the 31st January, 1866. That balance includes all Debentures, Treasury Notes, and Warrants issued up to that date.

The Committee, in the above statement, do not give credit to the Colony for any balance due from the sale of public lands, nor for any estimated value of lands remaining unsold. Giving the Colony, however, credit for the balance due on public lands sold, £32,425 9s. 9d., and for the sums realized from the sale of the old barrack land, £5,600, the balance, as shown against the Colony, would be £36,614 12s. 3d., instead of £74,640, as above stated.

The Revenue for the past year shows an increase over the previous one of £1,717 32s.

The Receipts for, and on account of, Public and Crown Lands, during the past year, amounted to £6,434 18s. The expenditure for the same period, including estimated losses of Land Tax, and interest, was £2,550; leaving a balance in favor of Public and Crown Lands of £3,884. Besides the balance due on Public Lands, Bonds, Deeds, &c., amounting to £32,425 9s. 9d., as above stated, there are 29,933 acres of land unsold, being a decrease in the quantity of land, last year, of 4,933 acres.

During the past year the Government have purchased 4,151½ acres of land, and have sold 2,184 acres within the same period.

The expenditure for the past year has been increased to the extent of £13,190 2s. 6d. over what may be considered the ordinary expenditure of the year, for the following services, viz:

Victoria Barracks,	£8,248 3 3
Troops,	941 19 3
Light House, North Cape,	1,200 0 0
Importation of Stock for Stock Farm,	2,800 0 0
	£13,190 2 6

Hon. Mr. Coles submitted the following Resolution, viz:

The Committee find on examining the Public Accounts, that the sum of ten thousand pounds has been expended in erecting Barracks, and other expenses in connection with the military force, not authorized by any appropriation of this Legislature.

A discussion then followed, touching some of the items of expenditure, relative to which, the Opposition charged the Government with extravagance; and the majority defended the actions of the Government. After which, the question was put, and carried on the Resolution.

Hon. Mr. Longworth then moved that the question be reconsidered; there being but very few hon. members in these places, it was unfair thus hurriedly to dispose of the question.

A call for absent members was then made, and, at the close of the debate, the question was put on the Resolution submitted by the Hon. Mr. Coles, and negatived on the following division, viz:

For the Resolution—Hons. Messrs. Coles, Warburton, Whelan, Kelly, Thornton, Laird; Messrs. Howat, Howlan, Walker, Conroy, Sinclair—11.

Against it—Hons. Messrs. Pope, McEachen, Longworth, Davies, Kaye; Messrs. Duncan, Yeo, Haslam, Green, Montgomery, Brecken, McLennan, Ramsay—13.

The Report of the Committee was then adopted by the House. House adjourned.

THURSDAY, May 10.

Hon. Mr. Kelly, from the Committee appointed to report on papers and documents submitted to the House, relative to certain charges preferred against James McWade, Esq., one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for Queen's County, submitted the Report of the said Committee, which, after some debate thereon, was ordered to be withdrawn.

House in Committee on the Bill from the Legislative Council to amend the Act constituting the Legislative Council elective.

The nature of which amendment was to empower His Excellency in Council to change the time for holding the Elections for Members to serve in that body.

Bill reported agreed to.

The House in Committee on the Despatch from His Excellency the Lieut. Governor to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, accompanying the Joint Address of both Houses of the Legislature, passed last Session, on the subject of the payment of the Lieutenant Governor's salary, in which Despatch allusion is made, among other matters, to the salary of the Private Secretary.

A considerable discussion on the subject ensued, during which the Hon. Mr. Coles submitted a Resolution to the effect, that the Government had been remiss in their duty in not sooner ascertaining the nature of the said Despatch, and in not taking steps to forward a representation to the Colonial Office supporting the views set forth in the said Joint Address.

Hon. Mr. Pope moved that the said Resolution be withdrawn; which motion was carried in the affirmative.

The Committee appointed to prepare an Address to Her Majesty the Queen, expressive of the views of the House of Assembly upon the subject of Confederation, submitted an Address, which was adopted.

An address was also prepared and adopted, requesting His Excellency the Lieut. Governor to be pleased to forward to Her Majesty the Queen the said Address of the House of Assembly on Colonial Confederation.

House adjourned.

A. McNEILL, Reporter.

THURSDAY, 12th April, 1866.

MORNING SITTING.

THE BARRACKS QUESTION.

Committee of the whole House on the draft Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech, resumed: Mr. John Yeo in the Chair.

The Chairman having read and submitted the Seventh Paragraph of the said Address, as follows:

"Any measure for applying the money arising from the sale of the old Barracks towards the expenditure incurred in building the new Barracks, at present occupied by Her Majesty's Troops, shall receive our best consideration."

Mr. HOWLAN rose and said: He could not agree with the paragraph which had just been read, inasmuch as it sanctioned the application of public money to a purpose different from that to which it had been directly and specifically appropriated by an Act of the Legislature. When the old Barracks and the ground which they occupied were sold, it was agreed by the Legislature that the proceeds arising from the sale thereof should form a fund, the interest of which should be set apart for the encouragement of the Volunteer movement and the service of the Militia; and, for the Government to take upon themselves, as they had done, the right to apply that money—either principal or interest—to any other purpose than that for which it had been especially appropriated by the Legislature, was a gross infraction of the parliamentary rights of the people. All parties had been well satisfied that the money which had been derived from the sale of the old Barracks and grounds should be set apart to form a fund, the interest of which should be expended in the encouragement of the Volunteer movement, seemingly intended to supersede the Militia. That movement was one of which, at its commencement, the whole country, he believed, was proud; and, to a degree and an extent, at once most creditable to the Volunteers themselves, and most gratifying to every true friend and lover of British institutions in the country, it had called forth, and given new life to the deeply cherished loyalty of the people. The organization of the Volunteers, being one formed among ourselves, it was strongly urged by the Government and their friends, and especially by their sycophantic dependents, was an organization upon which we could confidently rely for the repression of any internal disturbance, and also for our protection against danger from without. But in what has it all ended? The young men, farmers' sons, mechanics, and others, who entered into it, with hearts full of zeal and loyalty, who had spent much of their time in acquiring a knowledge of the manual exercise and of military evolutions, and who had, besides, expended a good deal of their money in providing themselves with uniforms, had had the extreme mortification to find that their loyalty was distrusted—that it was supposed, by the Government, that, as the most faithless rebels, they were ready to use their arms in the support of a seditious organization, and for the subversion of law and government—those very arms, with which they had been entrusted, and which they had accepted—coupled with the oath of allegiance—for the protection of the country against tumult and sedition within, and wrong and aggression from without! Yes, under the groundless suspicions of the Government, our loyal and spirited Volunteers were deprived of their arms, and left—without the hope or power of redress—to smart under the most unjust and foul imputation of disloyalty and perjury! Could any atonement be made to them for the contumely and degradation to which they had thus

been subjected? Could any allurements be held out to them, by which to induce them to resume those arms of which they had been so ignominiously deprived? The organization of the Volunteers, all the drilling, all the firing, all the money, both public and private, which had been spent upon it, had gone for nothing; nay, for worse than nothing. All that had been truly valuable in the organization, its bone and muscle, its generous spirit, its enthusiastic activity, were, in fact, all gone; for, if they had left behind them any outward and visible sign of their ever having been, such tokens were to be found only in that amount of furs and feathers by which certain individuals were, from the first, distinguished, and in the superabundance of titular Colonels, Majors, Captains, and Adjutants, by whom, with their swords dangling by their sides, and when strutting in all the military majesty of boots and spurs, a quiet civilian, like himself, passing through a crowd, on any public occasion, in this city, was some time ago, in no little danger of being thrown down and trodden under foot. The idea acted upon, by Government in disarming the Volunteers, in removing the powder from the Magazine, and the rifles from the armory, was that a great portion of the people were so disloyal that, if arms and munitions of war were left within their reach, they would seize upon them, and pillage both the country and the Town.

Hon the LEADER of the GOVERNMENT (J. C. Pope). No: not the people, but the *Finnegans*.

Mr. HOWLAN. Yes, Finnegans! I think the Hon. the Leader of the Government for the admission. Under the belief, real or pretended, on the part of the Government, that the Irish Society was strongly tainted with Fenianism, the most extraordinary precautions against insurrection on St. Patrick's Day, were had recourse to, seemingly for the purpose of branding not only the Irish Society, but every Irishman in the country with the imputation of disloyalty. The needless precautions taken by the Government were an insult to the Irish in general, and to the Irish Catholics in the Island in particular. They were a libel upon the whole body of the Irish in the Island, but especially upon the Catholic portion of them. The Irish Society was chiefly composed of Catholics; but its charities were extended to all, irrespective alike both of creed and country. That Society had never been connected with any riotous or seditious movement, it had never harboured a traitor in its bosom; and it numbered amongst its members some of the most honorable, upright, peaceable, loyal, and estimable men of the Colony.

Hon the LEADER of the GOVERNMENT (J. C. Pope). I said not a word against the Irish Society; and neither did I mean to insinuate any suspicion derogatory to its character for charity and loyalty, or on any other grounds whatever. I look upon it as a purely national Society, like that of St. George, or St. Andrew, having for its primal and most honorable object the promotion and perpetuation of a patriotic love of country, by the cultivation and display of every national virtue.

Mr. HOWLAN maintained that, just before and on St. Patrick's Day, the amount of excitement got up was intended to be prejudicial to the Irish in general, but especially to the Irish Catholics of the Island. It was, however, he said, only worthy of a set of old women, and with silly old women only were the Government worthy of being classed, in having allowed themselves to be imposed upon by the weak-minded, credulous, timid, and perhaps mischievous, individuals by whom the alarm was given—the chief of whom was a half-witted schoolmaster, and the next in prominent

activity in diffusing and heightening the impalpable dread, a gentleman in a higher position of life, but certainly of no greater mental calibre, than the crazed domine.

Hon. (the Leader of the Government) J. C. POPE. I wish, Mr. Chairman, that you would be so good as to exercise the authority with which you are invested for the purpose of keeping the hon. member to the question before the Committee, which I take to be merely that paragraph of the Address which has for its object the pledging of the House to a due consideration of any measure which may be proposed for applying the money arising from the sale of the old Barracks, towards the expenditure incurred in building the new Barracks. If the hon. member be allowed to proceed in his present career, he will scarcely, it seems to me, stop until he has brought under review, not only every act of the present Government, but every idle rumor having reference to its motives or proceedings, and with respect to which it might be possible for him to raise a doubt or question of their integrity since the very moment of their coming into power.

Hon. (the Leader of the Opposition) Mr. COLES. Fully reviewing the policy, of questioning the motives, and criticising the acts of the Government, we have no other opportunity than that which is afforded us in the course of the discussion on the Address; and the hon. member from Cascompeque is only making a legitimate use of that opportunity.

Mr. HOWLAN. The Hon. the Leader of the Government is very polite: he is indeed notorious for his politeness; but he is much mistaken if he thinks that, either by courteous or uncourteous interruptions, he can turn me aside from the course which my duty to the country indicates I ought to pursue. I am quite as well acquainted as he is, both with the restraints imposed upon members of this House, and with the privileges extended to them, by parliamentary rules and usages; and, whilst I shall always be found willing to be kept within due bounds by the first, I shall ever, when I believe the good of the country demands it, exercise, to the utmost latitude of my privilege, whatever talent or ability I may possess to bring to strict account those whom I believe to have been guilty of malversation in the administration of public affairs. I contend that there was nothing in the state of the Colony to warrant the extraordinary precautions to which the Government had recourse at the time of the panic, and also, whilst declaring that there was no occasion whatever, on account of any existing or impending danger, to remove the powder from the magazine, I maintain that it could scarcely have been removed to a more unsuitable place. Who, indeed, but a set of silly old women, or men only fit to take counsel with them, could have made choice of a damp old green-house as a suitable depot for gunpowder? The Irish Society had, for forty years back, walked in peaceable procession, through the streets of Charlottetown, on St. Patrick's Day; and neither by word nor deed, nor by any sign or token, had they ever given occasion to the authorities to suspect them, either of disloyalty or design to break the public peace or violate the law; and yet, with a full knowledge of the peaceable and loyal character which the Society had always preserved, even from the day of its formation to the very hour of its being attainted by the breath of a crazed calumniator, the Government thought proper, without investigation or inquiry, to pass sentence of condemnation upon it—if not by name, yet certainly by every other mode by which the object of their terror and condemnation could be indicated. The Government had a very large revenue at their disposal; but, on that

consideration, they could find no right to indulge in a lavish or needless expenditure of it. In the needless erection of what they styled the new Barracks—but what the Hon. Col. Gray had said were nothing but mere sheds—they had expended about £10,000 or £15,000.

The Hon. the Solicitor General, Mr. HAVILAND rose to order. The Hon. Col. Gray, he said, had not styled the Barrack buildings "mere sheds;" but, when speaking of them, had used the proper military technicality, and called them "huts." It was certainly much to be regretted that any hon. member, how much soever he might feel himself at a loss for point in argument, should seek to supply it by misrepresentation.

Mr. HOWLAN. The Hon. Col. Gray, when speaking of the new Barracks, called them "sheds." I distinctly heard him call them so; and I distinctly state upon the honor of a gentleman, that he said they were nothing but mere sheds. But by whatever name they may be called, whether "sheds" or "huts"—and either word, to my apprehension, is sufficiently expressive of their insufficiency for the purpose for which they were designed, and to which—to the great discomfort of those who have been obliged to live in them through the winter—they have been appropriated. Well these "sheds" or "huts" have cost the Colony from £10,000 to £15,000; and yet so insufficient have they been found for the purpose of housing Her Majesty's Troops, that it has been asserted, on good authority, that neither men nor officers would have suffered more had they been left out, under canvas, all winter. The unfair mode by which the contract for building the new Barracks was given to the Superintendent of Public Works, was—independently of all consideration of the needlessness of the erection—an act of connivance at imposture on the part of the Government, which ought to be, and which, in all probability, would, in due time, together with other acts of their mal-administration, be visited upon their heads with all the severity of public reprobation. It was very well known that one gentleman in Charlottetown, who, with a view of tendering for the contract, had procured plans and specifications of the intended erections, called at the Office of the Superintendent of Public Works, at 10 minutes to 12 o'clock, at noon—the hour of the last day on which, according to public advertisement, tenders could be received—for the purpose of giving in his tender, and that he then enquired whether any other tenders had been sent in or left, and the reply he received was in the negative. Now, if that was true—and there was no reason to doubt it was so—Mr. Alley's tender must have been sent in after the expiration of the time limited for the reception of tenders; and, consequently, must have been unfairly received and accepted. I know that, in answer to this charge of unfairness, the Government reply, that, in accepting the tender of the Superintendent of Public Works, they accepted the lowest tender—the only other tender exceeding it by £2,000. But this explanation does not, by any means, exonerate them from blame. The contractor being himself the Superintendent of Public Works, who was to superintend his execution of his contract? I sincerely believe that Mr. Alley, the Superintendent of Public Works, is a skilful architect and an honest man; but I do not believe that, in the performance of a large contract, and one in which private interests are opposed to public interests, it is proper to allow a man—however great his reputation for skill and honesty may be—to be the judge, valuator, and superintendent of his own work. The duty of the Government, to say the least of it, was—if they really were in a dilemma—to have honestly and honorably extricated them-

scapes from it, by depriving Mr. Alley of his office of Superintendent of Public Works, at the time they accepted his tender for the erection of the new Barracks, and appointing, to that office, another competent person, to his stead, to superintend the completion of that contract. However, instead of doing this, the Government were of opinion, it would seem, that in Mr. Alley's reputation for skill and honesty, they had a sufficient guaranty for the due performance of his contract; and they, therefore, left it entirely to himself to proceed with it as he thought proper. And what has been the result of this blind—not to say misplaced—confidence? Why, simply that the buildings have not been erected according to the plans and specifications, that the work is in many respects shamefully incomplete and imperfect, and the materials of very inferior quality. The Hon. the Leader of Government had said that they (the Government) wished the whole business to be properly investigated and the buildings to be fully inspected.

Hon. (the Leader of the Government) Mr. J. C. POPE
So we do.

Mr. HOWLAN. Well, if you do, appoint a Committee of the House to make the necessary investigation and inspection. [A laugh.] or let duly qualified, and, in other respects, indifferent and disinterested persons, be called upon or appointed to make due examination into the whole matter. That the sending for the soldiers and the great consequent expenditure of public money, necessitated first by the transfer of the troops hither in the next place by finding ground for their encampment and the expenses incurred by employing them to sustain bailiffs and constables in the service of writs and the effecting of discharges, and lastly in the erection of the sheds or huts, called the new or Victoria Barracks, might easily have been avoided, is, I think, fully proved by Sheriff Dodd's letter to the Hon. the Leader of the Government. In that letter, Mr. Dodd says he thinks the law might have been carried into effect simply by a due exercise of the civil authority, and, if the Government had given it full effect, there would have been no need of soldiers.

Hr. DUNCAN. Mr. Dodd did not say so in the letter of which the hon. member has spoken. If he has the letter, let him read it; and he will find that he has misrepresented Mr. Dodd's words.

Mr. HOWLAN. Mr. Dodd, in the letter spoken of, says "that, he thought, if the Government had allowed Sheriff Morris to employ 20 or 30 special constables to assist him, the Tenant League might have been quashed;" but that does not affect the charge against the Government. I contend that the Government had no right to expend so much public money as has been laid out by them in the erection of the Barracks without the sanction of the Legislature; and I, therefore, move what I am now about to read in amendment of the paragraph under consideration. The hon. member then read, and submitted his proposed amendment as follows:

"The measure promised by Your Excellency with respect to the sale of the old Barracks and the building of the new ones, will receive our careful attention, when all the papers on the subject shall be submitted to us. The House of Assembly cannot, however, but regret that so large an expenditure, as would appear to have been incurred for this permanent work, should have been undertaken without the consent of the Legislature."

Hon. Mr. WARBURTON. I cannot allow the present discussion to terminate without saying a few words with reference to some points which it has embraced. One observation made by my friend, Mr. Howlan, touching the composition of the Irish Society, as respects creeds, may have

induced the belief, on the part of some hon. members of this House, that all the members of that Society are Catholics. Now that is not the fact. It is by no means an exclusive Society on the score of religion, and confined to Catholics only; for Protestants, as well as Catholics, being Irishmen, or of Irish descent, are, and have been members of it from its very origin to the present time; and I myself have had the honor of being its Secretary. Of the reverence for the law, of the humane and charitable dispositions, and of the good will borne to their fellow subjects in general of whatever nationality or church, which are characteristics of the members of that Society, I rejoice in being able to bear testimony with my friend, Mr. Howlan, and, as he has done, so do I also honestly declare that I am convinced there was nothing in the state of the Colony, at the time when the panic so unaccountably arose, to warrant the extraordinary—and in themselves alarming—precautions to which, on that occasion, the Government thought proper to have recourse. As for any evidence of a disposition to riot or violation of the laws, at that critical point of time, as the Government either really believed, or pretended to believe it to be, I neither knew of any, nor have I heard of any, save what actually took place, in this City, on the evening of St. Patrick's day, when three or four young men—gentlemen, I believe, they account themselves—neither Irishmen nor Catholics, however, took into their heads to break the windows of an Irish Catholic gentleman, Mr. McIlraith. One of the scapegraces was apprehended; and, on his being carried to the Police Court, he gave the names of his associates in the act of wanton mischief; but, as they all happened to be *respectably connected*, the matter was compromised. As respects such compromises, my opinion, however, is that when, before a magistrate, they are allowed to be entered into, merely in consideration of the respectable position in life occupied by the offenders, they are directly calculated to bring the magisterial office and authority into contempt. A truly independent magistrate is no timorous or slavish respecter of persons; and whether an offender, when brought before him, be one of the highest or of lowest in the land, he deals with him simply with reference to the nature of his offence and the legal punishment due to it. The hon. gentleman concluded by saying he had had an opportunity of visiting the new Barracks, that he had been through every part of them, and that, so far as he was capable of judging, he thought they had been made a shameful job of. I have, said he, had some experience in building; and although I cannot scrutinize a structure with a workman's or an architect's eye, I am able, I believe, to judge pretty correctly as to whether in the construction and finish of it, due regard has been had to the purposes for which it was intended; and I am quite satisfied that I judge correctly in declaring that the buildings of the new Barracks are not suitable for the purpose for which they have been erected—the accommodation of Her Majesty's Troops—at any season of the year, but particularly in winter, in a climate like this in which we live. It was the duty of the Government to have taken care that the Barracks should be so constructed and finished as to afford all the comforts and accommodation to which Her Majesty's Troops, both officers and men alike, are most justly entitled in their quarters, in any part of Her Majesty's dominions. In the new Barracks, some little attention indeed appears to have been paid to these matters, so far as respects the rooms of the married officers; although, even in those rooms, but little comfort can have been experienced by their occupants during the winter. As for the other rooms, they can have afforded but a very insufficient protection against the inclemency of the season now terminating; and the whole buildings are so open, loose, and un-

substantial, that it is impossible they can hold together for any length of time. But what else could have been expected, when the Government, as my hon. friend friend, Mr. Howlan, had observed, had given the contract to an officer of their own, without any guaranty or security for the due performance of it? It would, indeed, be well if a regular investigation of the whole matter could be made; for, although, in the event of due enquiry and examination into it, it would be found to have been a regular job, yet the exposure consequent upon such investigation would afford some satisfaction to the country; for, as affording the electors evidence, in addition to the great amount already before them, of the shameful manner in which the party at present in power have abused their confidence, it would help still further to open their eyes to the deceptions which have been practised upon them, and be an additional means of enabling them to choose more wisely at the coming general election.

Hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. COLES.) The Government do not appear to be disposed to attempt a vindication of their actions as respects the erection of the new Barracks; and, indeed, I am not surprised at the reluctance manifested by them to enter upon their defence against the charges preferred against them on that score. They have, without any necessity, further than that which had its origin in their own mismanagement of public affairs, their want of foresight, and their indigence at an alarming and painful crisis,—expended one fifth of the revenue without the consent of the Legislature. They have, indeed, attempted an excuse for it, to the effect that having been necessitated to call in the aid of the troops for the preservation of the public peace, they were bound to provide suitable accommodations for them. That, however, to my mind, is a very insufficient excuse for the great expenditure which, without Legislative sanction, they have incurred. But even setting aside, for the moment, all consideration of their utter disregard of that great constitutional principle which pronounces the chosen representatives of the people to be the only lawful holders of the public purse strings, can it be wondered at that the Barracks buildings, hastily run up, as they were, under no guaranty or inspection, in the fall of the year, constructed of unseasoned wood, and much of that also of the poorest quality, should be the mere open, crazy, and unfinished shells they are? The Government say that, at their own request, the Troops having been sent hither, they were, by an Act of the Legislature, bound to provide suitable permanent accommodations for them; but that I deny. The troops were sent hither only for a temporary purpose; and temporary accommodation was all that should have been provided for them. The Hon. Colonel Gray—a good authority, I presume, on that question—has said that it is his opinion that the troops will not be left with us for any length of time. What, then, as I have before asked, will become of those buildings which have been needlessly erected at so great an outlay of money to the country? They cannot be converted into comfortable or desirable residences for respectable families:—they will not be available for that purpose; and will, therefore, for the three or four years through which they may last, become mere receptacles for the refuse of society,—hovels and dens of vice and misery, of the worst and most revolting character. Hon. members of this House, supporters of the Government, openly and candidly told them, I have been informed, before the meeting of the Legislature, that, in the matter of the unconstitutional expenditure incurred by them in the erection of the Barracks, they had committed a very grave error, and that their duty to their constituents, as well as their own regard for the great constitutional bulwark of public safety,—the power of the public purse vested in the parliamentary

representatives of the people—would, they feared, prevent their voting, in their places in the Legislature, in support of an indemnification to them (the Government) for the act, on the plea of the urgent emergence of their position. To these plain declarations of conscientious disapproval of the Government's unprecedented expenditure of public money, on their own responsibility, the Government replied that, unless they should be sustained by their votes, with reference to that question, in the Legislature, they would have to resign. This threat, it seems, had a weighty significance; and, by means of it, a few of their supporters who were wavering in their allegiance, or meditating revolt, have been forced back to perfect submission. That there was interested partiality or unfairness, as respects the Government's acceptance of the tender of the Superintendent of Public Works, at the eleventh hour, or rather just a few minutes before the time limited for the receiving of tenders had expired, is, I think, too plain. And, again, I contend that, under no circumstances, should the Superintendent of Public Works have been allowed to take such a contract as that for the building of the Barracks—a contract which, in pecuniary amount, exceeded all the other public contracts in the Island taken together. And, further, on what principles of fair and open dealing, I should like to know, did the Government—when it was found necessary to erect other buildings in addition to those included in his contract—give the additional work to him, at his own price, without allowing it to be competed for in the usual way? It was very easy for the Government to say that no other person would have undertaken it at as low a rate of charge as Mr. Alley. Did they prove that by throwing it open to competition? No: they did not; and their having failed to do so was unfair to other tradesmen, particularly to him who, as well as Mr. Alley, had tendered for the first contract. But, in fact, everything connected with the building of the Barracks—besides the needlessness of the erection and the unwarranted appropriation of public money for that purpose—was open to serious objections, and had given rise to many well-founded complaints and occasioned strong suspicions of collusive contracts. And what wonder that suspicions of collusion should have been excited when it was well known, in Charlotte-town, that the flooring had been ordered, by a member of the Government, ten days before the tenders were opened.

Hon. the Leader of the Government (J. C. POPE) rose to order: The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition has said that the plank for the flooring of the new Barracks was ordered, by a member of the Government, ten days before the tenders for the erection of those buildings were opened. The insinuation, conveyed by the words of the hon. gentleman, is so plain and direct, that every other member of the committee must fully comprehend it. Plain and direct, however, as it is, there is not—in the sense in which the hon. gentleman wishes it to be understood—one word of truth in it. I am quite sensible that I am the member of the Government to whom the hon. gentleman has alluded; and I will now state the facts, which alone can have afforded any grounds for the charge so freely insinuated against me; at the same time reminding the hon. member that, by a reference to certain dates, the absence of all real foundation for what he has unhesitatingly advanced as a fact, can very easily be shown. After Mr. Alley's tender—which was by far the lowest—had been accepted, he asked me—knowing that I was in the habit of importing flooring from Messrs. Primrose and Rudolf of Picton,—if I would telegraph to them for what he might require to enable him to fulfil his contract. This I at once agreed to do, and did; and, when agreeing to do so, I, at the same time, offered him any fur-

their assistance in my power, in the way of furnishing him with vessels to bring the flooring planks, or any other lumber he might require, from the neighbouring Provinces.

Hon. Mr. COLES resumed. With reference, however, to what took place in Town, on the evening of St. Patrick's Day, as spoken of by the hon. member from Lot 11, being on my legs, I may as well state what I know of that occurrence,—the breaking of Mr. McCraith's windows. I was returning home from the Reading Room, about half-past 9 o'clock, in company with a friend; the noise occasioned by the smashing of the windows and the running away of the perpetrators of the mischief, attracted our attention, and, though we were not special constables, we thought it to be our duty to endeavour to effect the capture of the offenders. There were four of them, but only one was caught; and he, being taken to the police office told who the others were. The day following, the offenders went to Mr. McCraith, confessed their offence, and, finally, it was compromised. Now, had not the capture of one of those offenders been effected, as I have stated it was, and, through his confession, had it not been made known who his guilty companions were, the offence would have been set down to riotous members of the Irish Society. I will not go the length of saying that the Government really believed the Irish Society to be Fenians, but I will say that I think it is very much to be regretted that the Government, by the alarming precautionary measures to which they had recourse at that time, gave cause to the credulous and fearful among us, to entertain a suspicion of disaffection and disloyalty on the part of the Irish Catholics in general, and of the Irish Society in particular. Nay, I will say more: I think it was, by no means, creditable to the good sense of the Government, that they had recourse to the alarming and irritating precautions, with no better grounds for the apprehensions indicated by them, than the conception and utterances of a man of phrensied mind and over-heated imagination. The apprehensions of bloodshed, murder, and pillage, at that time entertained by many of the quiet, peaceable, and respectable families in the country, were, I believe, wholly attributable to the insensate declamation and warnings of that crazy individual. The alarm created by the diffusion of his wild imaginings, in several parts of Queen's County, adjacent to the City, was so great that many men brought their wives and children to town for safety; and others barricaded their houses, and prepared for a midnight attack, by arming themselves with pitchforks and any other implements of husbandry which could be converted into either offensive or defensive weapons of warfare. The alarm—created by the same crazy individual, and the seeming credence given to his absurd revelations by the Government—took possession of the minds of hundreds here in the City; and every gun and pistol, for sale in our shops, was bought up by the frightened Protestants to defend their lives and properties against what the Government—through the extraordinary precautionary steps taken by them—had given them the strongest reason to fear was on the very eve of fulfilment—a preconcerted insurrectionary outbreak of Catholic Fenianism. The alarm, it is true, was soon found to have been a false one; but, though it passed off without the smallest injury to either person or property, having, through any act of violence, been experienced by any individual in the country, the bad feelings engendered by it—resentment, on the one hand, provoked by undeserved suspicions of disaffection and disloyalty; and mistrust and fear, on the other, too openly displayed, will, I am afraid, for a long time to come, be the cause of enmity between neighbours who, up to that time, had lived together in the exercise, towards each other, of the best and most generous affections of their nature. In my opinion, the precautionary steps taken by the Government were the chief, if not the sole, cause of the panic in Charlottetown; and, as they were had recourse to without cause, so are they without justification.

Hon. the Solicitor General (Mr. HAVILAND): From the statements of the hon. member from Cascompec, Mr. Howlan, and the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, and the inferences which they themselves have drawn from their own statements, there could be no doubt, if their statements and their infer-

ences were correct, that the Government, by the precautions which they took to prevent any riotous or seditious outbreak on St. Patrick's Day, were themselves the party who caused the panic which, at that time, prevailed in our community. This, however, was not the case. The panic existed in several parts of the country, and had begun to spread in Charlottetown sometime before the Government took any action with reference to the cause of it. The Government entertained no suspicions injurious to the loyal or peaceable character of the Irish Society; but they had good reason to believe that there were many in the Island, both in Town and country, who strongly sympathized with the Finnigans, and who, in the event of any disturbance arising, would not, had they been provided with arms and ammunition, have been slow to avail themselves of an opportunity for violence and rapine. Is it to be supposed that, in a population of 80,000, there are not many of these restless, discontented, and rapacious spirits to be found; as well as in Ireland, America, and England? In refusing to issue rifles and ammunition which might have fallen into the hands of such men, at a time of great excitement, the Government were influenced by nothing but a necessary, and becoming prudence. The fears which, at that time, were prevalent in the community were not confined to old women and children—to feeble and pusillanimous men—but were experienced by strong men, men of courage, bone, and sinew; and had the Government failed to have recourse to such precautionary means as seemed to them most likely to prevent even the possibility of outrage or riot, they would have shewn themselves most unfit for the high and responsible position which they filled; and if, owing to any such failure on their part, any disturbance or tumult had arisen, involving loss of life, destruction of property, or other damage to individuals, they would have been morally guilty of it in the judgment both of God and man. To insinuate that, in their apprehension of danger, they imagined it could proceed from no other source than the Irish Society, or Irish Catholics, was most unjust; and they who made that insinuation knew in their own minds that it was so. For was it not known to whole world that the entire body of the Catholic priesthood had condemned the Fenian organization, and that no body of Christians upon the earth felt a greater veneration for their spiritual advisers, more dreaded their censures, or were more obedient to their authority, than Irish Catholics. Knowing this then, as the Government did well—knowing that, through all ranks of the Catholic priesthood, from the highest and most venerated of its dignitaries, down to the humblest of her pariah priests, Fenianism had been openly denounced in the strongest terms—could they, for one moment, have imagined that the Irish Catholics of this Island, whose prevailing characteristics are veneration, love, and obedience towards their clergy, could be members of so unlawful, so murderous, so ungodly an association as that of the Fenians? Most justly have they been represented by Archbishop Cullen as infidels of the most heinous character—as the enemies of all order, peace, and morality—as most villainous wretches, whose only objects are robbery, murder, and ravishment. And could the Government for one moment suspect that the Irish Society, chiefly Catholics, faithful members of their church, and, in all other respects, peaceable and respectable members of society, could be members of such an organization? No: it was impossible for them to do so; and the selection made of individuals to be sworn in as special constables on St. Patrick's Day, was a proof of the perfect confidence which the Government placed in the people of Charlottetown, of all religious denominations, and most certainly in Irish Catholics as fully as in the members of any other religious community. The Government were very far from apprehending any concerted or organized outbreak, on the part of any portion of the people, on that day; but they were very well aware that, besides a few Irish Yankees, there were many idle, loafing vagabonds, loungers at the corners of streets, who, conscious of the prevailing excitement of the day, and, through drunkenness rendered careless of consequences even to themselves, would be on the watch for any opportunity of joining in a row and creating a riot. In the great majority of the citizens of Charlottetown, the Government had perfect confidence, and well knew that, to the utmost of their

ability; they would be found repressors of any disposition to create tumult or commotion; and true guardians of the public peace. But they also knew that if, in the event of any serious disturbance, any citizen attempting, in his mere private capacity, to suppress the tumult, should be encountered by any ruffianly rioter, and, in self-defence, should have the misfortune to kill him, he would, in law, be held to be guilty of manslaughter; whereas in the event of a similar encounter between a special constable and a rioter, should the former, in self-defence, have the misfortune to kill the latter, it would, in law, be accounted justifiable homicide. Therefore it was that, in calling upon what they believed to be a sufficient number of the respectable merchants, tradesmen, and mechanics of Charlottetown, to become conservators of the peace on St. Patrick's Day, the Government caused them to be sworn in as special constables; the object of causing them to be so sworn in being to arm them with confidence in the discharge of the onerous and perilous duty which there was too much reason to believe they might be called upon to perform. Now, as in every British community, whenever any occasion arises for the swearing in of special constables for the preservation of the peace, the selection is invariably made from amongst the most respectable and trust-worthy of its members, so, upon that now in question, they who were called upon to be sworn in as special constables, were selected from among the most respected and influential men in Town, irrespective of nationality or creed; and, among them, Irish Catholics were neither the fewest in number, nor the least respectable and influential. The alarm in Charlottetown, if not altogether created by the fabulous accounts brought into it by an individual, designated by the hon. member from Casumpeque (Mr. Howlan) as a half-cracked schoolmaster, respecting armed bodies of Fenians in the country being prepared to make a raid upon the City on St. Patrick's Day, was, no doubt, heightened, in some quarters, by the diffusion of these accounts; but nothing towards the Government can be more unjust than to accuse them of having endeavoured to heighten the panic, however it arose, or whatever may have tended to increase it; for they did the very reverse. As respects the accounts brought to Charlottetown, by the individual, generally known amongst the boys in Charlottetown by the name of *Rufus*, but whose real name, I believe, is *Stumbles*, the truth is simply this: that individual, whether through the effects of habitual intemperance, or from some intellectual derangement arising from natural causes, or from both together, is unfortunately at times the subject of most strange hallucinations, and, at such times, the tales told by him are indeed those of an idiot, "full of sound and fury, signifying nothing." Now, it appears that, on the day before St. Patrick's, labouring under one of those insane delusions,—and on that occasion it happened to be respecting Fenianism—he came to Town for the purpose, it would seem, of advertising the Government of a projected raid of Fenians, which, according to his diseased imagination, was to be made upon the City on St. Patrick's Day. Full of this alarming imagination, as he was on his way to Government House, to give notice of the danger, he met with Mr. Atkinson, His Excellency's Private Secretary, and, as it would appear, knowing who the gentleman was whom he encountered, he at once commenced to unburthen himself of his fabulous, but terrific story, and poured into Mr. Atkinson's ears, with a plausibility and consistency which are, not infrequently, characteristic of the delusions of the insane, such an account of the numbers, equipments, and designs of Fenian bands in the country, prepared for the pillage of Charlottetown and the murder of its inhabitants, as, I really believe, struck that gentleman, who had no idea whatever of the character of his informant, with no little astonishment—perhaps with momentary alarm. Some little time after he had parted with the unfortunate alarmist, Mr. Atkinson came into the Reading Room where I was, and he communicated to me the whole of that individual's strange revelations to himself. At first, I scarcely knew what to think of it; but on Mr. Atkinson's giving me, in answer to my enquiries, a particular description of the person of his informant, it at once occurred to me—and correctly, as it afterwards appeared—that he could be no other than poor *Stumbles* *alias* *Rufus*. I then made Mr. Atkinson acquainted with the true character of the man, and we at once concluded that the whole

of his alarming story was nothing but a mere hallucination of his diseased mind; and, as such, it was regarded by every member of the Government who heard of it. They gave no credence whatever to the absurd revelations of poor *Stumbles*; but, at the same time, they were very well aware of the Fenian threat, which had occasioned so much alarm in the neighboring Provinces; and certain also that there were many loafing scoundrels in the community,—Irish Yankees and others, who, for the chance of plunder which it would afford them, would, on a day of so much excitement, be on the watch to act upon any occasion favourable to their purpose for the creation of a riot or commotion; and, in the precautions which they took to guard against any such unfortunate occurrence, they acted only with common prudence—with a prudence for which they claim no especial merit; but for an absence of which, had they failed to manifest it, they would—even had every thing, independently of any precautionary measures, passed off harmlessly and well—have merited severe censure. With respect to the comparison instituted by the hon. member from Casumpeque (Mr. Howlan) between the unfortunate individual, nicknamed *Rufus*, and Mr. Atkinson, His Excellency's Private Secretary, I will take the liberty to say that I think the hon. member, in making it, has, to say the least of it, evinced very bad taste. Freedom of speech is one of the most essential parliamentary privileges which we enjoy under the British Constitution, and such is the high-minded estimation in which it is held by those who are entitled to it, that seldom, even in the extreme heat of party conflict, do members, either of the British Parliament, or of our Colonial Legislatures, forget themselves so far as to use uncourteous language to each other; and but rarely, very rarely indeed, does it happen that a member of any one of these Parliaments is found so oblivious of the honorable position which he occupies and of the principles of a gentleman, as to avail himself of his parliamentary liberty of speech to vilify or speak contemptuously of a gentleman not present, and who, besides, if he were present, as not being a member of "the House," could not claim the privilege of a reply. For such an abuse of parliamentary privilege, it would, it seems to me, be scarcely possible, under any circumstances, to plead any thing in extenuation; but when such an outrage is entirely gratuitous, it can only be justly characterized as base and cowardly. The hon. member from Casumpeque (Mr. Howlan) in speaking of the unfortunate individual *Stumbles*, as a half-cracked schoolmaster, took the liberty without the smallest provocation to speak most contemptuously of Mr. Atkinson and pronounced him to be a man of no greater mental calibre than the individual whom he, in the same breath, had characterized as a half-cracked schoolmaster. This, under all the circumstances of the case, was, I say, a most gross and indefensible abuse of parliamentary privilege; and, as such, it deserves the most direct and severe reprehension. It is not as the particular friend, or the champion of Mr. Atkinson that I have thus spoken in reprehension of the unwarrantable reflections which have been cast upon him by the hon. member from Casumpeque (Mr. Howlan); but I have done so simply as a member of this hon. House, anxious for the preservation of its dignity, and most unwilling that that dignity should ever, in the course of our parliamentary proceedings, be impaired even by the most accidental manifestation of disregard of these honorable and generous principles, by which gentlemen are ever careful to regulate their actions, language, and deportment, both in public and in private life. I am not a disciple of Gall or Spurzheim—and I know nothing of the phrenological developments, either of the head of the hon. member from Casumpeque (Mr. Howlan), or of that of Mr. Atkinson; but yet I will take leave to tell that hon. member, highly as, I am persuaded, he thinks of his own abilities, that, in any of the real evidences of talents and education, Mr. Atkinson would, I believe, on a fair trial, be found greatly to surpass him. That gentleman was educated at Oxford; he has been admitted a member of the English Bar; and I imagine that were he and the hon. member each required, at a competitive examination, to write a despatch, or a lecture on the same subject, the hon. member's performance would be found greatly inferior to that of Mr. Atkinson.

Hon. Col. GRAY—having entered the House, and taken his seat in the Committee, just as the hon. member from Casum-

peque (Mr. Howlan) was reopening the chronological discussion upon the outward developments of certain Acadies, which had been called forth by certain observations of his own thereon, in substance, as above reported, — said: — I rise to a point of order. I thought, Sir, that the subject under discussion should have been that paragraph of His Excellency's Speech which informs the House that they will be asked to concur in a measure for appropriating the money arising from the sale of the old Barracks towards the expenditure incurred in building the new Barracks; but it would rather seem, from what I have heard here this morning, during the few minutes that I have been in my place, that the subject under the consideration of the Committee must be the Report of the Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum.

Hon. Sol. Gen. (Mr. HAVILAND), for the information of the hon. and gallant Colonel, explained how the subject of phrenological developments had been dragged into the debate; and then resumed his speech as follows: The hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Coles) has laid it down, as a constitutional rule, that the only opportunity afforded the Opposition to enter upon a full review of the policy of the Government, and a critical examination of the whole of their acts, is that given to them by the debates which arise when the House is in Committee on the draft Address. The rule, however, which, with reference to that privilege of the Opposition, he has so authoritatively laid down, I must beg leave to inform him is quite at variance with the long established practice of the Imperial Parliament,—the precedents afforded by which, he will not, I imagine, be so bold as to deny we must humbly be content to recognize as our only constitutional legislative guides. According to the established practice of the Imperial Parliament, when the House is in Committee on the draft Address, no debate which at that time arises, can extend beyond the range of the paragraph of the Speech and that of the Address which are immediately before the Committee; and the proper time for the Opposition to enter upon a critical review and examination of the policy and acts of the Government, is when the motion has been made for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole on the reported draft Address. On another point, Sir, I must also beg leave to rectify an erroneous assumption on the part both of the hon. the Leader of the Opposition and of the hon. member from Casumpsque. These two hon. members have both argued, with respect to agrarian or other internal disturbances, as if the law for the regulation of the Volunteer Force, authorized the Government to call out the Volunteers for the suppression of any such disturbance, and even also to employ them in aid of the Civil Power, in the serving of Writs and the levying of distraints for rent; whereas, on the contrary, the law expressly forbids their being employed in any such manner, and declares that they shall only be called out for actual military service in the event of foreign aggression or invasion. The nature and powers of that Act have been often debated in this House; and, as often, has it been made clear that the Volunteers could not be employed for the suppression of internal disturbance, or in aid of the civil power in carrying into effect any of the decrees of the Supreme Court. When the Bill was first under discussion, in this House, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition argued that the Volunteer Force was about to be organized for the purpose of enabling landlords to collect their rents, by its means, at the point of the bayonet. I, at that time—in consideration of the fact that Her Majesty's Government had declared that it was not their intention to send troops to the Island again—at first, thought it would be best that the Volunteer Force should be available, in the Colony, for every service for which regular troops, if stationed here, could be called out on the authority of the Commander-in-Chief. However, when the question was debated, I yielded to the opinion of the majority of the House, and it was unanimously agreed that the Volunteer Force should not be called out for actual service, unless in the event of foreign aggression or invasion. And, as I said, on the occasion of the debate concerning the measures which were had recourse to, by the Government, for the repression of the Tenant League movement, I then considered how much safer, how much better, in every point of view, it would be, in the event of any

agrarian or other internal disturbances arising in the Colony, to have recourse, for their suppression, to the aid of Her Majesty's Troops—not doubting that in any emergent need, that aid could be procured from the neighbouring Provinces—than by the employment of our Volunteers or Militia, to set brother against brother, cousin against cousin, friend against friend, to the creating of feuds for generations, and the forced expatriation, for the sake of life and peace, of many through their having been, perhaps, fatally engaged in such service.—With the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, I perfectly agree when he represents the power over the public purse as the dearest legislative right of the parliamentary representatives of the people; but in asserting that right, and broadly denying to the Government any power, under any circumstances, to impinge upon it, he appears to me to be either wholly ignorant of, or to have entirely forgotten, those records of the history of Great Britain, which show that such emergencies, such necessities arise in public affairs, and in the course of important events, as fully justify the constitutional government of a country in taking upon themselves the risk of making large appropriations of public moneys, for the public service, independently of any legislative sanction. On such occasions, the Government are well aware of all the risk and responsibility they incur by such infraction of the right of the parliamentary representatives of the people; and are, consequently, prepared to assume them before their proper, their constitutional judges—the parliamentary representatives of the people themselves. They are well aware that, if, in the course of parliamentary investigation of such acts of appropriation, it shall be found they have improperly used, or squandered away public moneys, they must submit to all the consequences of a vote of want of confidence—the least of which is the termination of their administration. But they also know, that, if the result of such an investigation, be an approval of such appropriations and an acknowledgment of the necessity which constrained them, they shall stand triumphantly exonerated from all censure or blame, and be accounted, rather the faithful guardians of the constitution and of public rights, than the infringers upon the one and the betrayers of the other. This is exactly the position which the Government now occupy with respect to their unauthorized appropriation of public moneys in the building of the new Barracks; and, fully satisfied that they did no more, in making that appropriation, than circumstances fully warranted their doing, they now confidently expect a verdict of approval both from this branch of the Legislature and the other. At the time of the introduction of Responsible Government, the Treasurer, by the Revenue Laws, was prohibited, under the penalty of one thousand pounds, from issuing or paying any moneys out of the Treasury for any other purpose or purposes than those for which legislative grants or appropriations had been made; but the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, at that time the Government Leader, soon found the great inconvenience to which the Government was subjected by such a law, and it was accordingly repealed. And, further, as respects appropriation of public moneys by Government, independently of legislative sanction, that hon. gentleman, when at the head of our affairs, was the first who, in this Colony, made the experiment, as witness the Newfoundland pensioners. On the part of his Government, such a violation of the rights of the parliamentary guardians of the public purse, was perfectly justifiable; but now a change has come over the spirit of his dream; and he boldly condemns us for the very act of which he—with much less necessity than we have had, or rather with no necessity at all—set us the example.—The hon. the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member from Casumpsque (Mr. Howlan) have both called the new Barracks a mere job, and have been unparing in their condemnation of the manner in which the contract for their erection has been fulfilled; but, although I do not by any means account myself a mechanical genius, I do not hesitate to say that the buildings are fully as suitable for their purpose, and, in all respects as well constructed, as they would or could have been had they been erected under the especial direction and superintendence of either or both of those hon. members themselves, or of any builder or builders chosen and appointed by them

to that end. The hon. member from Cascoepaque has affirmed that, on the day in which Mr. Lowe gave in his tender for the erection of those buildings, at the office of the Colonial Secretary, it was within two or three minutes of 12 o'clock at noon, at which hour, on that day, the time limited for the giving in or reception of tenders expired, and that Mr. Morrison, the Colonial Secretary, then told him (Mr. Lowe) that his tender was the only one which, up to that time, had been received.

Mr. HOWLAN: Yes; and Mr. Lowe made an affidavit to that effect, and caused it to be published in the Charlottetown newspapers.

Hon. Sol. Gen. (Mr. HAVILAND): Well, as to that, I will only say that, as to the time of the day at which my friend, Mr. Lowe, has stated he gave in his tender, and, as to what he said Mr. Morrison told him, at the time, I believe he mistook. True, Mr. Lowe made an affidavit to that effect; but the statement contained in his affidavit was contradicted through the newspaper press, not only by the Deputy Colonial Secretary himself, but also by Mr. Robins, the Deputy Colonial Treasurer, who was present in the Colonial Secretary's office at the time when Mr. Lowe gave in his tender. There was, at the time of its being made public that Mr. Alley's tender had been accepted, a good deal of blowing hot and cold upon the matter; but I believe the statement concerning it, published by Mr. Alley himself, and corroborated by Mr. Morrison's published letter, to be the truth—and that is, that Mr. Alley's tender for the contract was given in at about 20 minutes to 12 o'clock. I will now only say further that when an hon. member attempts to carry a Resolution in this House, he should have proper data on which to sustain it; and not have nothing better to advance in support of it than mere hearsay or newspaper authority.

Hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. COLES)—in reply to what had just been advanced, by the Hon. the Solicitor General, to the effect that Mr. Coles's own Government, were the first, after the introduction of the Responsible System, to take or draw money from the Treasury without legislative sanction,—said: The assertion was not correct; for, when the Liberal Government draw money out of the Treasury for the payment of the Newfoundland Pensioners, they did it under the sanction of an Act, authorizing the enrolment of those Pensioners as a Military Force for the service of the Colony, and which also provided for their payment by means of a Tax imposed upon the Rent Rolls of the proprietors. It was true, indeed, that that Act was disallowed; but it was also to be remembered that, on the Government's receiving the intimation of its disallowance, the Pensioners were immediately disbanded—and further that the Government, in appropriating moneys for the payment of that Force during the short time it was in existence, kept within the amount voted by the Legislature to the Government for contingent expenses.

Hon. Col. GRAY. I understand an hon. member has made, in my absence, some observations respecting what I said, last night, as affecting the character of the structure or buildings, called the new or Victoria Barracks. That, hon. member, I have been informed, has said, that I spoke of those buildings as "mere sheds." With your permission, Sir, I will now explain what I really did say, on the subject, last night. I called the new Barracks "huts" and not "sheds"; and I explained that, for the accommodation of Her Majesty's Troops, here in winter, the Government was bound to *hut* them, and not to leave them out under canvas. *Huttings* in military phraseology means erections of wood, brick, or stone; the other means erections of canvas. I have had canvas tents as large as this room. In an enemy's country, troops can have no other accommodations than such as are afforded by these light tents, which admit of being easily transported from one place of encampment to another. The Government were bound to have buildings—*hutting*—of wood or stone. If the Temperance Hall had been secured, it might held the rank and file; but then it would have

been necessary to billet the officers, or otherwise, to pay for their private accommodation. I say the Government were bound to *hut* the Troops; but it was not possible for them, so late in the season, to erect buildings of brick or stone; and, therefore, of necessity, the Barracks were run up with wood; and it was really wonderful in how short a time it was done. I do not think it can be paralleled by another instance of buildings so extensive and commodious being run up in so short a time. The *hutting* at Alderhot cost the Imperial Government £300,000 Sterling. The three huts for the Commander in Chief, I have no doubt cost as much as our Barracks—£7000 sterling; yet still, in military phrase, they are only *huts*. The question as to the expense of the new Barracks is, however, I apprehend, being carried on in a very irregular and unconstitutional manner. It is a *Ripvan-spinkle* way of doing business. There are no despatches, no documents before us, on which to base the discussion. In New Brunswick, the same complaints are brought against the Ministry. We are told by His Excellency's Speech, that papers, relative to that subject and others, will be laid before us. Until that shall have been done, all such discussions as that relative to the expense of the new Barracks ought to be postponed; because, until then, there can be no certainty as to the grounds of discussion. In the absence of the necessary documents I am unable to form an opinion as to the cost of the buildings—but we all know the contractor is a trustworthy and careful man, and we may safely say the buildings reflect great credit upon him when we consider the shortness of the time allowed. As to the benefits resulting from the presence of Troops among us, that is a matter of another character. Individually, I can reside very comfortably in any country where they are not to be found. I never heard any thing respecting the anticipated outbreak of Fenians, until the day was over; but, if I had, I should not have been alarmed. I have had too much trouble of this sort in my day to be easily moved by reports, which I should, from the first, have considered utterly devoid of any truthful foundation. And this I will say, that those who would insinuate any thing against the loyalty of our Roman Catholic brethren are guilty of a base slander; I am of opinion that they are as loyal as any class of men on the face of the earth; and with respect to any complicity with this Fenian organization—why it is well known that men of all sects are to be found among them; and if five hundred Roman Catholics are in their ranks there will be five hundred Protestants alongside of them; but the truth is that Religion has nothing whatever to do with the movement, I should say the Religion of the Fenians will be found to comprise, in a great proportion, that of *any-thingarians*. That there are some respectable men among them I believe; and that many of them are sincere in their delusion I also admit; but we may safely set down the great number as freebooters. Let hon. members consider the noble conduct of the Irishmen of Canada during the past month; see the loyalty displayed by them in rallying round the flag we honor: and then who dares impugn their loyalty?—again what has been the conduct of the Roman Catholic hierarchy all over these Provinces, as well as at home, denouncing, in every possible shape, the mad folly of this organization? I have closely examined every paper I have seen; and, out of a great many published in Britain, New York, and in all the Provinces, which I regularly receive, not one line has ever been written accusing the humblest clergyman of the Roman Catholic Church of giving his countenance to this movement, and there are but too many, I regret to say, who would be glad to boast of this knowledge, if they had the shadow of an excuse for impeaching the loyalty of one Roman Catholic Clergyman.

No, Mr. Chairman, I believe there is not a class on the face of the earth more disposed to maintain the cause of law and order, than the Roman Catholic Clergy. As I said before, on a former occasion, Ireland has grievances. For more than thirty years since I first resided in that noble part of Her Majesty's dominions, have I been painfully conscious of this, but by constitutional means alone can Ireland's friends hope to aid her. To talk of doing this by force of arms is utter folly. As well might the chiefs of the Highland clans attempt, by such means, to regain their former power and glory. I say that the Fenian organization, backed by all the forces of the United States, Naval and Military, can never redress Ireland's wrongs. As for any descent upon this Island, I do not believe President Roberts would give fifty pounds for it; and General Sweeney is too clever a strategist not to know that if he obtained possession of this Island he could not hold it a month, against the navy of Britain, which would enclose his men in a trap from which they could not escape. If he enters any of our Provinces, New Brunswick on the Madawaska frontier will be his mark. There he would have his communications open and his retreat secured into the land whence he came. But I fear we may be visited by bands of marauders in the shape of Privateers, under cover of the fishing fleet this summer. And I much fear that before the snow again fall, we shall have to encounter a far more serious difficulty out of the complications arising from the abrogation of the Reciprocal rights heretofore accorded to the fishermen of Massachusetts. Last year, when I declared my conviction of what was coming, hon. members on the floor of this House treated my opinions with indifference. Time will show us who is right, at all events *Reciprocity is lost* and in this I have not proved a false prophet. I may have somewhat more to say on this subject when the hon. members of the Government bring down their bill for amending our Militia Laws. Seeing the hon. member for St. Peter's in his place, I would now ask him if he has found the Gazette containing the statement of our Governor's having, in 1860, denounced the Land Purchase Bill as visionary and delusive?

Hon. Mr. WHELAN said he had not laid his hands upon it. He did not, however, exactly mean the Land Purchase Bill, but the purchasing of Estates with Government money.

Hon. Col. GRAY. I thought not; and I can assure the hon. member that His Excellency so far from speaking in that strain, alluded to such visionary and delusive schemes as Escheat, getting free farms, &c., such as we have often heard certain hon. members promise on the stump, "Vote for me and hurrah for free farms for you all." This, I believe, we all know to have been visionary and delusive.

House adjourned.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, 12th April 1866.

(Barracks Question Debate continued.)

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH. In the early part of the day, I was about to rise for the purpose of making a few remarks touching the question then under the consideration of the Committee; but, observing that the usual hour of adjournment was not far off, I thought it best to withhold them till the afternoon. I regret that I was not long in my place in the morning; for, through my absence, I believe I lost the pleasure and instruction which I should, had I been present, have derived from hearing some very luminous speeches, which, I understand, were delivered by hon. members, during the morning sitting, on a variety of subjects; among which, I have been told, besides the building of the Barracks, the Tenant League, Fenianism, the Irish Society,

and the Land Question, was phrenology, surely a most unusual topic of parliamentary discussion. It has not been usual hitherto to take so wide a range in the course of our debates when only one question was fairly before us; and neither have hon. members, upon any previous occasion which I can recollect, thought it necessary, for the enforcement of their arguments, or the illustration of their views, to go three or four times over precisely the same grounds. I do not think that I will follow the example which has been set me in that respect; but will endeavour to confine myself to a consideration of the single question now legitimately before the Committee, which is the propriety of concurring in a measure for appropriating the money arising from the sale of the old Barracks towards the expenditure incurred in building those at present occupied by the troops. It is not necessary that I should go into the question concerning the necessity and propriety, or otherwise, of sending for the troops; for that was fully debated yesterday, and the necessity and propriety of doing so fully and fairly admitted. Neither is it necessary that I should enter into any consideration of the rise and progress of the organization called the Tenant League, or Union. One newspaper, the organ of the League, declared that their numbers amounted to eleven thousand; and another estimated the combination at fourteen thousand; and, when the Government knew that the members of a League, so formidable as respected its numerical strength, had bound themselves, by a solemn obligation, to withhold the payment of their rents, until such time as their landlords should consent to sell them the lease-simple of their farms at their own estimation of their value, it was surely high time for them to consider by what means the association could be brought within constitutional bounds. I have never objected to my own constituents, or any other portion of our agricultural population, forming themselves into associations for the purpose of freeing themselves, by fair, honorable, and legal means, from what they feel to be the heavy yoke of the leasehold tenure, or for endeavouring, by whatever influence or pressure they can honestly bring to bear upon their representatives in the Legislature, to bring about a fair and equitable settlement of the Land Question, for the whole Island. Such associations, so formed, and so regulating their proceedings, were perfectly legal and constitutional; but the moment they departed from the landmarks which indicated the bounds of individual rights, it became the duty of the Government to put them down. The moment the Government became aware that the members of the Tenant League had bound themselves by a solemn pledge to resist the lawful demands of their landlords, that moment it became their duty to take measures for the suppression of the League, or at least, for the purpose of convincing them that, by no means, save such as were within the pale of the constitution and the laws, was it possible for them to effect the great object of their association—the conversion of their leaseholds into freeholds. That very many who were reckoned among the members of the League had been forced into it by threats uttered in a covert way, I have ascertained by conversation with such individuals themselves. They would not have been able, as they have told me themselves, to consider themselves safe in their own beds, unless they had joined the League. Of the extent to which terrorism was carried, the public in general have, I believe, but a very imperfect idea. Many, very many honest and worthy men were obliged to succumb to it, and outwardly to give their countenance to a system of illegality and dishonesty, the practice of which was abhorrent to their sense of truth and justice; and deeply, indeed, do I regret the loss and trouble which, it is quite certain, has fallen upon some of those unwilling

members of the League—who who would never have been connected with it in any way, had not their fears been wrought upon by some of the bold, designing men who governed the association, and who were the cause of all the disaffection, discontent, collisions, and terrorism which arose and prevailed in certain districts of the Island, especially in Queen's County. The Government were aware of the disastrous and ruinous effects, of which the collisions taking place between the civil officers of the law and recalcitrant tenants could not fail to be the cause, and they felt it to be their duty in the end to call in the aid of the military, as the only certain means by which, without the fear of bloodshed or murder, a due observance of the law could be enforced, and peace, order, and safety be re-established in the disturbed districts. The presence only of the Military would, they knew, without their having any actual recourse to their arms, be sufficient to awe the boldest and most turbulent into submission; and, therefore, it was that, influenced by the most merciful considerations, they chose to call in the aid of Troops to sustain the authority of the law, rather than to arm a civil force for that purpose. Had the Government, instead of sending for the Troops, resolved upon the arming of a civil force, or the employing of either the Volunteers or the Militia, to enforce submission to the law, on the part of the League, the collisions which would have ensued would—there could scarcely be the shadow of a reason to doubt it—have resulted in bloodshed and the loss of life, to be followed by consequences still worse, if possible—the alienation of friends, the estrangement of members of the same family, and the perpetuation of deadly feuds for generations to come. And who would have been responsible for all this? The Government most certainly, who ought to have foreseen all the consequences. The civil power of the Government had been carried to its full extent when the arrest of Dickieson was effected; and it was not until after the Sheriff had made a representation to them, to the effect that it would be impossible for him to carry civil processes into effect unless he were sustained by the aid of an armed civil force, that the Government determined to call in the aid of the Troops. They felt the full weight of the great responsibility which rested upon them. They had a most onerous duty to discharge, and they were fully sensible how obnoxious the performance of it would be to the feelings of the thousands of the infatuated Leaguers and their numerous sympathizers; but they shrunk not from it. They were equal to the emergency; and, unhesitatingly, assumed the full responsibility of their position. The path of duty lay straight before them. It was not, indeed, a smooth, flowery, and inviting path; but, on the contrary, one beset with difficulties and dangers of a most serious and harassing character. Still, however, as the only one by which the end they had in view—the restoration of public tranquility and confidence—could be attained, they determined to pursue it. As to the absolute necessity of sending for the Troops, there was no difference of opinion among the members of the Government. The doing so was the act of His Excellency the Administrator of the Government: it was the act of every member of his Council. Well, the Troops arrived, and, it was necessary to provide quarters or accommodations for them. It was, it appeared, the almost unanimous opinion of the Committee that, at the time the Troops were brought to the Island, there existed an imperative necessity for the Government's having recourse to their aid for the putting down of that organization, which, in a most daring and contumacious manner, had refused to recognize, or submit to, the just authority of the civil power of the land. It is the opinion of those hon. members on this side of the House by

whom the policy of the Government is generally sustained; and, moreover, it is the opinion of the leading minds in Opposition who—scorning to pander to popular prejudice, touching the question—in a spirit of true manliness, independence, and statesmanlike patriotism, acknowledged the necessity to which the Government, in the discharge of their duty as the guardians of the constitution, the social tranquility, and general well-being of the country, felt themselves bound unhesitatingly to submit. Well then, it having been thus conceded by a large majority of this Committee, that, by existing circumstances, the Government were fully justified in sending for the Troops; the same majority, unless they would directly stultify themselves, must admit that the Government were bound to provide suitable military accommodations for them. They were, at first, put under canvas, and so remained for six weeks; but, as winter was approaching, it was quite clear that they could not be kept much longer in the country, unless such quarters should be provided for them as would afford them due protection against the severity of the coming season. If it had been necessary to bring the Troops to the Island, it was equally so to keep them here. It behoved the Government, then, without loss of time, to set about making due preparations for their winter accommodation; and the Hon. and learned Solicitor General and myself, as members of it, in order to be fore-armed against any possible attacks, from any quarter, on the score of unnecessary or wasteful expenditure of public money, undertook to make proper enquiry and examination throughout the city, for the purpose of finding, if possible, some building or buildings which could be converted into temporary barracks, so that the Government might not be obliged to incur the great outlay which would be necessary for the erection of new barracks. The first building we thought of was the old Wesleyan Chapel; but, on application to one of the Trustees of that property, we found they would not be willing to let it for such a purpose; and it also appeared, on examination of the building, that it could not have been converted into quarters for the Troops, without undergoing such alterations and repairs as would have necessitated a much greater expenditure of money than the Government would have been warranted in making for such a temporary purpose. We also thought of the Drill Room building; but neither could that, without very considerable and expensive alterations, have been made to answer the purpose; and besides the buildings being too small, we found that the proprietor would not be willing to have it converted into barracks, on account of the very serious derangement in his private business accommodations which his giving it up for such a purpose would occasion. House accommodation, upon whatever scale, whether great or small, in Charlottetown, it is very well known, is, at present, and has, for some time back, been far short of the ordinary requirements of the population; and, consequently, our endeavours to find ready built quarters in it for the Troops were altogether fruitless. The troops, however, were, as I have said before, in Prince Edward Island; and if there had been a necessity for bringing them, there was the same for keeping them; and keep them we could not without providing them with proper winter quarters. This being the case, the Government immediately caused the Superintendent of Public Works to draw out plans and specifications for new Barracks, for the accommodation of a limited number of Troops, such a space to be allowed for each man as would, according to the latest military rules and regulations, afford him 600 cubic feet of air; and tenders for their erection were duly advertised for. Two tenders were given in, at the office of the Colonial Secretary, in due time. By

one of these, that of Mr. Lowe, the contract was offered to be taken for £5,500; by the other, that of Mr. Alley, it was offered to be taken for £5,000. The Government accepted the lower tender, that of Mr. Alley, although he was himself the Superintendent of Public Works; but by giving the contract to him instead of to Mr. Lowe, they saved the difference between the amounts of the two tenders—no less a sum than £2,500. Attempts have, indeed, been made outside to prove that Mr. Alley's tender was not sent in until after the expiration of the time limited for the receiving of tenders by the Government; and some hon. members of this House have, on those grounds, preferred a charge, of what they are pleased to call complicity with Mr. Alley, against the Government, as respects their acceptance of his tender. That two tenders only were given in—one, by and from Mr. Lowe; and the other by and from Mr. Alley—and that both were given in in due time, we have the published evidence of two highly respectable and most trust-worthy gentlemen to prove—that of Mr. Morrison, the Deputy Colonial Secretary, and that of Mr. Robins, the Deputy Treasurer. Of that charge, therefore, I shall say no more than that I am quite willing that it shall go for all it is worth. But, as a member of the Government, I will say that Mr. Alley has completed his contract in a manner, the most creditable to himself, and satisfactory to those whose duty it was to see that it was duly executed. From the time (29th August) of the acceptance of his tender by the Government, in a cold climate like ours, not more than six weeks could, under the military regulations, be allowed for the completion of his contract; and that, with an expedition perhaps unparalleled in its way, he had accomplished two days before the expiration of the six weeks limited for its performance. On accepting Mr. Alley's tender, the Government did not, indeed, think it necessary to supersede him in his office, and to appoint another Superintendent of Public Works in his stead; but His Excellency appointed a Committee of Inspection, which was composed of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, the Hon. Mr. Davies, and myself; and out of us went out, every day, to examine the work, and to ascertain the progress being made in the buildings. One day I noticed that one of the foundation posts—a corner one—had been spliced; and, on my asking Mr. Alley how that had happened, or why it had been done, he gave me a most satisfactory reason for it. His explanation was to the effect that it was done owing to the fact that the particular buildings it supported had to be raised nine feet above the level of the ground at that end, and posts long enough for the purpose could not be procured at the time; and, in consequence, one of them had to be spliced. The splicing of that post did not, however, affect the strength or stability of the foundation in the least degree. This is the great flaw which was detected by the observant eye of the hon. the Leader of the Opposition in his inspection of the structure. In going through the buildings, in the discharge of my duties, as one of the Committee of Inspection, I found a joint defective, another slightly decayed, as it is called, and a third which had been accidentally split in being put up. We tested everything; and I thus particularize some of the few defects or imperfections in the structure which we discovered, as affording some evidence of the scrupulous exactitude by which we were governed in our examination of the work. But, in justice to Mr. Alley, I must say we found that it was not necessary to watch the progress of the work as closely as we might have found it needful to do, had we had a man of a different character to deal with in his stead. He is a man of strict integrity; and it was quite evident to us

that he was most anxious to complete his contract in such a manner as would make the buildings a credit to the country. It must, however, be remembered that he was obliged to execute it in a great hurry, and that he was necessitated to make use of lumber, imported from New Brunswick, which, possibly, might not have been properly seasoned. That the floors may have given a little I am willing to admit, although I scarcely think it possible; for they are of the best mill-wrought and dried flooring planks that could be procured. The doors are all dry, many of them having been made for years; and the sashes are equally dry. The shingles on the roof are of the very best quality, being all of old pine, and those on the walls are of the best quality that could be procured in the Island. The walls, it is quite true, have had only one coat of plaster, no more having been required by the specification; and, on that account, very possibly, and through other causes, consequent upon the whole of the buildings having, of necessity, been run up in the short period of six weeks, they may have been found a little more airy during the winter than was quite agreeable to their occupants, or than would have been the case had it been possible to command more time for their erection. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition has told us that some of the officers complained that the frost was so keen, even within their rooms, as to freeze the ink in the inkstands upon their tables, although close to the stoves. This, I doubt not, may have been the case; but neither the contractor nor the Government can be blamed for it, for, in our severe climate, we all know that in the best built houses in the City, with double sashes, closely fitting doors, with stoves in the lobbies and in almost all the rooms, it is no unusual thing, during a severe winter, such as the last has been, for persons to have, not only their ink, but their fingers also, frozen. At the time when the Barracks were in progress of erection, according to the original plans and specifications, a military engineer was sent hither from Halifax to inspect them; and, having done so, expressed himself perfectly well satisfied with the work, so far as it had been carried; but, at the same time, he gave the Government to understand that the military authorities would not allow the Troops to remain here, to be quartered in those buildings, unless there were added to them a hospital, cauteen, guard-house, fire-engine house, roof-house, and barracks stores, including quarters for the married soldiers. With this demand, on behalf of the military authorities, the Government, at once, saw that it was right and proper they should comply; therefore, after Mr. Alley had completed his first contract, the Government—in consideration, not only of the faithful and efficient manner in which he had executed it, but also of the fact that he had taken it for £2,500 less than the amount at which another respectable builder had tendered for it—offered, without calling for tenders, to engage him to put up the extra buildings which were required, provided he would undertake to complete them at the same rate per foot at which he had taken his original contract. This offer Mr. Alley accepted, although from the shortness of the days and the uncertainty of the weather, it was quite certain, that on account of the labor he would have to hire for its performance, he would have to contend with very serious disadvantages—and he entered into an agreement with the Government for the erection of the extra buildings accordingly; and I can truly say he fulfilled that agreement as faithfully and efficiently as he had completed his original contract. The rooms may, indeed, have been a little airy; but, considering the intense severity of the winter, it was a wonder they had not been more so. The roofs were strong and substantial; and, if the con-

tracter, in the erection of the buildings, had, in any instance, departed from the specification, he had done so only for the rendering of the work stronger and more efficient. Upon the whole, I think that, in the erection of the Barracks, although the outlay has been considerable, it will be found if we can contrive to keep the Troops here, that Prince Edward Island has an excellent bargain, and that the presence of the military will be a benefit to us in every way. Endeavours have, however, been made outside to persuade the people that, because the Troops have been sent hither at the solicitation of the Government, they will have to be maintained at the expense of the Colony. Such an idea is altogether erroneous; and they who have been most busy and zealous in the propagation of it, know very well, I fully believe, that on that point they were asserting what they knew to be unfounded. The people of Prince Edward Island are entitled to the same protection, from the Imperial Government, as Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, or Canada; and, in fact, when circumstances require it, to as full a measure of it as the subjects of Her Majesty are entitled to in any other portion of her wide-spread dominions. Our rights and privileges are not only the same as those of the peoples of the neighbouring Provinces; but the same as those of the people of Great Britain themselves, although they sit, as it were, more immediately under the protective power of the Imperial Government. The troops are here, and they must be sustained; not, however, out of the pockets of the people, but, as in other parts of the empire, by money drawn out of the Imperial Exchequer. For that purpose, whilst they remain with us, there will be an outlay of Imperial money, to the amount of £6000 or £7000 a year, the principal part of which, for provisions, will go into the pockets of our farmers. [Hon. Mr. Coles. Except for flour.] Well, that is the misfortune of the farmer: if, however, he cannot grow wheat to such an extent as will enable him to sell flour, I hope the hon. gentleman will not attribute his inability in that respect to the policy of the Government. But I repeat that, in the erection of the Barracks, although at very considerable cost, it will be found, if we retain the Troops—as I can scarcely allow myself to doubt we shall—we have had an exceedingly good bargain, not only in the feeling of security imparted by their presence, but in the substantial benefits which will be derived by the community in general from the circulation of their pay, drawn from the Imperial Exchequer. The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, and other hon. members of that side of the House, have been very earnest in their endeavours to procure a verdict of parliamentary censure or condemnation of the Government, for their having drawn money from the Treasury for the erection of the Barracks, without the express sanction of the Legislature. The action of the Government, in that respect, has, however, been so ably and fully justified by the Hon. and learned Solicitor General, that there can be no necessity for my saying a word more in their defence. In answer to one assertion made by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, to the effect that before the Government determined to erect the Barracks they ought to have called a Session of the Legislature for the express purpose of consulting the parliamentary representatives of the people touching the matter, and to which, I think, my hon. and learned friend the Solicitor General, omitted to reply, I will, however, beg leave to say a few words. When the hon. gentlemen (Mr. Coles) made that assertion, he was quite aware that, when it became necessary for the Government to provide suitable winter quarters for the Troops, the season for building operations was so far advanced, that, had the Government called a Session of the Legislature for the express purpose

of determining the question by the votes of the parliamentary representatives of the people, there would have been no time left, after such determination of the question, for the erection of the Barracks.—I say, for the erection of the Barracks; for, I doubt not, the legislative determination of the question would have been in the affirmative; and, meanwhile, many of the troops under canvas would, perhaps, have been frost-bitten, or otherwise injured, in their physical powers by the severity of the weather. Yes, Sir, I say the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, when he made the assertion which I have, in substance, just quoted, was well aware of the nugatory effects which would have been the consequence of the Government's adopting such a course as that which he has said they ought to have pursued; and much, indeed, should I have been surprised at his making it, had not my experience of his reckless inconsistency and rash disregard of facts and circumstances, when he fancies he can thereby effect any political gain for himself and his party, made it impossible for me to be surprised at any thing, however wide of reality or reason, which, at such times, may fall from his lips. In the very peculiar exigence in which they were placed, the Government felt they had a very high, a paramount duty to perform; and, confident in the justice of the Legislature, and more especially, in the integrity of the great body of the people, they, unhesitatingly, took upon themselves the responsibility of discharging it. They were well aware how obnoxious the measures to which they were fully convinced, it was their duty to have recourse would be to the feelings of the thousands who had been deluded by the wily and mischievous apostles of the Tenant League. But they shrunk not from the discharge of their duty on that account; and were prepared to encounter the consequences, whatever they might be. It was, however, and it is still, their belief that these deluded individuals will, when they come to their senses, admit the propriety of the Government measures for the suppression or circumscribing of the Tenant League movement, in so far as it was illegal and contumacious. The steps, however, to which the Government had recourse for this purpose were carried into effect without reference to any other consideration than this. In the high and responsible position which we occupy, what does our duty require of us, with respect to that illegal and contumacious organization, called the Tenant League, the principles of which, if they be allowed to extend themselves throughout the community, will loosen the peaceful bonds of society, annihilate the rights of property, render void all legal obligations, and finally effect the extinction of our free constitution? This, Sir, was the basis of the Government's deliberation, and the spirit by which they were governed in the exigence by which they were pressed. They took no action with a view to the promotion of party purposes; on the contrary, they were well aware that the measures which they conscientiously felt it incumbent upon them to adopt would be injurious to their party. In the emergence in which they were placed, in consideration of the most important interests at stake, and bent upon nothing but a faithful and unselfish discharge of public duty, they recognized the absolute necessity of laying aside all party feelings, and all party considerations. They felt that the hour had arrived for them to set, prompt and vigorously, independently of all such sympathies and all such motives, and they did so. For what we have done, we have the approval of our own consciences; and, we trust, we shall yet have the high satisfaction to know that, to the promptitude and rigour of our measures, the great body of the people most willingly and gratefully ascribe the preservation of our free constitution, and the peace, good order, confidence and security which, as of old, will, ere long, be again re-established and experienced

throughout the length and breadth of the land. To the statement made by my hon. and learned friend, the Sol. General, concerning the removal of the powder and ammunition from the magazine at the time of the panic, correct as it was in all particulars, I can have nothing to add. With respect to the insult, however, which some hon. members persist in maintaining was thrown—and intentionally thrown—upon the Irish Society, by the Government's having, as they allege, caused the troops to be confined to their barracks on St. Patrick's Day, I will, Sir, with your permission, take leave to say a few words. It is very well known that, on fair days, and all other days of public excitement and unusual freedom and licence of social intercourse, such, for instance, as St. Patrick's Day—it has generally been the practice in towns or cities in which troops, at such times, happened to be lying, for the superior officer in command to confine them to their quarters, lest through unguarded indulgence in spirituous liquors, or from any other accidental cause, misunderstandings or collisions should arise, having a tendency to the endangerment of the public peace, and to the placing in jeopardy the lives and properties of individuals. With respect to the Troops, on St. Patrick's Day, this was all that was done. It was the act of the officer in command. It, however, had the hearty approval of the Government; and so, I doubt not, it would have had that of the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, had he occupied the position at the time. As to any purpose of casting an imputation upon the loyalty or peaceable temperament of the Irish Society, by the precautionary measures then had recourse to by the Government, scarcely anything else could have been further from their minds, or been less within the scope of their intentions. Of the respectability of the Irish Society—of their loyalty—of their orderly and peaceable behaviour, on all occasions of their being publicly assembled—of their charities, unrestricted by any consideration of nationality, origin, or creed—of their noble and warm-hearted veneration for their fatherland—and of their blameless, their most praiseworthy endeavours to cultivate and perpetuate, in this, the land of their adoption, or of their birth, all the peculiar virtues and generous sympathies of their race—the Government had a perfect knowledge; and, as constrained thereby, held the Society in the kindest and most unblemished estimation. In causing special constables to be sworn in for the preservation of the peace on St. Patrick's Day, the Government did not confine the call to any particular church, sect, or creed, to nationalities, or to any particular class of citizens. No: they knew their duty too well to make any such invidious distinctions. The selection was simply made from amongst the most respectable of our citizens of whatever country, creed, profession, or occupation; and of the number of those who were so especially honored, not the fewest were Irishmen, both Catholics and Protestants. Of the Irish Society's being tainted with Fenianism, the Government entertained not the smallest suspicion. They had perfect confidence in the individual loyalty of its members; and, in its corporate capacity, they knew that it had never been the parent, or the nurse, of treason or of crime. The majority of its members, it is well known, are Roman Catholics; but, in that majority, as such, by their reverence for their clergy and their ever ready and willing obedience to their injunctions and commands, the Government knew they have the best guaranty that can possibly be afforded for their holding themselves aloof from so miscreant and godless an association as that of the Fenians. With scarcely a single exception—perhaps not with one—either in Ireland or in these Provinces, the Roman Catholic Hierarchy and the numberless parochial pastors of their church have, in the most emphatic, unsparring and condemnatory language—not only in Pastoral Letters and addresses from the Altar, but in Lecture Rooms and in public correspondence—denounced the irreligious and ruffianly association; and pronounced their principles to be the most abhorrent and detestable, in the estimation of virtue and religion; by which civilized men have ever, for our common purpose, been bound together. A fear, therefore, that the hateful, the abominable principles of Fenianism had taken possession of the minds of any of our Irish Roman Catholic subjects, in Prince Edward Island, who are known to live in

due observance of their religious duties, has never yet entered into the mind of any member of the Government. We will not, however, say that we were insensible of the fact that, in our large population, both in town and country, there might have been found many loose, debauched, and altogether ruffianly characters. It associates for the Fenian Brotherhood, who would have rejoiced in any opportunity for robbery and plunder, which, for want of due prosecution on the part of the Government, might have arisen in Charlottetown on St. Patrick's Day or in the evening of that day. We did not, indeed, believe that any measure had been concerted, by such characters, for a regular outbreak, and deeds of violence and plunder on that day; but we had been warned that danger was, at that time, to be apprehended; and we, therefore, had recourse to such precautionary measures for its prevention, as mere common sense and common prudence required us to take. We remembered the old adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure; and we acted accordingly.

Hon. Mr. COLES. If the Government were so confident of the loyalty of the Irish Roman Catholics, I should like to know why they deprived them of their arms?

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH. The depriving of the Queen's County Volunteers of their arms, at the time when the Tenant League movement, in that County, was bordering on actual insurrection, was no more than a wise and needful precaution, on the part of the Government. It did not, however, as has been erroneously urged by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member from Castlemaine, Mr. Howlan, imply the existence of any suspicion, on the part of the Government, as touching the individual loyalty, or reverence for the laws, on the part of the Volunteers of Queen's County. But the fact was this, Queen's County was the hot-bed of the League; and although not a single individual of the Queen's County Volunteers may have been a member of that League, yet their arms, loosely held, might easily have been obtained possession of, by some of the most evil-disposed and daring of the Leaguers, for purposes of resistance to the civil authorities; and, in the hands of such men, how probable is it that they would soon have been made use of in a very improper and unlawful manner? This consideration alone then, and no suspicion injuriously affecting their character for loyalty and reverence for the laws, was the reason why the Queen's County Volunteers were disarmed. The officers commanding the several corps, were responsible for the arms; and yet, at the same time, they had no control over them. Surely, at a time when the organ of the League boasted that the members of that association—an association which had set itself openly and boldly to contravene the law—amounted to eleven thousand, it would have been little short of absolute infatuation on the part of the Government to have left nearly seven hundred stand of arms within its reach and grasp! The King's County and Prince County Volunteers have not, indeed, been disarmed; because as there were but very few, if any, members of the Tenant League, in either of these Counties, the Government had no reason to fear that the arms of any of those Volunteers would fall into improper hands, or be used to repulse the officers of the law, when simply endeavoring to effect the proper service of legal processes, or to carry into execution any legal warrant or decree. If, however, the law affecting our Volunteers be allowed to stand as it is, those of King's and Prince Counties must also be disarmed, or else the whole must become part and parcel of the Militia, and come under the stringency of military regulations. There were various other subjects introduced into the debate of the morning; but I will not enter upon any of them at present, for I do not think it well or prudent prematurely to discuss questions which will have to be debated again when we come to take into consideration the different paragraphs of the Address with which they are severally immediately connected.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY said he felt pleasure in speaking after the hon. member (Mr. Longworth) because his remarks were always courteous and moderate. He was not disposed to do otherwise than believe that what the hon. member had just stated were the genuine sentiments of his

heart; nevertheless he had taken an erroneous view of the amendment which had just been submitted by Mr. Howlan. He had spoken as if it was a complete condemnation of everything which had been done by the Government; but such was not really its effect. The real question, raised by the answer to the address, was—Should the Barracks have been built or not? Now the House had not sufficient information upon the point to enable them to pass any decided expression of opinion. One thing certainly required to be stated and considered before a vote upon the Barracks question could properly be taken, and that was whether the Government had any assurance that the troops were to remain here permanently or for any particular length of time, or whether they were only sent temporarily to meet the emergency alleged to have arisen last year. If the troops were only obtained to meet that emergency, without any pledge of their remaining, then, he said, the Government should not have incurred so large an expenditure as they had done in connection with the Barracks. How could the House arrive at a proper conclusion without information on so material a point? If it should turn out that the troops were only temporarily stationed here; then, he considered the outlay excessive. The hon. and gallant Col. (Gray) takes a still different view of the case. He alleges that the Barracks, as built, are only temporary huts. If so, then, the cost may amount to £20,000 before they are completed as permanent buildings. The amendment merely contains an expression of regret that the expenditure was made without the previous sanction of the Legislature. The point as to the expediency of bringing the troops here at all had already been fully discussed; but still this question constantly presented itself.—How did the emergency arise? If the law had been properly administered and its officers properly supported by some of the civil power, the necessity of calling for troops would not have arisen. This was no new view of the case; it was one held, and he believed expressed, by many supporters of the Government as well as those in opposition to them. If more energy, more decision, on the part of the authorities, had been exhibited, matters could not have gone to such a pass as they were alleged to have done. He was absent from the Island when some of the alleged disturbances took place; but he believed from what he had heard that if precautions had been taken they might have been easily prevented. The amendment now submitted was the inevitable result and expression of this belief. Those who pretended that the mismanagement of the Government had been the cause of all the trouble could not refuse to join in an expression of regret that they should still have gone further; and, without the sanction of the Representatives of the people, expended a very large sum of money. Yet he would be unwilling, without the clearest evidence, to charge any personal corruption on the Government with respect to the actual pecuniary outlay upon the Barracks. No one was so unreasonable as to contend, that Her Majesty's soldiers should not be comfortably provided for when here; but the Legislature ought to have been consulted before contracts for permanent military Barracks were entered into? He would, therefore, support the amendment. He did not deem it necessary to enter at any length into the Fenian movement which had been adverted to in the course of the debate. He was not one of those, who, on St. Patrick's Day, apprehended any danger, to the loyal and peaceful inhabitants of Charlottetown, or other parts of the Island, from Fenians or any other supposed to be bloodthirsty people. Against attacks of the Fenian Brotherhood from abroad, the barrier of ice which surrounded the Island, was a sufficient protection and having a very

intimate acquaintance with all classes in the Island including his Irish fellow subjects, he had no apprehension whatever of danger from within; in fact, he could not share in the alarm which, then, generally prevailed; he looked upon the whole as a delusion, and even if there had been a few turbulent spirits in our midst, it was not likely that they could have prevailed and carried on their designs, when withstood, as they surely would have been, by the overwhelming numbers of the peaceable, loyal, and honest men, who, they all happily knew, formed the great mass of the population. That there was any necessity for swearing in so large a body of Special Constables on St. Patrick's Day, he could not admit, but having disposed of that point, he was not disposed to cavil at the expression in His Excellency's Speech, that, as respected any danger which might threaten the Island from the attacks of lawless men, he could confidently rely on the loyalty and spirit of the inhabitants, of every creed and station. This sentiment he (Mr. Hensley) firmly believed was not only the expressed sentiment of the Government and the Legislature, but was that of every individual member of the great mass of our loyal and peaceable population, Scotch, Irish, and English. In the ranks of the Fenians, possibly, there might be men who were honestly persuaded that they were about entering upon some great and patriotic enterprise; but the bulk of them were, he was sure, men of the very worst character, whose incentive was the prospect of plunder and the enjoyment of unrestrained license. He was rejoiced to feel assured that Prince Edward Island reckoned none such as the latter among her population: in this he felt the utmost confidence. He also coincided in the views expressed by the hon. and gallant Colonel, the member for Belfast, that, as soon as the leaders in the Fenian movement had succeeded in collecting all the money they could possibly draw from their dupes, there would be a sudden cessation of threats and an entire collapse of the whole affair, and General Sweeney and his colleagues would retire from public life upon the proceeds of the Fenian exchequer.

Mr. SINCLAIR. The troops have not been sent hither by the British Government. They have been sent only by the Military Authorities at Halifax, in compliance with a request to that end, preferred to them by His Excellency, the Administrator of the Government here, at the time of a temporary emergency; and we have had no assurance that their presence here will not be merely temporary. Before the Government undertook the erection of the Barracks, at so great an outlay of public money as has, thereby, been necessitated, they ought to have had an assurance from the British Government that troops, for the future, would be regularly stationed with us. Should this not be the case, the public money expended in the erection of the Barracks will be found to have been positively thrown away, and worse, for those buildings, when no longer required for their original purpose, will become the abodes of the very lowest and worst of characters in our community, and, as a further necessary consequence, will speedily fall into ruin and decay.

Hon. Mr. COLES, with reference to the disarming of the Queen's County volunteers, said that, instead of at once disarming the whole, on account of the apprehensions to which Tenant League demonstrations had given rise in the minds of the Government, it would have been much better, he thought, had the Government instituted an enquiry, for the purpose of ascertaining who—if any—among the Volunteers, were members of the Tenant League, or sympathizers with that body; and, then, had they found any such among them, to have deprived them—but them only—of their arms, and to have left the sound men, unassaulted by the disarming process, in as full and free possession of their arms as they had been before the enquiry. He could not, he said, tell by what process of reasoning His Excellency and his Council had

been able to reconcile their lately avowed dread of the Fenian Brotherhood and of the Tenant League with the declaration of perfect confidence in the loyalty and spirit of every class and creed in the Island which had found place in the Speech.

Mr. BRECKEN could not help thinking that all that had been said by hon. members in opposition, on the subject of Fenianism, had been merely said for the express purpose of exciting feelings of resentment and animosity against the Government in the minds of our Irish Catholic fellow subjects in the Island. It was very plain to him that even the little episode of the breaking of Mr. McTraith's windows, by three mischievous boys, on the evening of St. Patrick's Day, had been introduced into the debate by the hon. member from Lot II (Hon. Mr. Warburton) and afterwards taken up to be improved and embellished by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, was brought forward with no other object in view. As respected Fenianism and its principles, he (Mr. Brecken), however, took the very same view of them that was taken by the Roman Catholic Hierarchy and priests in the United States, in these Provinces, in Great Britain, and in Ireland, and indeed wherever the spiritual guides of Roman Catholics had had their attention drawn to it; and that view was that, although, to a certain extent, it was a national organization, and ostensibly formed for the redress of the wrongs and grievances of Ireland, and the establishment of her independence; yet, as a whole, it was not animated by one single spark of either true patriotism or religion. It was, indeed, a great mistake for any person to imagine that it was influenced by any regard for the interests of the Roman Catholic Church, or any concern for those of any other Christian Church or community. They were, on the contrary a band of lawless and godless men. Among them, it was true, there were many who styled themselves Protestants, or members of one Protestant denomination or another; but of true Christians there were none among them; and, whatever they individually professed, their principles were those of rank infidelity, in every respect of the foulest character. And had not that been sufficiently evidenced by the fact, that, as the most gratifying and exciting prospect which he could hold out to them, one of their ruffian leaders had publicly promised them, that, after they should have taken possession of any town or city, they should as a reward, be indulged with three days' perfect licence for plunder and the gratification of their most brutal desires and unholy lusts. Surely there was no member of the House who would dare, for one moment, to say, that there was one single respectable Roman Catholic in the Island connected with such a society, or tainted with their abominable principles. It would, indeed, be a foul libel upon that ancient and honorable association, called the Irish or St. Patrick's Society, to give utterance to the slightest suspicion that it owned any relationship, even the most remote, with the banded ruffians called the Fenian Brotherhood. A few such miscreants, however, as those who constituted the great body of the Fenian Brotherhood, might be found in Charlottetown among the loafers at the corners of the streets. Few, very few, however, he trusted, they were; yet he could not deny that the open sale in Charlottetown of Fenian ballads, the most seditious and disloyal, and of Fenian buttons, afforded the most undeniable evidence that the leaven of treason and disloyalty was too largely diffused amongst us, and that they who had sold and they who had bought those seditious ballads and those insignia of disloyalty would be glad to see success attend the infamous designs of the Fenians. The hon. and learned gentleman then proceeded to review what had been advanced by hon. members in opposition, in support of their denial of the necessity for the erection of the

new Barracks, and in condemnation of the Government for having drawn money from the Treasury to pay for that erection, without their having been authorised to do so by the Legislature; and, in doing so—dwelling upon the same facts which had been previously dealt with by the hon. and learned members, the Solicitor General and Mr. Longworth, and basing thereon nearly the same arguments that had been drawn from them by those two hon. and learned gentlemen—he first set forth the reasons by which the Government had been influenced in sending for the troops—the propriety of which step, he observed, had been freely admitted, not only by hon. members on the Government side of the House, but also by the hon. and learned members for St. Peter's and East Point (Honables, B. Whelan and J. Hensley): in the next place, he argued that the necessity of sending for the troops involved the further necessity of providing them with suitable quarters; and he then maintained by argumentative reference to the executive and parliamentary history of Great Britain, and the precedents thereby afforded, that, in the exigency in which the Government found themselves, their action, in drawing money from the Treasury, for the erection of the Barracks, upon their own responsibility, independently of Legislative sanction, was perfectly justifiable; and would, therefore, he doubted not, be vindicated by the verdict of the House. In saying that the action of the Government, in that respect, on the occasion in question, was perfectly justifiable, it was his wish, however, not to be misunderstood. He did not mean that the Government could, under any circumstances, plead constitutional right or privilege to draw moneys from the public Treasury, for any purpose—whatsoever it might be—without having been previously authorised to do so, by a vote of the parliamentary representatives of the people. The Constitution accorded no such right or privilege to the Government. On the contrary, it expressly withheld it; and the power over the public purse, or in other words, the disposal or appropriation of public moneys was vested solely in the chosen parliamentary representatives of the people, in legislative session assembled. History, however, shewed that, between parliamentary sessions, emergencies frequently arose, with which it was impossible for the Government to deal without direct infraction, on their part, of this especial constitutional power of the parliamentary representatives of the people. On such occasions, then, the Government, on their own responsibility, drew from the public Treasury what was required by the sudden emergency of the State, looking forward to the parliamentary representatives of the people, in their next legislative session, for a vote of indemnification for the unconstitutional act, as justified by the State emergency which had occasioned it. The emergency with which the Government had to deal, at the time when, without parliamentary sanction, they drew money from the Treasury for the erection of the Barracks, was exactly such a one as those to which he had indefinitely alluded; and as, for such acts, occasioned by State emergencies, British Governments had always been exonerated from blame by British Parliaments and the British people; so, he doubted not, would our Government, on account of the unconstitutional act in question, be exculpated from every imputation of wrong-doing, not only by a large majority of the Legislature, but by the great body of the people themselves. The hon. and learned gentleman further argued that it was both for the safety and material benefit of the people that the troops should be kept here; and to have thought of retaining them without providing suitable and comfortable quarters for their accommodation would have been foolish

indeed. He was no alarmist, he said, but, from what had taken place here last summer, and from the danger to be apprehended from Fenian marauders, on the opening of the navigation, he thought all ought to be convinced of the propriety—nay, indeed, of the necessity—of the Government's endeavouring, by every means in their power, to render Charlottetown a permanent station for detachments of Her Majesty's troops. In speaking of the Barracks, he said he believed that the buildings had been finished, in every particular, according to contract, and that there could scarcely be better erections of the kind; although, perhaps, it ought to be admitted that, had it not been for the rapidity with which it was necessary to run them up, better materials than some of which the contractor had been obliged to make use of might have been procured. As respected the two gentlemen who tendered for the contract, he had, he said, as much respect for the one as for the other; but, as one of the tenders was more than £2 000 less than the other, he certainly thought the Government did that which was perfectly right in accepting the lower one, although it was that of the Superintendent of Public Works; and he knew not how any honest and impartial man could think otherwise. The work, he believed, had been faithfully and efficiently performed, although it was, doubtless, quite possible for any one anxious to depreciate it, to find little defects and and imperfections in it, such, for instance, as the hon. the Leader of the Opposition had done in the flawed post. With respect to the flaw, however, he hoped it would not appear that the honorable proclaimer of it, had made it himself, with an axe slyly carried to the buildings by himself for the purpose, in order that he might be able to tax another with it, as he did, the other day, when he accused the Government of having doubled the *ad valorem* duty by having introduced and established the practice of converting Sterling invoices into Island currency by the addition thereto of one half, instead of one-ninth, as had been the practice whilst the Liberals were in power; although it was he himself who, as the Leader of the Liberal Government, had caused that very change to be made.

Hon. Mr. COLES. I do not hesitate freely to admit that, with respect to the time when the change was made in the mode of estimating the amount of Sterling invoices in Island Currency, I was, the other day, in error. The mode of converting the sterling amount of invoices into currency by the addition of one-ninth, had, I knew very well, prevailed at the commencement of the Liberal rule; and, referring back, in my own mind, to that period and to that fact, coupled with my recollection of the complaints which had been made by the merchants against the change, I, without due reflection, fell into an error with respect to the time when the change was made. I do not make the same pretensions to perfection, either of memory, or of judgment, that are made by some hon. members of whom I wot; and, therefore, whenever I find that I have been in error, I am quite willing to admit it. As to the ungracious sarcasm, with which the hon. and learned member has thought proper to couple his reference to a mistake which I really made, but which, before his allusion to it, I had—yes, at the very moment of my being convinced of it—readily acknowledged, I do, I assure him, wholly disregard it. Its very bitterness was its antidote.

Mr. BRECKEN resumed, and concluded his remarks by saying: The Barracks being now built and in the occupation of the troops, I think it would be a certain evidence of public wisdom, on the part of the Legislature and the Government, were they to agree, on all questions affecting the accommodation of the troops, to manifest such a spirit of prudent liberality, as would be likely to ensure the permanent military occupation of the Barracks. Towards the outlay-

incurred by the erection of the New Barracks and the purchase of the land on which they stand, the Board of Ordnance, or, in other words, the Imperial Government, has made the Island a present of £2500—the amount realized by the sale of the old Barrack buildings and ground; and, even, should the difference between that sum and the actual cost of the new Barracks be found to be double that amount, I maintain that—if we can ensure the constant military occupation of them, as I really believe we may be able to do—the people of Prince Edward Island will be amply compensated for the outlay, through the constant presence of the troops—not only in the sense of social security imparted by their presence, but by the material benefits derived from the necessary regular expenditure amongst us of not less than £6000 or £7000 sterling, drawn from the Imperial Treasury, for their maintenance.

Mr. HOWLAN. The amendment was justified by the sense of the country. The question before the country is just this: Can the action of the Government in taking money out of the Treasury, for the erection of the Barracks, without the sanction of the Legislature previously obtained, be justified? and, further,—Was it proper to continue to Mr. Alley his salary of £150 or £200 per annum, as the Superintendent of Public Works, when he had virtually resigned that office by his taking from the Government so heavy a contract as that for the erection of the Barracks? I will not, however, say that Mr. Alley is not a good mechanic, nor well qualified to execute such a contract.

Hon. Col. GRAY. I wish to know, Mr. Chairman, whether, as a point of order, any hon. member of this Committee can be allowed, on one and the same question, to repeat today his arguments of yesterday; or, this afternoon, those of the morning. I put it respectfully to the hon. Chairman, to say whether the time of the Committee is to be uselessly taken up by such iteration and reiteration of speeches, with scarcely the variation of a single sentence, or even of a word.

Mr. YEO (Chairman). I am not aware that I have the power to prevent any hon. member from speaking, as he pleases, provided his language is not unparliamentary. But if I thought I had the power to prevent a member's repeating the same arguments, and expressing the same sentiments, again and again, on one and the same question, I would, perhaps, exercise it.

Mr. HOWLAN. We have been told by an hon. and learned gentleman, that he was one of a Committee, appointed by His Excellency, to superintend the erection of the Barracks; and I have no doubt that when, in the discharge of his duty, as one of that Committee, he visited the scene of the building operations, in all the splendour of his laced coat, cocked hat, spurred boots, and all the rest of his military grandeur the workmen were all impressed with becoming awe for his authority, and quite ready to bow down and do him reverence.

Hon. Solicitor General (Mr. HAVILAND.) I rise to a point of order. Such language as that in which the hon. member on his legs is now indulging, is most reprehensible. It is most unparliamentary to make allusions to any hon. member's dress or personal appearance.

Mr. HOWLAN. I contend that the people of this country have a right to know how much public money has been expended in the erection of the Barracks, and also how the work has been done. They have a right to know whether it was properly performed, or whether it was made a mere job of. They have a right to insist that the whole affair shall be thoroughly investigated from the issuing of the advertisement calling for tenders down to the time when the contract was said to have been fully completed. To that end, in addition preliminary enquiry touching the acceptance of the tender of the Superintendent of Public Works, a thorough examination of the buildings should be made by men—by mechanics—competent to make it, and not by men, who, whatever their ability may be to pronounce concerning the legality or validity of a contract, are as little qualified as mere children to decide concerning its execution. The hon.

and learned member for the Second District of Queen's County, has told us that he, as a Committee, went out, almost daily, to inspect the Barracks buildings, whilst they were in progress of erection; but granting that he did so, what dependence I will ask, could be placed upon his ability—the ability of a mere lawyer—to inspect, and report concerning the erection of buildings involving an outlay of £10000 or £15000 to the country?

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH. The hon. member has now been upon his legs declaiming for a quarter of an hour; and in all that he has said in that time, he has not uttered a single fact.

Mr. HOWLAN. I have not stated a single fact! I beg the hon. and learned gentleman's pardon for my contradiction of that assertion. I have stated a fact—a very important fact—and one with which it very much concerns the country to be made acquainted. It is that he, in a manner which, I doubt not, he thinks highly creditable to himself, superintended, without fee or reward, the erection of the new Barracks, at an expenditure of £10,000 or £15,000 of the public money, drawn from the Treasury, and so expended, without the sanction of the parliamentary representatives of the people. That is a fact; and one of which both he some of his honorable colleagues in the Government will, I imagine, be rather disagreeably reminded at the hustings when the general election takes place. The hon. member then again referred to the panic on St. Patrick's Day; and concluded by saying that the precautionary steps taken by the Government, at that time, were calculated to cast a most unmerited stigma upon the members of the Irish Society; for a body of men more truly respectable, charitable, peaceable, and orderly could not exist in any country.

Hon. Col. GRAY. I did not rise, sir, for the purpose of interrupting the hon. member who has just sat down. My allusions were intended to apply chiefly to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and a few other hon. members, some on each side of the House, who, in the course of this debate, have not only, time after time, diverged widely from the point or question properly under discussion, but have absolutely given us almost *ad nauseam*, the most needless recapitulations of their facts and arguments and reiteration of their speeches. We began with the first paragraph of the Address, but instead of confining themselves to a consideration of it, and facts immediately connected with it, hon. members travelled through the whole, now dealing with the last, and again with the middle, or, in fact, with any other paragraph but that directly before the Committee. The paragraph relative to the Tenant League disturbances, was—after a very long debate, in which the subject was reviewed in all its aspects and bearings—finally agreed to by a clear and explicit vote of the House; but although that question was thus disposed of, the measures taken by Government for the suppression of that illegal association, have formed almost the staple of every speech which has since been delivered by hon. members in opposition. Were it admissible that I should do so, I would leave the House now, and return to it at the end of the week, when, unless the Committee should, in the mean while, desist from their lingering, recapitulatory and repetitious mode of discussing the draft Address, I might expect to find them engaged in a redisquisition of the first paragraph. We are now only at the very paragraph at which we left off, last night, at a quarter past twelve. We have still two or three other paragraphs—and one of them the most important of all—to discuss; but when, at our present rate of progress, we shall be able to dispose of them, no one, I think, can say.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN. I think it does not become the hon. and gallant Colonel to lecture either this side of the House, or the other, for deviation from the straight forward course of debate; for no one has been more discursive than he himself. We have sat in Committee upon the Address for only two afternoons; whereas the House of Assembly of New Brunswick, which numbers only eleven members more than we, sat for more than a month in their

last session upon the same subject—their Address in answer to their Governor's Speech. It is very true that a prolongation of our present Session would prove very unpleasant to many hon. members, because it would injuriously affect their private interests; but that consideration ought not to prevent us from entering into and fully prosecuting, an investigation of the policy of the Government in general, and of their recent executive measures in particular. We in opposition cannot possibly be censured for the unusual delay of the Government in calling the Session; and, surely, it cannot reasonably be expected of us that, on that account, we should be content to forego our privilege thoroughly to investigate every act of the Executive and strictly to criticize their policy. As to myself it is a matter of little consequence whether a session of the Legislature be called in January, or in May; but it is not so with the majority of the members—with such of them especially as are engaged in either mercantile or agricultural pursuits in the country. A session prolonged beyond the opening of the Spring can scarcely fail to be injurious to them. For such damage to their private interests, however, should they experience it from their having to attend to their legislative duties, this session, when they should have been prosecuting their agricultural or mercantile operations at home, let them blame the Government—and let the Government answer for it. As to the amendment now under our consideration I am sorry to say I feel myself obliged to vote for it. I shall vote for it, but yet with some reluctance, because I have said and believe that the calling in of the military was made absolutely necessary and was fully justified by the alarming insubordination which prevailed in the country at the time that step was taken by the Government. We had before us affidavits of the Sheriff, declaring that Her Majesty's laws were inoperative in the country—in Queen's County at least; and, that being the case, every honest and peaceable citizen amongst us must have been convinced that the most effective means which could be resorted to for the necessary reestablishment of peace, security, and confidence, in the disturbed districts, without danger of violence or bloodshed, was the presence of the military. At the time the troops were called for by the Government, I stated my approval of their being brought. And then, as to providing them with suitable accommodations when they were brought, surely no one will deny that that also was absolutely necessary. It appears that the Government, in the first place, used their utmost endeavors to find out and rent some building in Charlottetown which might be converted into suitable military quarters; but it seems their endeavours to that end were wholly in vain, and they were then obliged to determine upon the erection of proper and permanent Barracks. Well, so far I think no fault could be reasonably found either with the acts or the determination of the Government with respect to the troops. But it was quite otherwise when they put their hands into the public purse and took out of it £10,000 or £15,000 for the purpose of building the Barracks, without the sanction of the representatives of the people. The Government had no right whatever to put their hands into the public purse and withdraw whatever amount it might please them to take. It has been said by hon. members of the Government, that they did so because they felt they could safely rely upon their majority in this House to carry a vote of indemnification for the act in their favor. If, without the sanction of the parliamentary representatives of the people, the Government, at their own will and pleasure, could take £10,000 out of the public purse, why not £20,000, or why not all that it contained? In former years, we

could not vote a sum for the erection of a new bridge or for the repair of an old one, without a long and wearisome debate concerning the amount of pounds, shillings, and pence for which the work might be accomplished. But, now, all that the Government have to do, when they are in need of money is freely to put their hands into the public purse, help themselves to whatever they may please to want; and, provided they are taken to task for such a breach of the especial constitutional and parliamentary privilege of the representatives of the people, coolly to turn round and reply, "We can trust to the fidelity, to the allegiance of our supporters in the House of Assembly, to defend the act; and we can, therefore, confidently disregard all, or every thing, which may be said by the Opposition in condemnation of it."

Hon. the Solicitor General (Mr. HAVILAND.) What I said was that there were plenty of precedents in English history to shew that, on any great state emergency, the Government during a recess of Parliament, might venture, on their own responsibility, independently of parliamentary sanction, to make the requisite appropriation of public money, trusting to their parliamentary majority of the representatives of the people for a recognition of the emergency under the pressure of which they acted and consequent condonation of their political offence.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN. That amounts to the same thing; and simply means that so long as a Government have a majority of the representatives of the people at their command—ready and willing, to obey their behests—they may venture, without any fear of parliamentary condemnation of their conduct, to violate the most sacred principles of the constitution. The precedents alluded to by the Hon. the Solicitor General will not, however, justify the action of our local Government in taking out of the public fund, without the sanction of the people's parliamentary representatives, so large a sum as £10,000 or £15,000—about one-fourth of our revenue. The public revenue of Great Britain as reckoned by millions exceeds ours, as reckoned by thousands. A majority of the House of Commons, by which a Ministry is sustained, may, no doubt, in most cases of ministerial appropriations of public money, to the amount of thousands, made independently of Parliamentary sanction, be willing enough to pass them over by a vote of indemnification; but I fancy no administration would find a majority, in the House of Commons, so pliant and obedient to their behests, as to grant them a vote of indemnification if, without parliamentary sanction they had made an appropriation of public money to the amount of £20,000,000, or one-third of the whole public revenue. And, yet, such an unauthorized appropriation by a British ministry, would not be a mere heinous offence against the holders of the public purse strings—the House of Commons, than—the unauthorized appropriation of £10,000 or £15,000, lately made by our local Government, ought to be accounted by the people's representatives here assembled. I admit the necessity which existed for the sending for the troops. I admit also that when the troops were brought hither it was necessary to erect barracks for their accommodation; but I regret that an appropriation of public money for that purpose was made without the sanction of the Legislature. It had been said, or, perhaps, I should say, rather hinted, by some hon. member on the Government side of the House, that some hon. members on this side seemed anxious to revive the religious rancour which unfortunately prevailed in the community a few years ago. Such a charge or insinuation is wholly groundless and gra-

tuitous. No such disposition has been evinced by a single member in opposition since the debate commenced. But I will go farther, and say that religious rancour was never, at any time, stirred up in the community by the Liberals. Who stirred up religious rancour in 1859? Will any member on the Government side of the House say it was the Liberal party?

Hon. the Leader of the Government (J. C. POPE.) Yes: I say it was. That animosity was stirred up at the first election I ran; not, indeed, I admit, by the hon. member for St. Peter's himself (Mr. Whelan), but by his associates, at the time of holding that election, at Trycn, when they denounced me as one who would, if he had the power to do it, ram the Bible down the throat of every Roman Catholic in the Island. He himself (Hon. Mr. Whelan) did not, it is true, do this; but his associates did, in the hope that, thereby, they would be able to deprive me of the votes of the Roman Catholic electors, secure them for Mr. Lord, and so effect his return and defeat me. This was in 1857.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN. It was, I say, in 1859 that religious rancour was first effectually, to a wide spread and most disgraceful extent, stirred up in the community; and I regret to say that Ministers of different denominations, but chiefly of the Presbyterian Church, were the principal agents in exciting it, by representing the Catholics as seeking ascendancy for the purpose of overthrowing the rights and liberties of the Protestants.

Hon. J. C. POPE: I made no reference to anything done by the minority, except to reply to what was said in this debate, which they have tried to work up into a religious excitement.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN.—It is not fair that I should be narrowed down in this way. The Hon. the Leader of the Government asserted that the Opposition had endeavoured to stir up religious animosities again; intimating by the word "again," that they had done so before; and I think it is very ungenerous when he knows that the assertion is unfounded. Who discussed that question at such length as the hon. and gallant Colonel (Col. Gray) did this morning in his long and eloquent speech? And another hon. member—a member of the Government—alluded to St. Patrick's Day, and to what took place on that day. I have not alluded to these transactions; but, though there might not be any intention to bring any disgrace upon the Irish portion of the population, yet the very act of using so much unnecessary precaution had a tendency to bring the Irish Benevolent Society into some degree of odium; for had it been known that there would be no procession on the part of the Irish Society, the military arrangements would not have occurred on that day. And, as to the Fenian raid, the Government surely could not expect anything of the kind at this season of the year. They could not surely think that they were concealed in Prince Edward Island. Nor was it possible that they could cross the Strait at this season without the knowledge of the Government. Why, then, did the Government take such extraordinary precautions as to confine the Troops to the Barracks. They may say that the Troops were confined to the Barracks at the command of the military officers; but, can it be doubted, for a moment, that the command was given at the dictation of the Government? All these things were calculated to stir up grave apprehensions in the minds of weak people, and fears that a Fenian raid or riot might occur. The only effect was to bring a little odium upon an association, which, for forty years, had been doing good to all classes of Christians. I will not say more on that point;

for, perhaps, the less that is said upon it the better. I have no desire to revive those unfortunate animosities by which one class was set against another. My aim and desire always was and still is, that Protestants and Catholics should live in good fellowship together, as they ought to do, in mixed communities such as ours. And no matter what odium may be cast upon me, it will be my desire, as it is my duty, to do all in my power to allay such animosities whenever they spring up.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—As a member of the Government it will, perhaps, be expected that I will say a few words on this subject. If accommodation for the troops could have been obtained without the expense of erecting Barracks, I am sure that the Government would not have taken such a step; but, as His Honor, the Solicitor General, has already shown, it was utterly impossible, every house in town being occupied. Then, when we could not get accommodation for the troops, we had either to let them leave the Island or build Barracks for them to live in. We did not think that the excitement was sufficiently allayed to allow the troops to depart, and therefore we had to take the other alternative. The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition said that site which had been chosen for the Barracks was not a proper one.

Hon. Mr. COLES. No. I only reiterated a remark of the hon. and gallant Colonel.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES. I think I have heard the gallant Colonel state, in reference to the old barracks, that they would attract the fire of an enemy upon them.

Hon. Col. GRAY. I think the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has misconceived my meaning. The hon. member for Charlottetown, who is a member of the Executive, is right in allusion to what I said two or three years ago, when there was a very unwise opinion associated in this town, to the effect that the magazine and ammunition should be in the old barracks, as a means of defending the town. I said it would be the ruin of the town, for an enemy, as soon as one shot was fired against him from the town, would proceed to batter it down. But the hon. the Leader of the Opposition said I objected to the site. I said that the only objection I had was that the Barracks were too near the town; for so I considered they were from what little knowledge I have of military matters. And I knew it is the opinion of the best military men that barracks should not be less than two miles from a city. This was my reason in saying that I did not quite approve of the site. It appears to be the wish of some gentlemen that the troops should be quartered among the civilians; but military men have a very different opinion on this subject. I did not disapprove of the action of the Government, but I would have been better pleased if the barracks had been further from the town.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES. I am satisfied with the explanation of the gallant Colonel, and I have no doubt but his opinion is a good one. We had very little time, however, to consider about the matter, or to look for another site; and if we had not accepted the one in our offer, perhaps we would not have succeeded in getting the barracks erected all. But, Sir, we have been accused of all sorts of jobbery and corruption in this matter. There were only two tenders, and no wonder, when we consider how scarce lumber was, and the difficulty of procuring it at that season of the year. Mr. Lowe, I suppose, thought that no other person would take the contract, and he used some pretty hard language in the newspapers respecting it; but some people say he had another tender in his pocket, and that

if he had found that any other person had tendered he would have tendered lower. But Mr. Alley's tender was so much lower that we could not but accept it; and as he was in the habit of superintending large contracts, I felt assured that he would have it completed at the very day. It would not do for the Government to give the contract to a person who could not carry it out. True, we would have had security, but what would have been the good of security when the troops would have to be sent off to Nova Scotia? Fault has been found with the work; but I do not think there is much to complain of. Part of the lumber was green, and the floors have shrunk; but they can be driven together in the summer, and made as tight as the deck of a ship. Double windows can also be put on, if they are found necessary. The drafts which are spoken of are caused by the open floors. I am confident that they may be made as good as any buildings that can be constructed here of wood. It has been said that the window frames have shrunk, but I do not know that that is the case. We know that our wood will always shrink a little, let it be ever so well prepared. I am free to say that, though I was one of the Committee to superintend the work, yet I did not spend much of my time there; for, in the first place, I was not in the habit of superintending such contracts, and, in the second place, my own business would not permit me to do so. I shall not say anything in reply to the extraneous matter which has been introduced into this debate by hon. members of the Opposition; for I am desirous of keeping to the paragraph under discussion. As well as I am able I have justified the course the Government have taken in reference to those buildings. With respect to calling the Legislature, there was not time to do it. Those buildings had to be put up in six weeks, and we could not have got the Legislature together in less than eight or ten days. Besides it would have been an acknowledgment of incompetency on the part of the Government, which I am not prepared to concede. It would have been said that we were afraid to do what the majority of the Legislature expected us to do. Some gentlemen think we have exceeded our duty in taking this responsibility upon ourselves; but, under similar circumstances, I would adopt the same course again.

Hon. Mr. McRACHEN. I intend, Mr. Chairman, to support the paragraph under consideration, and I will do so on the same principle that I supported the one already disposed of, that is, the principle of expediency. It has been admitted on both sides of the House, that the time had arrived to introduce troops into the Colony to enforce the laws; and, surely, the Government had to provide accommodation for them. Surely it could not be expected that they would burrow in the ground like foxes or bears. It has been argued that other quarters might have been found in the city for them, and thus the expense of building barracks have been saved; but these objections have been already disposed of. At the present time there is not accommodation to be found in the city for a single extra family. Two families came to town from Souris not long ago, and one of them had to return for want of accommodation. Where then could you find accommodation for 200 men? It has also been argued that the Government has acted unconstitutionally in taking such a large sum from the Treasury without calling the Legislature, and having had their authority for doing so; and that, though it might be just for the Government of a large country to do so, yet that it was not just for such a little place as Prince Edward Island; but I am at a loss to know how much larger it was when the Leader of the Opposition took a very considerable sum from the Treasury to feast Commodore Shubrick and his

men, or when he took a sum to feed and clothe the "Ragged regiment?" He might as well have taken a sum to straighten the streets of Charlottetown as to support the "Raggeds." But it was not for any such purpose that the troops were recently brought here—it was to preserve order and enforce obedience to the laws of the Colony, and I am glad that the members of the Opposition have admitted that the troops had arrived for bringing the troops here. I would be glad if members would confine themselves to the question before the Committee. There was no necessity for introducing the subject of Fenianism or what is called the religious question on this paragraph. I was in hopes that this anti-Christian feeling would die away. I was happy that I had not a seat here when attempts were made to arouse feelings of animosity between different denominations. It is the duty of every loyal subject to try to suppress such feelings. I am a Catholic myself; perhaps some will say I am a lukewarm one; but let them enjoy their opinions. Do you think that because I am a Catholic I would not wish well to every Christian? No: some of my best friends are Catholics, others are Protestants, and it is because I have always endeavoured to throw cold water upon such feelings of animosity that I was so generally supported by Catholics and Protestants at the late election. I do not think they are really sincere who profess so much sympathy for the Catholics. Where would the Leader of the Opposition be but for Catholics? and if he sympathized with them he would endeavour to put down those feelings of animosity. But I know that some members of the Opposition are speaking for the newspapers, and to try to force members of this side of the House into some expressions which they may comment upon and have ready for the coming election. The question of religion is one upon which every man is sensitive. I can talk as freely to a number of Protestants as to a number of Catholics, because I have no bigotry in me. Some Catholics are tolerant and some Protestants are so; but while I can talk freely to gentlemen here, on subjects like this, others cannot do so. Were I to attempt to do so in some parts of the country, I would be accused of stirring up strife; but, in the name of God, let bygones be bygones. I have been wounded in my feelings as much as any member of this House; but I have forgotten those things; and I will support the paragraph in the Address as it stands. I believe the Government could not have pursued any other course, for when they found that they had to construct barracks they called for tenders, and they took the lowest. And when the tender of the Superintendent of Public Works was accepted they appointed a Committee to superintend the work. It is to be deplored that there was a necessity for expending so large a sum of public money; but I do not see how it could have been avoided.

Hon. Mr. COLES. I did not think I should feel it necessary to rise again; but I am sorry that the Leader of the Government should accuse members of this side of the House of bringing forward the religious question when no one has done so as much as himself. Speaking of Fenianism, I do not think is stirring up the religious question; for a member of the Government has said that there were Protestants Fenians as well as Catholics. Of course I feel grateful to Catholics for the position I hold; but not to the hon. member (Mr. McEACHEN.) And when the religious question was agitated by the hon. member's friends, it was not the Liberal party, but the hon. member's friends who joined in it. The leader of the liberal party has always tried to put down religious strife. I do not think the Leader of the Opposition is more indebted to Catholics

for his position than the hon. member is for the title of "Honorable" as a prefix to his name. And then, as to the "Ragged Regiment," I am surprised that any hon. member should try to disparage and bring disgrace upon any of Her Majesty's pensioners by calling them a "ragged regiment." I do not think they were as ragged, or ever wore as many rags, as the hon. member himself. They came here respectably clothed, and when they went away they had good clothing; and, by-the-by, I would like to know what became of the clothing which was provided for them and which was left. I believe the truth is that there is a little jealousy between the hon. member and the gentleman who commanded the regiments, and I suppose it is to have a fling at him that he calls them the "ragged regiment;" but, Sir, I do not think it becomes any gentleman to nickname Her Majesty's pensioners. Again, to say that the money was taken without the consent of the Legislature is not correct, for there was a bill passed to allow the Government to appropriate a portion of the funds arising from the operation of it, to their maintenance; but nothing more was taken than what was allowed for contingencies. And, as to the £100 which was spent when Commodore Shubrick was here, I defy the Government to show that there was more expended than £100 of contingent money, which the Government of that day were perfectly justified in expending. But the present Government had no authority to build barracks; and I contend that what was done by the late Government was far preferable to what the present Government have done. The money which has been expended now would be sufficient to pay for two corps like the "Ragged Regiment." I am surprised that any hon. member, for the sake of supporting the Government, should try to rake up old sores. For my part I never had any old sores with that hon. member; for I never sat in the same House with him before.

Hon. Mr. McEACHEN. I am not fond of long speeches, Mr. Chairman; perhaps it is because I am not competent to make them; but, being a Scotchman, I claim the privilege of speaking till I am understood. The Leader of the Opposition did certainly introduce the religious question, and he spoke of Fenianism repeatedly. I am not going to reply in such language as he has used to me. If he is able to wear a richer suit of clothes than I do he is welcome to them, I do not envy him; but he might have saved his remarks respecting rags. He never saw me in rags.

Hon. Mr. COLES. I only said the "Ragged Regiment" did not wear more rags than the hon. member.

Hon. Mr. McEACHEN. I will not contend about it. As to this unfortunate question of Protestants and Catholics, it was said to have been brought about by the Bishop's letter; but I believe a certain party only made a scapegoat of that letter to carry off their own sins.

Mr. BRECKEN: His Honor the Leader of the Opposition would have us to believe that he had the sanction of the Legislature for the money expended in maintaining the Newfoundland Pensioners, called the "Ragged Regiment." That term, I may observe, *en passant*, was introduced just in the same way that the hon. member's were party called "Spatchers." No person, however, in the opinion of the Leader of the Opposition, should say any thing against him or his friends, though he claims for himself full liberty to make whatever assaults he pleases upon the Government. I would ask him by what means he obtained the reins of power? Was it by abstaining from all attacks upon the opposite side of the House? I never attack him in any

other than his political character, and then I always endeavor to keep within the bounds of truth and justice. Now that hon. member would have me to believe that he had the sanction of the Legislature for expending the money which has been referred to; but I tell him he had nothing of the kind. True, a bill was passed called the "Rent Roll Bill," but it did not receive the sanction of the Imperial Government; and, therefore, he had no authority for taking that money out of the Treasury of this Island. Now, let him be candid: did he not then act on the very same principle as the present Government have done in building the Barracks? The Barracks were not built merely to suit the fancy of an hon. member. If the "Rent Roll Bill" had become law, he would have had authority to appropriate the funds arising therefrom to the support of the "Ragged Regiment," but he is wrong when he says he had the sanction of the Legislature. It was certainly, as the hon. member for the East Point has said, an unusual course for a Government to take; and it is now for the members of this House to say whether they will lend themselves to the Opposition, or whether they will support a party who perilled their popularity to maintain law and order. For my own part I hesitate not to declare that, as respects the future, I would be prepared again to give my sanction and support to a similar executive proceeding, under similar circumstances; even at the risk of my doing so preventing me from ever again having the honor of a seat in this House.

Hon. Mr. COLES: The hon. member always waxes warm when he rises to attack the Leader of the Opposition; and perhaps his doing so is not to be wondered at; for I have given him some sharp cuts in my time—and I may do so again. It has been continually "dinned in our ears," by the Tories, that the Opposition acted without the sanction of law in bringing the "Ragged Regiment" here and yet, now, they make it an excuse for spending so much money in building Barracks, without the sanction of the Legislature.

Mr. BRECKEN. No.

Hon. Mr. COLES: They now saddle the country with £12,000 or £15,000, and do not tax the proprietors a shilling for it. This expenditure has been incurred because the proprietors would not consent to measures which have been passed by the three Governments which have succeeded the Liberals; and yet they try to make people believe that they are the only friends of the tenantry, and the only parties who can effect any good for them. And why? Because the proprietors have confidence in them. The proprietors have rejected their bills, and the award of the commissioners, and this has brought the tenantry into trouble. What is the result? The freeholders and leaseholders are to be taxed for the expense of the troops and the barracks, and the proprietors are not to be taxed a shilling, so far as we can see. I was not anxious to bring the troops from Newfoundland here, and I said, at the time, that if they were required, it would only be in consequence of the oppression of the landlords. Indeed the Bill to tax the Proprietors' Rent Rolls would have been passed had we remained in power. What was said by the Tories in reference to the Land Purchase Bill? Was it not "that every freeholder would be taxed to buy land for the tenants?" But I think they will suffer in the flesh now; they will find out that they are taxed for the benefit of the proprietors. If freeholders, however, are inclined to go on with this taxation I will not quarrel with them about it. I have seen this trouble coming on for some time; and I have been endeavouring to obtain some redress for the tenantry. I believe that every bill that has been brought forward for the benefit of the Island, has been suggested by the "Leader of the Opposition." This is admitted by the supporters of the Government; but very little thanks he gets for

it. The Conservative party got up a religious cry which served their purpose for a time; and, now, when they find it is going down, they attempt to scare Protestants with the fear that they are all in danger of having their throats cut. But, I believe, these things will be the means of bringing Protestants to their proper senses.

Hon. Mr. BRECKEN: The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition has said that he had the sanction of the Legislature for defraying the expenses of the "Ragged Regiment." I say he had not. He says I am innocent in my attacks upon him. I reply that, as I have said before, I entertain no personal feeling against him, but, when he makes statements which I know are not founded on facts, I think it my duty to correct him.

Hon. Mr. COLES: I said I had the sanction of the House of Assembly for organizing that corps.

Mr. BRECKEN: He assails the Government for what they have done in erecting barracks, though he acted on the same principle himself. I am not going to follow that hon. member through his tirades; but I will just observe, with respect to his declaration that he has said many cutting things to me, that I doubt not he thinks he has, although I can assure him that I have never been sensible of the cutting power of anything that he has either said to or of me. Whatever his intentions may have been, on such occasions as he alludes to, his want of power to give them effect rendered them miserably abortive. They make about as much impression on me as water on a duck's back. Annoying as it may be to him, however, I promise him that, as long as I hold a seat in this House, and have a tongue in my head, and he makes such unfounded statements, I will follow him up for the purpose of exposure; for, in speaking on great public questions, he should state facts. I am at a loss to see the difference, in principle, between what he did in bringing the Newfoundland pensioners here, and what the Government have done now; except that what he did, he did without the shadow of a necessity. And at the time when he held the reins of power, in a despatch sent home by Governor Daly—written and sent most undoubtedly at his (Hon. Mr. Coles's) request and dictation—urging the Imperial Government to sanction "the Rent Rolls Bill," it was argued in favor of the measure that having the troops here would enable the Government to assist the proprietors in the collecting of their rents.

Hon. Mr. COLES: There is not a word in the despatch about wanting troops to collect rents.

Mr. BRECKEN: What I have stated is the substance of it.

Hon. Mr. COLES: The hon. member has made a very erroneous statement. If I make a mistake, as I did in reference to the Impost Duties, another day, it is sure to be pointed out. It is just like what I said about what Mr. Sheriff Dodd had told me. I thought he spoke with reference to himself, and he says it was his predecessor of whom he spoke; but I am not going to bandy words with the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown either concerning the words or the import of the despatch to which he has referred. I suppose it will be as it is in a court of law, namely, when parties put in proof and it operates against themselves, they cannot put in other proof to counteract it. The Sheriff has put in his evidence to the effect that if the Government had gone to the expense of £10 or £12 in the first instance, it would have saved £10,000 or £12,000. That is the inference to be drawn from the Sheriff's letter. I believe the Sheriff was wrong when he stated that what he said had reference to his predecessor and not to himself. He probably wrote that letter in haste, without due consideration; perhaps in the Clerk's room, and at the dictation of the Government.

Hon. Mr. POPE: It is not my intention, Mr. Chairman, to occupy much of the time of the House, but I would say that I am callous as regards what falls from the Leader of the Opposition. It takes no effect upon me. He makes a statement to-day and denies it to-morrow. He has always ready a quibble by means of which he hopes to escape conviction for misstatement of facts, even when there is written

evidence against him. He will not hesitate to make a wrong or false attack upon the general policy of the Government, if he thinks he will gain any popularity by it. He has even said that it was the duty of the Opposition to attack any paragraph in the speech, whatever its character, or to take any course which they thought would damage the Government.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN. Will the Hon. the Leader of the Government allow me to ask him, if, in case the hon. the Leader of the Opposition thinks the Government is mismanaging the affairs of the country, is it not his duty to do everything in his power to damage that Government?

Hon. Mr. POPE. Well, if the Government could not manage the affairs of the country with more consistency than the Opposition have shown in this debate, I would give very little for their management. The hon. member from the East Point (Mr. Hensley) justifies the Government one moment, and condemns them the next. Then he is backed up by the extraordinary Resolution of the hon. member from Tryon (Mr. Howat) which I will read:

"That the House of Assembly regret the disturbances and troubles which occurred in this Colony in the present year; but the House, at the same time, are of opinion that the alleged open and systematic defiance of the law might have been set aside by a further recourse to the aid of the civil power at the disposal of the local authorities, before calling in the aid of Her Majesty's troops:

"We are also of opinion that, before any money was applied towards providing Barrack accommodation for such troops, the consent of the Legislature should have been first obtained.

In this Resolution the Government are found fault with for bringing the troops here, and the hon. member for St. Peter's (Hon. Mr. Whelan) says they should have called them in long before they did. Well, if it was necessary to bring them here, what were we going to do with them? Admit the necessity for bringing them here, and you admit the necessity for providing accommodation for them. And where was the necessity for calling the Legislature when we were previously pledged to provide accommodation for any troops that might be required here? I think there are times when party feeling should not be allowed to influence members so much; but there are members on the other side of the House from whom we do not expect anything like consistency. Such hon. members will not fairly discuss the subject before the House. On the contrary, they try by the introduction of irrelevant questions to get up an excitement against the Government. I did think that, when it was admitted that there was a necessity for bringing the troops here, it would also be admitted that there was a necessity to provide suitable accommodations for them. Now the fact was, that before the Barracks were built and the troops put into them, many of the men were suffering from the consequences of being tented out, and what would have been the consequences to the country, or what would have been the state of society, if those troops had been called away when this "cursed association," as the hon. member from St. Peter's (Hon. Mr. Whelan) has termed it, was not altogether subdued. If the Government had allowed the troops to be called away for want of accommodation, that hon. member would probably have been the first to denounce them for it; and, on this ground, that it was proper to attack them in any way, right or wrong which was at all likely to damage them in public estimation. The Government, having come to the conclusion that it was necessary to provide accommodation for the troops, asked for tenders, and two were received; one for £3,500 the other for £5,800. There was a good deal of dissatisfaction, in some quarters, when it was known that there was a tender from Mr. Alley; and members of this House have censured the Government for accepting it; but if the other tender had been accepted, perhaps a much larger additional sum would have been expended than the difference between the two tenders. And what other conclusion could we come to than that the tender of Mr. Alley was very reasonable, when that of a first class mechanic, like Mr. Lowe, was so much higher. The season was far advanced when it was found that, by certain regulations, other buildings were required, without which the

military authorities would not allow the troops to go into those contracted for. Lumber had then advanced, and when Mr. Alley offered to put up those other buildings at the same rate of charges as those he had contracted for, we conceived that it was the best thing we could do to agree with him, and there was not a dissenting voice in the Government with regard to it. Surely then, if a man was fit to be trusted as Superintendent of Public Works, he was also fit to be trusted with this contract, when we considered that no less than £2,300 would be saved by it. The hon. Messrs. Longworth and Davies were appointed to superintend the work, and they were empowered to call in mechanics, to judge for them, if they found it necessary. Therefore I think the Government were perfectly justified in all they did, and that they did all that could justly have been required of them. I said, last year, when that illegal organization paraded the streets of the city, that I would spend the whole amount of the revenue to put it down, if it should be required. The barrack buildings will not cost £15,000 as the Leader of the Opposition has erroneously stated they will: for the sum realized from the sale of the old barracks will be transferred towards the expense of these. He says it is not proper to take that money; but I say it is the very money which we ought to take for that purpose. The Government have taken a great deal of trouble and have spent much time, and all they get for it is abuse; but it is the duty of all Governments to preserve law and order, and when they are not fit to do that, they are not fit to conduct a Government. They did what they considered to be their duty—what I consider every man who has a proper regard for the security of life and property would have done if in their place, and what I would do again to-morrow if the like necessity for it should arise.

Hon. Mr. WARBURTON. His Honor the Leader of the Government boasts of the management of the affairs of the Island, by the Conservative party, but, perhaps, it would not be out of place to bring the circumstance to his recollection that Governor Bannerman found, soon after his arrival here, in a cabinet drawer, a constitution for this Island, by one provision of which no farmer was to have a vote unless he held 50 acres of land with improvements thereon worth £300.

Hon. Mr. POPE. The hon. member is speaking of some old document which was found in some rubbish drawer of Government House, long before I had a seat in the Legislature.

Hon. Mr. WARBURTON. Considering the large amounts, Mr. Chairman, which the present Government are spending for delegations, perhaps it would not be out of place to say a few words on that subject. I was once sent on an important mission to Washington. I was furnished with funds; but when I returned I considered I had no right to anything more than what paid my expenses, and I took nothing more. At another time I was sent to Halifax, and what I received, over and above my expenses, I returned to the Treasury. When my hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition, who was then Leader of the Government, came forward and said, "You have served your country well, allow me to put your name down for a grant of £200," I said "No." I do not wish to be pensioned; but, when the Leader of the Government boasts of his economy, I will tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; and I am sure every member of the House must say that the Leader of the Opposition, in his capacity of Leader of the Government of that day, was economical.

Mr. HASLAM. I would address the Committee for a few moments, and I would remark that the course pursued by the Opposition, ever since I came into the House of Assembly, has been one of systematic opposition to the wording of His Excellency's Speech, for the purpose, it would appear, of delaying the business of the session for a few days. Whether they are speaking to the question or not, does not concern them; for they wander away to the widest range of their imagination, without any consideration

whether they are edifying themselves or those who bear them. This paragraph has been discussed this whole day, and I do not see that one sound argument has been brought against it. Now, I would ask any man of common sense—If there was a necessity for bringing troops here—and all admit that there was—how could we retain them if we did not provide necessary accommodations for them? The tenants were induced, by some parties, to believe that Her Majesty would never send troops here to collect the proprietors' rents, and the same parties also endeavoured to impress the minds of the tenantry with the belief that, if they would wait till winter, the troops would be taken away and they would then be free to take their own course. But now comes the point: some maintain that it was not necessary to find accommodation for the troops, and further, that it was unconstitutional for the Government to erect Barracks for that purpose, without the sanction of the Legislature. Now, Sir, if a bridge were broken down in some place, the want of which would cause great inconvenience to the whole Island, would it be necessary to call the Legislature before Government could have it rebuilt? What is the Government but an executive committee of the House of Assembly? It rests, therefore, with the majority of the House to sustain them. Now, I think, the whole case is plain that some hon. members are only speaking for the sake of systematic opposition, for it was only when the hon. member for the East Point trod on the corns of the Leader of the Opposition that he "flared up" as he did this evening. I will support the paragraph in the Address.

Hon. Mr. COLES. The hon. member thinks, I suppose, that every person must be convinced by his wonderful argument about the broken bridge. I think he is murmuring like the old man he was telling us about this morning, who grumbled because the old woman did not sit up till he came home.

Mr. HASLAM. What I said was that the Opposition was like the drunken man staggering home at night who thus soliloquized with himself—"If my wife is not in bed, I will beat her for sitting up and burning the candles;" and then taking another stagger, said—"If my wife is in bed I will beat her for not sitting up and keeping on a fire to get me my supper by."

The question was then put by the Chairman on the amendment and there appeared

For it—The Honbles. G. Coles, A. Laird, F. Kelly, E. Thornton, E. Whelan, J. Warburton, J. Hensley; and Messrs. Howlan, Sinclair and Sutherland—10.

Against it—The Honbles. J. C. Pope, J. Longworth, Sol. General, the Speaker, Dr. Kaye, D. Davies, Col. Gray, E. McEachen; and Messrs. Duncan, Brecken, Haslam, McLennan, Montgomery, Ramsay and Green—15.

So the amendment was lost; and the question being then put on the original paragraph it was agreed to.

Progress reported—House adjourned.

GOVERNMENT LAND PURCHASE QUESTION.

FRIDAY, 13th April, 1866.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The House in Committee of the whole again resumed the consideration of the Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech. Mr. John Yeo in the Chair.

Business commenced by the Chairman's reading the 7th paragraph of the draft Address, as follows:

"We are gratified to learn that you have recently concluded the purchase of another Estate from one of the Proprietors, and that it is your intention to continue to buy out the rights of the Landowners, whenever you are enabled to do so on reasonable terms."

Hon. Mr. WARBURTON then rose, and moved, in amendment, the following Resolution:

"The House of Assembly rejoice to learn that Your Excellency has concluded the purchase of another Estate from one of the Proprietors.

"The House of Assembly cheerfully recognize in this purchase another testimony to the usefulness and necessity of the Bill, which has authorized such a measure, and which the Liberal Government, in 1853, were happily enabled to place upon the Statute Book of the Colony."

Hon. Mr. COLES. I presume the Government will have no objection to the proposed amendment, since it is now admitted, on all sides, that the Land Purchase Bill is the best means which has yet been devised for the settlement of the Land Question. When, however, the Liberal Government passed that measure, in 1853, it received nothing but abuse from the organ of the Tory party—"The Islander." The whole party raised a hue and cry against it. They declared that the hard working and provident freeholders, who had purchased the fee-simple of their farms with the earnings of their honest industry, would be taxed to pay for the purchase of freeholds for men who had been too lazy and improvident to make provision even for the payment of their rents, although only one shilling an acre or less. And, further, to render those for whose especial benefit the measure had been devised, mistrustful, and dissatisfied with the prospects of relief which it afforded them, they told them that not one of them who rented a farm of 100 acres at £5 sterling per annum would be able to purchase it in fee-simple for less than £150 Island Currency. In the same manner, it had been the invariable practice of the Tories to misrepresent, and endeavour to deceive the people touching the merits and prospective operation of every measure which, for the public good, emanated from the Liberals; and when such measures were so obviously beneficial to the people, that it was altogether useless for them to deny it, they had the effrontery to declare, and, in spite of the most undeniable evidence to the contrary, to maintain that those measures had originated with them.—To show how much the Tories were opposed to the Land Purchase Bill, in 1853, the year in which it was passed—how earnestly they strove to misrepresent it, and how zealously they laboured to prejudice the minds of the tenantry against it; I will just read an editorial upon it, from the organ of the Tories, "the Islander" of the date 25th March, 1853; which paper was at that time, edited by the late Mr. Duncan McLean. The article is altogether rabid and acrimonious; but no one alluded to by it is spoken of with mere bitterness or less courtesy, than the Hon. Joseph Pope, the father of the Hon. the Leader of the Government. The reason of that no doubt was that, although once a leading Tory, he had yielded to the influence of public sentiment, and become a Liberal. He had once been a friend; but, having become an opponent, he was regarded as much worse than an original enemy; and treated accordingly. The hon. gentleman then read from *The "Islander"* of the said date as follows:

"SWEEPING MEASURE"—THE LAND PURCHASE BILL.

"This is emphatically the greatest broom, or leading humbug of the Session. It is just Coles' old Bill, authorizing the Government to purchase Township lands at not more than 7s. 6d. Currency per acre, in lots not less than 1000 acres, if any proprietor be willing to sell within the limit. The *Royal Gazette*, of the 7th inst., furnishes an epitome of the Act, and a very confused affair it seems to be. The Government to settle the tenantry in freehold, if they wish it, at 'cost and charges'; but it appears that those same 'cost and charges' may amount to, but not exceed, 'that sum, the annual interest of which would be equal to the annual rent paid by them under their leases.' Reducing our cotemporary's explanation to a perspicuous statement, it means that if a tenant pays £7 10s rent

in the produce of the farm, he may have to pay £7 10s. rent of interest in cash, yearly, to the Treasury, until he be enabled to hand over £150 to the Government, for the freehold of the same. How the 'charges' should amount to such a figure is the mystery. Our quotation cannot mean 3d. rent per acre, and under the equivalent of not more than £5 sterling purchase, there being none leased so low on the Island, we believe.

"But the Bill is not simply an electioneering humbug—it is something worse. Unless land be in the position of the Worrell Estate, owned by a very aged gentleman without heirs, no proprietor will sell for four or five years' purchase, with titles better than they were 10 or 20 years ago. The Bill, nevertheless, provides that Debentures—obligations for borrowed money—shall be issued by the Government to the tune of £30,000, which, with the £10,000 already afloat, needlessly, will form a public debt of £40,000, bearing an annual interest of £2,000. Ye 'Family Compact' Governments! hide your diminished heads; ye were but novices in the arts of corruption.

"Some years ago, Pope purchased a tract of land on or near Lot 11, amounting to upwards of 1000 acres, we believe, sold for a trifle, because it was not considered worth paying the land assessment for. We have seen and read a Freehold Deed of 100 acres of similar bog land to Pope's, in the same quarter, for £10, or about 2s. 2d. per acre. Now, we don't doubt that the purchase of Pope's swamp is one main object of the Bill. Will the public consent to continue to be represented by a pack of fellows who needlessly impose high duties on tea, sugar, &c., to obtain money to squander on any such a purpose? Now see the downright corruption, and the absolute irresponsibility, of what is deceptively called Responsible Government. Pope and Warburton—who, we understand, has also abundance of bog land for sale—and their clique in the Assembly, pass a Bill involving a public debt of £30,000, to be expended in the purchase of such land as the Government may choose. But Pope, Warburton and their clique colleagues form the Government, and may thus draw from the Treasury a price for their worthless land of more than ten or twenty times its value."

Hon. the Leader of the Government (J. C. POPE.) The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition has always claimed credit for being the author of the One-ninth Bill; and yet, I believe, the credit of that measure was justly due to the late Mr. Duncan McLean—at least so he himself said.

Hon. Mr. COLLES. I thank the Hon. the Leader of the Government for giving me an opportunity to explain away his, and perhaps some other hon. members' misconception with respect to the origin of that Bill. I will endeavour to state the facts of the case briefly and distinctly. On the passing of the Currency Bill, which was drawn up by the late Mr. Duncan McLean, I had taken the Bill home for the purpose of making a leisurely and close examination of it; and, on a careful perusal of it, it appeared to me that, were it to pass into law as it then stood, it would impose upon the tenantry the payment of 1s. 6d. currency for 1s. sterling per acre rent, instead of 1s. 1d. currency. The next morning, therefore, I waited upon the late Mr. Alexander Rae, then Speaker of the House of Assembly, with the Bill, and he, upon my explanation of my view of it, on that head, as it then stood, declared himself to be of the same opinion as myself. On going to the House, I explained my views of the Bill as it then stood, and my consequent objections to it, to Mr. McLean himself, as I had just previously done to Mr. Rae; and proposed that a clause should be introduced into it to protect the tenants, which was accordingly done. However, on the Bill being sent up to the Legislative Council, they objected to its having in it the clause for the protection of the tenants, because it was contrary to the Royal instructions to legislate upon different matters in one and the same Bill; but, at the same time, they assured me that, if the Liberal party would agree to separate the measures then blended in the Bill, and agree that a distinct Bill should be brought in for the protection of the tenants—to which arrangement they said the Conservatives were quite willing to assent—they would pass it. But—notwithstanding this explicit engagement, on the part of the Legislative Council, to agree to the One-ninth clause, when it should come before them in the shape of a separate Bill—when the two Bills—the Currency Bill and the One-ninth Bill—were sent up to them, they passed the former, and, to my utter astonishment, threw out the latter. This action of the Legislative Council, with

respect to the One-ninth Bill, I regarded as a most disgraceful breach of faith, and, as such, was not slow to pronounce it. However, when the Liberals got the majority under Responsible Government, I introduced the One-ninth Bill, and carried it through. But as it was prospective as well as retrospective, the Colonial Minister, on its being sent Home, said the prospective principle was objectionable; but that—notwithstanding the petitions of the proprietors against it—if that objectionable principle were eliminated from it, Her Majesty's Government would allow it. The next Session—the first of a new House in 1864—the Tories having succeeded in deceiving the people, had the majority; but yet, notwithstanding their former hostility to the One-ninth measure, they had to agree to pass it, as amended according to the suggestion of the Colonial Minister; or otherwise Sir Alexander Bannerman would have dissolved the House of Assembly. And, as to the late Mr. Duncan McLean, or the Tories, having been favourable to the measure, a certain editorial article in the *Islander*, of the date 23rd May, 1853, when that gentleman was the editor of that paper, is, I think, fully sufficient to prove the utter groundlessness of the Hon. the Leader of the Government's assumption that he (the late Mr. Duncan McLean) was the author of the One-ninth Bill. With your permission, sir, I will read that article. The hon. gentleman then read, from the editorial columns of the *Islander* of the date named, as follows:

"LEASE AND MONETARY OBLIGATIONS ACT."—(ONE-NINTH BILL.)

"We have just said that the Bill will little avail the tenantry if it do pass. It provides for the conversion of sterling money into currency by the addition of one-ninth, to any lease, bond or monetary obligation made and entered into before the passing of the said last recited Act, unless in cases, or in any case where a contrary course may have been mutually recognized and acted upon by the party or parties." Now, it is plain that this Bill remorselessly consigns all the tenantry, without exception, whose leases have been executed in sterling rents since 1849, to the £7 10s. rate. And to the bulk of the tenantry before that date it will be useless, even if it receive the Royal Assent."

The hon. gentleman then further observed. I believe the One-ninth Bill has been a greater benefit to the tenantry, and saved them from more litigation and payment of rent, than all the measures prepared or concocted by the Conservatives would have done, had they been successfully carried into effect—profuse as their introduction always was of benefits and advantages to be conferred by them upon the tenantry at large. At the time of the introduction of that Bill, and whilst its fate was undecided, it was—owing to the agitation of the Land Question and its disagreeable consequences—determined by many of the proprietors that, notwithstanding previous practice to the contrary, they would exact 1s. 6d. currency for the 1s. sterling, per acre, per annum rent. Indeed, I believe that, but for the passage of that Bill, the whole of the Proprietors would have done so, as one of them told Sir Alexander Bannerman when he called upon him for the purpose of endeavouring to persuade His Excellency to refuse his assent to it. That gentleman then told His Excellency that the passing of that Bill would be nothing less than a robbing of the proprietors of their just rights. This attempt, however, to dissuade Sir Alexander Bannerman from assenting to the Bill—coupled as it was, with a declaration of right, and an avowal of proprietary intentions prejudicial to the tenantry—had an effect upon His Excellency's mind quite contrary to that which it was intended to have: for it at once convinced him of the necessity of passing the measure.—Yes, Sir, the One-ninth Bill was devised solely for the benefit of the tenantry, and a most beneficial boon they have proved it to be. With respect to the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, I cannot admit that it is calculated to bestow so great a benefit upon such of the tenantry as it was projected to relieve as, under due consideration of all the circumstances of their position, they were entitled to. It gives advantages to the proprietors which I would not have given; but yet such tenants as can and may avail themselves of the privilege extended to them by that measure will be greatly assisted by the lightening operation of the One-ninth Bill. I am indeed glad that, under the operation of the Land Purchase Bill,

another proprietary estate has been purchased by the Government. That measure is the only one by means of which the leasehold system can be got rid of in this Island; and it gives me much pleasure to learn that, by the extension of its provisions, the party at present in power contemplate the still further extinction of proprietary claims. I hope, however, the Government will not shew too much anxiety to effect the purchase which they have in view. The putting on of the screws, to some moderate extent, might perhaps enable them to deal with the proprietors upon terms much more advantageous to the people than they could otherwise do. I would like to have a tax laid upon the proprietors towards a reduction of the extraordinary expenditure of the people's money which has lately been incurred through the Tenant League movement, the disturbances arising out of which—although immediately imputable to the deceptions practised upon the people by the present Government and their political supporters—are justly attributable to one cause only; and that is the obstacles which the proprietors have, from the first, invariably thrown in the way of every means which has ever been devised or proposed for the equitable extinguishment of the leasehold system. That being the case, I think it is by no means reasonable that the proprietors should go scot-free on account of that expenditure, the cause of which is directly traceable to themselves; whilst shopkeepers, mechanics, and others, who have neither been provokers of those disturbances, nor aids or abettors of them, are to be subjected to pecuniary impositions on account of them. I gladly accord to the Government full credit for sincerity and honesty of intention as respects their additional contemplated purchases of proprietary estates; but with all the facilities they possess and all the ability which the Legislature may confer upon them to that end, I am afraid they will not be able to effect the object at as low a rate per acre as they believe they will. The first platform of the Tenant League was to purchase their farms from their landlords at a fair and equitable price, to be mutually agreed upon by and between the League and the vending proprietors; and the average price proposed by the League was, I believe, 12s. 6d. currency per acre. Now, should the League still be willing to purchase their farms from their landlords at that rate, it is not at all likely that the Government will be able to buy at as low a rate as the Worrell and Selkirk Estates were purchased at. I believe His Excellency the Lieut. Governor is very anxious to relieve the tenantry from the burthens of the leasehold system. Nay more, I believe that he himself individually has already done more towards the accomplishment of that object than the whole body of his Cabinet. He has influence with the proprietors; and he has exerted it, to some extent successfully, for the benefit of the tenantry. He was, at first, favourable to the Land Commission in preference to the Loan and Purchase Bills. The Commissioners, however, recommended my system—that of the Loan and Purchase Bills; but, when it was found that the Home Government would not guarantee the Loan, and it became necessary to abandon that part of the Award, the Government and the Legislature undertook to force the Minister for the Colonies, the Duke of Newcastle, to consent to the Arbitration clause; and that most ridiculous attempt resulted in the Award's being altogether set aside. Now, however, it seems that both His Excellency and his Ministry feel themselves obliged to acknowledge the wisdom and propriety of the measures which were projected by myself; and that they now admit that the only means by which the stigma, cast upon the Colony, of a design to deprive the proprietors of their rights, is to give effect to the much decried and obnoxious Loan and Land Purchase Bills of the Liberals. I have just said that I would be pleased to find that the Government were, just now, willing and able to put the screws upon the Proprietors, to some moderate extent; but, although, at times, almost convinced that, unless recourse were to be had to compulsory measures, it would be impossible to make them parties to a fair and equitable settlement of the Land Question, I have never been the advocate of any such measure. On the contrary, I have always been steadfast in my opposition to them; and no scheme for the redress of tenant grievances has ever been propounded by me, or received my support, unless such as were

based upon principles of right, justice, or equitable compromise. I never proposed to compel the proprietors, by means of exorbitant taxation, to sacrifice their proprietary rights; nor have I ever attempted to persuade the tenantry that the relation in which they stand to their landlords is no better or more consistent with their natural rights as men than was that of the West India slaves, before their emancipation, to their masters. Yet all this has been done in the editorial columns of the organ of the Government—“*The Islander*”; and, to the impression made upon the minds of such of the tenantry as read such sentiments, issued from such a quarter, may, in no inconsiderable degree, be attributed the infatuation which led to the late Tenant League disturbances. The sentiments to which I allude are to be found enunciated in an editorial article of “*The Islander*” of the 11th December, 1853, which I read in my place the other morning. The hon. gentleman then concluded by saying, as he had done at the commencement of his speech, that—as the amendment submitted by his hon. friend, Mr. Warburton, was a cordial response to that paragraph of His Excellency's Speech to which it was intended to be an answer; and merely further awarded to the Liberal Government of 1853, the simple meed of praise which was due to them for having brought forward and carried the Land Purchase Bill, under the authority of which His Excellency had made the purchase spoken of,—he thought he was fully warranted in presuming that a sense of justice would incline the Government and their supporters to accept and adopt it.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY. The amendment enunciates nothing beyond the assertion of a simple fact. It advances no principle. It is a simple acknowledgment of the service rendered to the country, by the Liberals when in power, by the passing of the Land Purchase Bill. The purchase of the proprietary estate, spoken of in the Speech, as well as of several others, has been effected by an exercise of the power to that end conferred upon the Government by the Land Purchase Bill; and, strong as the Government are, surely they may well afford, in an honest, generous, and candid spirit, to give, on this occasion, to their opponents, the meed of praise so justly due to them. They themselves frequently desire such a consideration of their measures, on our part, as, say they, a fair and just estimation of their merits, independently of party views, would induce us to give them. Such a consideration of their measures, separately viewed, the Opposition, as a body, I am proud to say, are always willing and ready to accord them. Whilst opposed to their general policy, we have invariably given our support to every measure, brought forward by them, which has evidently been for the public good; and frequently have I most cheerfully paid them the tribute of praise which, for such measures, I have conceived to be justly due to them; and even, although I may not always, on such occasions, have been able to agree with them on all points as to details, I have never failed to accord to them a just consideration for sincerity of purpose. As no principle is involved in the amendment, I think it may very well be accepted by the Government side of the House. Of the estate in question, I have some knowledge, and I believe it will prove remunerative. By the purchase, from £1000 to 1,200 of arrears are completely wiped off, and these, in several instances, have, since 1858, been weighing heavily upon the tenantry. The benefit of such a purchase is, therefore, obvious to all; but it could not have been made without the Land Purchase Bill. His Excellency, I sincerely believe, is most anxious to put an end to the leasehold tenure; and deeply grateful ought the tenantry to be to him for what, through his direct interposition, has been accomplished towards that most desirable end. The hon. and learned gentleman then concluded by again observing that—as the acceptance of the amendment by the Government side of the House would involve no sacrifice of prin-

ciple on their part, as it was simply the declaration of a fact, which they did not deny—he hoped they would, at least he would recommend them to agree to it; and, by so doing, afford at once an evidence of their strength and of that generous spirit which should always accompany it.

Hon. the Solicitor-General (Mr. HAVILAND) after pronouncing the discussion of the amendment to be mere child's play, or worse—an unpardonable waste of time—proceeded to say: It is true that, in one sense, we can afford to be generous; but it is also equally true that politicians cannot afford to be generous to their own injury. As it was laid down yesterday, the carrying of an amendment to the Address, although it might be slight as the pointing of an ear or the stroking of a cat, would involve a defeat of the Government; for it would be a clear proof of their inability to carry their own measures. We have admitted the benefits of the Land Purchase Bill; and we have also admitted that the Liberals were the authors of that Bill, and consequently are entitled to the merit of it. What more can fairly be required of us? Surely not that we should become parties to our own defeat? The editorial or letter which the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition has read from a newspaper, is a matter with which we have nothing to do. If it had been the speech of an hon. member of this House, in which that hon. member had enunciated principles contrary to those on which he at present acts, a reference to it, with the intention of proving or exposing the inconsistency of that hon. member, would be perfectly fair and parliamentary; but the reading of a newspaper editorial or communication, in the House, for the purpose of basing thereon an attack upon the principles or acts, either of an individual member or of a party, was not only unparliamentary, but absurd. As the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition had said, the first platform of the Tenant League was purchase; but now the principle by which they are actuated is a very different one. They profess to regard the whole of the Township lands as a public domain; of which the people—for the benefit of a few individuals, styled proprietors—have been most unjustly denied the advantages; and, on this principle, or rather want of principle, they base a right to dispossess the proprietors, without compensation or compromise, as being mere usurpers of public rights and public property. Happily for the present peace and prosperity of the country, the Tenant League has been disorganized; but there is too much reason to believe that its spirit is yet very far from being thoroughly extinguished, and any proposition, such as that which has just been hinted at by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, for the taxation of proprietors, with a view to the relief of the tenantry, would meet with glad acceptance from the many who, I fear, still cherish the nefarious principles of the League. The proposition for such a tax is certainly a casting of political bread upon the waters, in the hope of finding it again after many days. It would be received with cheers by hundreds and thousands.

Hon. Mr. COLES: I beg the hon. member's pardon for a moment's interruption. If he means that I have made such a proposition, he has certainly very much misunderstood me. In the editorial article of the *Islander* which I read the other day, and to which I have again referred to-day, the necessity of such a tax is more than hinted at. I, on the contrary, have declared that I have always been averse to compulsory measures. I did, indeed, say—and I say it again—that I think it very unfair that shopkeepers, tradesmen, and mechanics, who had nothing whatever to do with the late Tenant League disturbances—the immediate cause of "the extraordinary expenditure" spoken of in the Speech—should be taxed on account of that ex-

penditure, whilst they who were the primary cause of all the mischief—both the disturbances and the expenditure—the proprietors, should be allowed to go scot-free.

Hon. the Solicitor-General (Mr. HAVILAND). I am glad to find that I misunderstood the hon. gentleman. Taxation must never be for the benefit of one class to the injury of another. With reference to his quotation from the *Islander*, which he seems to regard as the organ of the Government, I must however beg leave to inform him that that paper is no more the organ of the Government than the *Examiner*, or any other of our local newspapers; and, although the *Islander* is published by the same gentleman that prints the *Royal Gazette*, the Government are in no way responsible for what appears in the *Islander*: the *Royal Gazette* is the only Government organ.

Hon. Col. GRAY. There can be no objection to the amendment further than this—that it enunciates no principle. We all admit the truth of what it asserts; but were it carried as an amendment to that paragraph of the Address under consideration, it would be a proof that the Government were not strong enough to carry their own measures; and would, therefore afford the Opposition sufficient constitutional grounds for calling upon them to resign the reins of power. Of this the Opposition are very well aware; and, indeed, there can be no question that their only object, in proposing and urging the amendment, is, if possible, to effect such a defection, on the part of the Government adherents in the House, upon the question as will enable them (the Opposition) to say to the Government, "being no longer sustained by a majority, you must confess that, upon constitutional principles, you can no longer retain your position as a Government." Influenced by this consideration, and still placing, as I have hitherto done, every reasonable confidence in the Government, I shall vote for the original paragraph of the Address, and against the proposed amendment. The hon. and gallant Colonel then, with reference to what had been said by the Hon. Mr. Coles, to the effect that he (Hon. Col. Gray) had said that the Land Purchase Bill, although a measure calculated to effect much good, was not a measure by means of which the condition of the tenantry could be ameliorated as far as it would have been by the Award of the Land Commission,—observed that much good had, indeed, been effected by means of the Land Purchase Bill. His constituents were formerly under vassalage; but now, by means of that Bill, they were freeholders; and he took pride to himself in being their representative, since not one of them had obtained his freehold at the expense of even one shilling to any of his fellow colonists. The hon. and gallant Colonel, then adverting to the favorable terms upon which the purchase of the Selkirk Estates had been effected, explained that the Earl of Selkirk, a nobleman not only of great fortune, but of most estimable character, had—out of regard for the memory of his father, who had brought out from Scotland, many of the original settlers thereon,—been willing to part with those estates for the benefit of his tenantry, at such a rate as would merely cover the expenses which had been actually incurred by his father and himself in the law agency and the management thereof; and that nothing like compulsion had either been, or could have been, brought to bear upon him, to induce him to consent to the sale of them upon any terms whatever. What has been called the Earl's sale of his estates in this Island was, in fact, rather a gratuitous surrender of them than any thing else for the benefit of the tenants. The Land Purchase Bill, under which the purchase had been effected, is in no way compulsory. Many things, however, were com-

pulsory which did not appear to be so on the surface. The proprietor of the Worrell Estates was a bankrupt and imbecile besides. He was over head and ears in debt, and that was the compulsion which enabled the Liberal Government to purchase his estate. It was very different, however, with the Award of the Land Commission. Had the provisions of that Award been carried into effect, they would have been compulsory to the fullest extent. The proprietary lands of the Island are now almost wholly held by Sir Edward Cunard and his brother, the heirs of the late Right Hon. Lawrence Sullivan, and Mr. Robert Bruce Stewart; but, although Government may offer to purchase their estates under the provisions of the Land Purchase Act, they cannot compel them to accept of any offers they may make for them. They might as well attempt to compel me to part with my small estate of 50 acres for what they might please to offer me for it. The three Royal Commissioners were sent to make an Award—an Award binding upon the Crown, the consenting proprietors, and the people of the Colony; and had they said the proprietors were to part with their lands at 1s. an acre, it would have been law. But the Commissioners did not pronounce an Award. They deputed to others the duty which had been imposed upon themselves—and upon themselves only; and which, therefore, none but themselves could discharge. Their Report was consequently laid aside, as of non-effect. The hon. and gallant Colonel then went on to show the benefit to be derived by the tenantry under the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill. That Bill, he said, is compulsory upon such of the proprietors as have consented to it. It has given to the tenants on the estates of those proprietors power to purchase the fee simple of their farms at 15 year's purchase—fifteen times their annual rents—300 or 400 of them have already availed themselves of it; and it has been the means of striking off £48,000 of arrears of rent. Before the Bill was passed, some of those tenantry had offered twenty and thirty shillings an acre for their lands, and been refused; but now they can compel their landlords to sell them to them for sixteen shillings and eight pence. Besides, we shall find, hereafter, that the Landlords will be glad to sell out at reasonable rates, when their best farms shall have been sold and the worst left on their hands. And yet the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition is unwilling to admit that the Bill has done any good. I say, however, it has done much good—will do more—and has already been productive of much joy and gladness in the land. His Excellency had been referred to as having been anxious to give effect to the provisions of the Land Purchase Bill. He (Hon. Col. Gray) was glad to hear it; but, indeed, he knew that His Excellency had always been so.

Hon. Mr. COLES explained that he had said that, at first His Excellency had not been quite as favorable to the Land Purchase Bill as he had been to the Land Commission.

Hon. Col. GRAY. Quite right; and his reasons were what I have just enunciated. The Land Purchase Bill is not binding or compulsory, but the Award or Report of the Land Commission would have been so, had it been properly made. The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition has advised the Government to beware, and not to raise hopes which they may not be able to fulfil. He has advised then not to manifest too much eagerness to purchase the estates still in the hands of the proprietors, lest by so doing they should cause a rise in their price. This observation of the hon. member appears to me to be somewhat singular, and gives me reason to apprehend there is more conveyed by it than

appears on the surface. I cannot, however, agree with him. So far from doing so, I would earnestly urge upon the Government the paramount necessity of putting a stop, at once, and for ever, to the painful scenes we witnessed in our midst, last summer; and this can best be done by increasing the provisions of the Land Purchase Bill. The Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill applies only to the improved lands; and, I think, it would be better for the proprietors were they to sell the whole of their estates at a reasonable average rate per acre, than to find themselves, in a few years, the possessors of only some thousands of acres of swamp and sand. I have every reason to know that a more liberal, benevolent, and kind-hearted man than the owner of a great part of the late Sir Samuel Cunard's estates in this Island, does not exist. I allude to Mr. Cunard of Halifax; and I also believe that both Sir Edward Cunard and his brother would, should the Government manifest a wish to purchase their properties, be very willing to meet them half way. The heiresses of the late Right Hon. Lawrence Sullivan, I doubt not, would be found equally as compliant. I, therefore, incline to believe that, were a slight advance to be made, by our Government, whether Liberal or Conservative, through the Legislature,—say 1s. or 1s. 6d. per acre, upon the maximum price of the Land Purchase Bill—5s. per acre—and offers made, at the enhanced rate of purchase, to those parties for their estates, such offers would be accepted by them. And, if so, then almost the whole of the Township lands in the Colony would, with the exception of those owned by Mr. Robert Bruce Stewart, be released from the leasehold tenure; and that estimable gentleman himself would then, doubtless, influenced by the example set him by those greater proprietors, be willing to treat with his tenants, on reasonable terms, for the conversion of their leaseholds into freeholds. If, however, the present Government will not take this matter in hand, I verily believe the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, if he obtains a majority at the next election, will do so. In fact, let it be put to the people from the stump, and I do not think one of them will object. Even supposing a slight loss were to accrue to the Revenue, would it not be far better to suffer such a loss for such a purpose, than to have to pay out thousands for Troops and Barracks? Besides our Revenue is now increased to such a figure, that we can well afford what in 1862 we could not. The purchase of these large estates would completely break the neck of agitation. That effected, we should no longer have any reason to fear the formation of Tenant Leagues. The hon. and gallant Colonel then observed that it was the duty of hon. members to impress upon the minds of their constituents that nothing for the benefit of the tenantry could be effected by coercive measures—that such measures would never receive the Royal assent—and that the only means by which the leasehold tenure can be got rid of is by fair and equitable purchase of the proprietary lands. As respected the proposed amendment, he admitted that it was truth; but, for the reason which he had already assigned, he could not vote for it. Truth was one thing and political strategy another.

Hon. Mr. COLES. He could not understand on what grounds the hon. and gallant Colonel had represented the Land Purchase Bill as not compulsory. Under that Bill the price of an estate and the mode of payment were agreed upon by and between the proprietor and the Government, and on the Government's showing that they were fully prepared and willing to fulfil the terms of purchase, could they not at once compel the proprietor to execute a Deed of Con-

wayance of it to them, in fulfilment of this written engagement? Was not that compulsory? Most assuredly it was. He was, therefore, surprised to hear objections made to the Bill on the ground that it was not compulsory. The hon. and gallant Colonel, although now in favor, not only of the Land Purchase Bill, but of a Loan Bill—since without the aid of the latter the former cannot easily be carried into effect—spoke very differently of those measures of the Liberal Government in his speech prefatory to his introduction of the Land Commission Resolutions. I will now read what he then said of those measures. The hon. gentleman then read as follows, from the speech of the Hon. Col. Gray of which he had just spoken:

"Sir, I have therefore to propound, for the consideration of hon. members, certain Resolutions which I have drawn up without partiality, favour, or affection, but which, I am convinced, will be found most conducive to the final settlement of this long vexed question—the fruitful source of much of the bickerings and heart-burnings which have for so many years distracted the people of this Island, and which will also give real relief to their present burdens, and designate the only way in which, by a persistent course of honest industry, every tenant in the Island may, in a few years, become a freeholder, and that without subjecting the people to the enormous taxation which the wild and reckless proposition of the hon. member in his Loan Bill would inevitably entail upon them, and their posterity. Sir, it is obvious that, by this measure, a tenant will have the power of becoming a freeholder by a gradual payment of instalments, without running the great risk which is now incurred by purchasing under the Land Purchase Act, by the provisions of which the Sheriff is empowered to come in and distrain, and probably ruin the purchasers who may not be prepared to pay the instalments as they become due to the Government. All this can be avoided—the farms itself will become a bank in which the tenant can invest his savings at good interest."

Since the hon. and gallant Colonel delivered that speech, he must have greatly changed his mind; because, since then, under the provisions of the Land Purchase Bill, the Government of which he was the Leader purchased the Selkirk Estate; and no ruinous consequences have ensued. The hon. and gallant Colonel is anxious that, under the provisions of the same Bill, the Government should purchase the Sullivan and Cunard Estates.

Hon. Col. GRAY No!

Hon. Mr. COLES. Should the Government evince great anxiety to purchase those estates, he was afraid they might have to give a much larger amount for them than they might otherwise be able to buy them for. He would, however, throw no obstacles in the way of their effecting the purchase of them. The Bill had proved its own value. It now required no recommendation; and if, under its provisions, the Government should determine to purchase those large estates, they should have his support. He had never been in favor of coercive measures. The hon. gentleman, after dwelling for some time upon matters connected with the purchase of the Worrell Estate, said he had no wish to reflect upon what the present Government had done about their purchases. He would rather wish to forget all cause of dissension on that head.—With respect to the amendment then under the consideration of the Committee, he supported it, not in the hope of carrying it and, by that means, turning out the Government; but only with the intention of asserting the constitutional privilege of the Opposition, at such a time, thoroughly to examine the policy and sift the motives of the Government; and—when an advantageous opportunity offered for it—to contrast their policy and their acts with those of their predecessors in power. The privilege which the Opposition claimed to exercise with respect to the Address, not only in their examination of it, paragraph by paragraph, but in their review of it as a whole, was precisely that which was claimed and exercised by the Opposition in

the British House of Commons. It was different with a Bill, the discussion of which in Committee was carried on clause by clause.

Hon. Colonel GRAY. The hon. member has said he was never in favor of coercive measures. He, however, if I remember correctly, wrote a letter, in 1858, on going out of office, in which he told the people that the only means by which they could, then, hope for a redress of leasehold or tenant grievances, was escheat.

Hon. Mr. COLES. I have never agitated escheat with a view to carrying it into effect. In an abstract point of view, I may have admitted its justice; but I have never been an advocate of it.

Hon. Colonel GRAY. When, some forty years ago, I first left Prince Edward Island, I went to a severe school. When I returned to it, my judgment was matured. I would not deliberately commit myself, in 1859, by declarations which, in 1866, I would recal or soften. The words which, with respect to the Land Purchase Bill, I uttered then, I utter now. No man shall accuse me justly of inconsistency. What I said in my speech preparatory to the Resolutions, I now again repeat. By the provisions of that Bill, the Sheriff is empowered to come in and distrain, and probably ruin the purchaser, who may not be prepared to pay the instalments, as they become due, to the Government. And that this is the case, have we not, at this very moment, evidence in the Royal Gazette, in which the Commissioner of Lands has advertised a number of farms which were purchased under the provisions of that Bill, to be sold at public auction; the purchasers having been unable to pay the instalments as they became due. My resolutions and the Land Purchase Bill were two entirely different things. Those Resolutions were not allowed, because the Report or Award founded thereon by the Royal Commission, was illegal, inasmuch as the Commissioners thereby delegated to others the duty which they, and they only, were appointed to discharge—the making of a valuation or valuations of the lands of the proprietors. Had that been done by the Royal Commission, whatever might have been the valuation or valuations set upon the lands—however low it might have been—the proprietors who had, before the appointment of the Commission, bound themselves to abide by the Award, would have found it to be law; and they would have had no power or means by which to evade its operation. It is very different indeed, with the Land Purchase Bill. In it there is nothing compulsory. Under its provisions, the Government may make an offer to a proprietor for the purchase of his estate, but he is at perfect liberty to accept, or to reject it, as he may please, or as it may suit, or otherwise, his own estimation of his interest in the estate. The Loan Bill I certainly looked upon as a wild and reckless scheme. Even had the Loan been guaranteed by the Imperial Parliament, and the amount, £100,000 been obtained and placed in our Treasury, for seven years it would have lain there idle, and have occasioned a loss of £4000 a year to the Colony; for, during that period, as was proved by the evidence of facts, there would have been no opportunity to use it. A Loan Bill would be useless, even now, unless there were a previous agreement with proprietors for the purchase of their estates.

Hon. Mr. COLES explained that the Liberal Government had offered to purchase the Selkirk Estate.

Hon. Col. GRAY. I always understood that Lord Selkirk would not negotiate with the Liberal Government, because he could not trust them. The agent said His Lordship would have nothing to do with the Liberal Government.

Hon. Mr. COLES. A petition of the tenants, praying His Lordship to accede to the offer of the Government to purchase his estate, was sent home to him by the Honble. Colonel Swabey.

Hon. Col. GRAY. A petition! If so, why is there no record of it in this House? As bearing upon a question of so much importance, it ought to have been submitted to the Legislature.

Hon. Mr. COLES explained that the Agent, the late Mr. Douse, interposed obstacles in the way of the purchase; and, when spoken to on the subject, said little more than tauntingly to ask and to add, "When will the Loan Bill pass?" "When it does," it will be time enough to talk about the purchase of His Lordship's estate."

Hon. Col. GRAY. I will not make any remarks concerning the manner in which the business of the Land Office was conducted under the incumbency of Col. Swabey; for I am anxious that the present discussion should be conducted in an amicable spirit. I only regret that so many who purchased their farms under the Land Purchase Bill have not been able to pay their instalments better than they have; and, with respect to the comparative merits of my Resolutions and that Bill, I will only now simply observe that there was scarcely a word in the Resolutions which, in its bearing, was not much better calculated to improve the condition of the tenantry than the Bill. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition has, indeed, said that his Bill is compulsory. I say it is not, and have, I think, clearly shown that it is not. If, however, that hon. member believed it to be a compulsory measure, he was surely highly culpable in allowing its compulsory powers to remain inoperative during the time he held the reins of power after its enactment.

Hon. Mr. COLES. I never said it was compulsory; but I say that if it was not, then neither were the hon. member's Resolutions.

Hon. Col. GRAY. All the great proprietors had given a written engagement to abide by the Award of the Royal Commission; and, had the Award been duly made by the Commission, had it been—as it was intended it should be—*decisive and final*; it would have been binding and compulsory upon the consenting proprietors to the fullest extent. But I say again, it was otherwise with the Land Purchase Bill; for it left the proprietors, who were no parties to it in any way, just as much at liberty to keep or sell their estates as they were disposed to do, after its enactment, as they were before it.

Hon. Mr. COLES. It was very true that, before the Land Purchase Bill could be carried into effect, it was necessary that the Government should have the consent of a proprietor to sell to them on the terms offered to him by them; and was it not equally so as respected the Resolutions of the hon. and gallant Colonel? Was it not necessary that, in the first place, the consent of the proprietors should be obtained?

Hon. Col. GRAY. The proprietors were consenting parties to the appointment of the Royal Commission. Before its appointment, they bound themselves to abide by its decision; and I say again that, had not the Royal Commissioners erred in their attempt to transfer to others their powers to settle the question, but made themselves, as they should have done, a definitive award, it would have been binding upon all parties concerned, and compulsory upon proprietors to the fullest extent. I have seen some service in the field, and have occasionally been opposed to a most

obstinate and determined enemy; but more obstinate and determined opposition than that which, during this discussion, I have met with from the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, I have never before encountered. I cannot think that, in understanding, he is so obtuse as not clearly to perceive how widely the two measures, the merits of which we have been comparing, differ in principle and potency; however I am tired of the discussion, and, withdrawing from it, will merely observe that he has forcibly reminds me of what the French said of the English at the battle of Waterloo: "Those stupid English! They are beaten; but they don't know when they are beaten." I will, however, say, let our agrarian troubles cease once and for ever. Let not our fine Island be again disgraced by our having to send for troops to maintain the majesty of the law. A better class of yeomen than the bulk of our people, cannot be found; but they have grievances, both real and imaginary. Let the Government put their shoulders to the wheel, and determine that no longer shall we be thus disquieted. Let the leasehold system end; and we shall have peace and harmony where now exist agitation and discord.

Hon. Mr. McEACHEN. The purchase of the Montgomery Estate by the Government, would be a good bargain. It would be self-sustaining and more. He hoped all the remaining proprietary lands would soon fall into the hands of the Government, upon equally good terms. But if they could not be purchased at as low a rate, he agreed with the hon. member for Belfast (Hon. Col. Gray) that it would be wise and proper to raise the price; and to that end, to enlarge the provisions of the Land Purchase Bill. He could be no patriot who would object to such an extension of the measure.

Mr. BRECKEN. Both sides of the House were quite agreed as to the propriety of congratulating the Government upon the purchase of the Montgomery Estate; and the only object of the Opposition in moving the amendment was to oust the Government. They (the Opposition) twitted the Government for acting upon, and carrying out a measure of which their predecessors in power had been the authors. They seemed not to know that it was not always the duty of a Government to reverse the policy of that which their party had overthrown. The history of the Roman Catholic Emancipation Bill, of the Corn Laws, of the Reform Bill, and of Free Trade principles, were they conversant with them, would show them that even a Wellington, a Peel and a Stanley, had brought forward and given efficacy to measures which had been propounded by their political opponents, and long withstood by themselves. The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition did not appear to understand the history of politics and parties. He did not understand the logic of events. At the time of the introduction of Responsible Government, he happened to be at the head of affairs; but any other man, in the same position, would have done as well as he did; and, perhaps, better. It was great folly in him to twit the present Government for following his example and improving upon it.—He (Mr. Brecken) would like to see the provisions of the Land Purchase Bill extended for the purpose of enabling the Government to purchase the estates still in the hands of the great proprietors. Money could not be better expended than for such a purpose—the securing of the happiness and prosperity of the Colony.

Mr. MONTGOMERY—after observing that some time, he thought, had already been spent in discussing the point in question—said that the purchase of the Montgomery

Reason was one on which the Government deserved well to be congratulated; for, he felt certain, that, through it, a great benefit would be conferred on those by whom it was wanted. He was very glad to hear it hinted by the hon. and gallant member for Belfast (Col. Gray) that there was a probability of the Government's being able to purchase, on reasonable terms, the Cunard and Sullivan Estates.

Hon. the Leader of the Government (J. C. POPE) To the paragraph of the Address now under consideration, there is really no objection made; but the Opposition clearly show by their proposed amendment that they are unwilling to give an credit for following out their own policy. I am happy to be able to state to the House that it is the intention of the Government to ask their leave to introduce a Bill to enlarge the provisions of the Land Purchase Bill, in order that they may be enabled to treat for the purchase of the Cunard and Sullivan Estates.—There are unfortunately demagogues in the Colony who are ever ready to take advantage of such crises in public affairs as may seem to afford them fitting opportunities for exciting the people into acts of insubordination and disloyalty; but the presence of such evil-minded men amongst us can afford no just grounds for saying, as my hon. colleague (Mr. Howatt) has done, that we are not fit to govern ourselves. The fact of the troops' having brought hither for the enforcing of due submission to the authorities and the laws, is a proof that we are fit to govern ourselves.

Mr. HOWATT. What I said was that I understood the hon. member for Belfast (Hon. Col. Gray) to say that the people of Prince Edward Island had lately, by their insubordination, given proofs that they were not fit for Self-Government.

Hon. J. C. POPE. The hon. and gallant Colonel said nothing of the kind. On the contrary, even whilst admitting that the Colony had been disgraced by the disturbances and insubordination caused by the Tenant League, he eulogized the tenantry in general in the highest terms, and said: "a finer set of yeomen did not exist in the British dominions." The bringing of the troops to the Island, and the immediate restoration of order is the best proof that the people are fit for Self-Government. Every Conservative member of the House ought to be proud to bear evidence to this fact; but I am sorry to say that some of them, by the countenance which they gave to the League, seemed desirous of proving the very contrary. The hon. gentleman then went very fully into the history of the management of the Worrell Estate and Lot 11, by the Liberal Government, for the purpose of shewing that, in their hands, instead of being, as they had declared those estates would be and were, a self-sustaining speculation, their management subjected the country to an annual loss of nearly £700; and he then contrasted the management of those estates, by the Liberals, with that of the same estates, and others, since purchased, by the Conservatives, to shew that, by the better management of the Conservatives, the profits arising from the latter purchases had been made to counterbalance the loss sustained upon the Worrell Estate and Lot 11, through the mismanagement of the Liberals. To these ends, the statements then submitted by the hon. gentleman, as he had derived them from the office of the Commissioner of Public Lands, are as follow:

Under the management of the Liberal Government the receipts from the date of purchase, 1854, to January 1860—(the present Government taking power in the spring 1859, the acts of 1859 must be included as under the management of the Liberal party)—were £8,765 3s 9d, and the expenditure £9,125 1s 6d, to which is to be added £333 11s 1d, a balance of interest due on

£2,650, admitted to be due by Liberal and paid by present Government, which will make expenditure £9,458 13s 1d, being in excess of receipts by £693 9s 4d; but at the present date the receipts are in excess of expenditure by 2,048 9s 11d, thus giving a gain by present management of £2,741 19 3d, notwithstanding an extraordinary expenditure for opening roads, amounting in excess of £400 of that charged to the expenditure under the Liberal Government.

Profit and loss of each Estate.—Worrell Estate and Lot 11.

Amount due	£12,495 4s 2d	Cost	£23,500 0s 0d
Receipts plus expenditure	2,048 9s 11d	Loss	8,956 2s 11d
	£14,543 14s 14d		
	8,956 2s 11d		
	£23,500 0s 0d		

But how would it have been if the excess over receipts had continued as found by the present Government?

SELKIRK.

Amount due	12,215 10 11	Cost	9,918 0 9
Receipts plus expenditure	8,197 12 0		11,495 2 2
	21,413 2 11		21,413 2 11

A profit of £11,495 2s 2d, and the whole of the purchase has been refunded to the country with the exception of £1700 0 0.

WINCHESTER.

Amount due	2,790 14 4	Cost	3,000 0 0
Receipts plus expenditure	907 13 4		698 7 8
	3,698 7 8		3,698 7 8

A profit of £698 7s 8d

MONTGOMERY.

Amount due	4,924 5 9	Cost	4,804 5 0
Receipts plus expenditure	1,416 3 11		1,738 4 8
	6,342 9 8		6,342 9 8

A profit of £1,738 4s 8d.

POSITION OF LAND OFFICE.

Balance due on Public Lands	32,932 9 9
Receipts plus expenditure	18,065 4 7
	45,997 14 4

Cost of Public Lands, including Worrell Estate, Lot 11, Selkirk Estate, Lot 54 and Montgomery Estate,	41,022 5 9
Unsold 29,112 acres, say at the lowest valuation	3,250 0 0
Net profit	4,975 8 7
	£8,925 8 7

The hon. gentleman then continued; Nearly all the money which the Conservatives have expended in the purchase of proprietary estates has been refunded. Every estate which we have bought has proved a paying speculation. We have had a profit upon every one of them. I think the Government will be justified in purchasing all the estates they can, and carrying on, as quickly as possible, the freeing of the country from the burthen of the leasehold or rent-paying-system; and whether I may be in the Government or out of it, I will do all in my power to bring about so desirable a consummation. The Opposition papers of last week, I see, condemn the Government for having given too high a price for their last purchase; but I say that buying such an estate at 5s per acre is a better bargain than the Worrell Estate at 2s. 6d. per acre. We do not hesitate to say that it will prove not only self-sustaining, but that there will perhaps be realized a small profit upon it. If we lose a little in one direction, we shall, perhaps, be able to balance the loss by a small gain in another. I am not surprised at the opposition which was shown to the Land Purchase Bill when it worked so badly with the Liberal Government, nor at the favorable consideration which,—now that it is properly worked, and a competent man in the Land Office—it receives from those who were formerly opposed to it. Notwithstanding the incompetence ascribed to us by the hon. and learned member for the East Point (Mr. Hensley)

we have certainly shown ourselves to be possessed of quite as much administrative talent as the Liberal Government of which he was a member.

Hon. Mr. COLLES, in reply, commenced by apologising for speaking so often. His reason for doing so, however, he said, was that he had to fight almost single-handed against the hon. and gallant member for Belfast (Col. Gray) and all the rest of the orators on the Government side of the House. He said the Conservatives had no right to take credit to themselves for having, in the person of Mr. Aldous, put the right man in the right place. It was the Liberal Government that put him where he is. We placed him in the Legislative Council and brought him forward as a public man. The merit of the good management of the Land Office was his own; for the Government would not, he believed, say that they dictated to him how he was to discharge the duties of it. Besides he could not see that the Government had any right whatever to take credit to themselves for the more economical management of the Land Office. Under the Liberal Government, all the expenses of that office were incurred for the working of the Worrell and Lot 11 Estates; and now they were apparently diminished and being spread over other estates besides, which, he was free to confess, had proved more advantageous bargains than the Worrell Estate. He did not say the purchase of the Worrell Estate was a paying speculation. It was not so on account of the great quantity of wilderness and waste land which it contained.—He did not acknowledge the doctrine which had been laid down by the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown. (Mr. Brecken) to the effect that a political party could not justly be subjected to animadversions for their abandonment of their own policy and the adoption of that of the party they had overthrown. He thought it would be found that Sir Robert Peel had been frequently and severely twitted for such a change of his views and policy.—As respected the paragraph under consideration, the Opposition admitted that it was quite true; but, at the same time, they thought it would be all the better if it went a little farther, and did justice to the party by which the Land Purchase Bill had been placed upon the Statute Book. He presumed that the minority were not to be cried down for moving an amendment, even although it should be the means of turning out the Government. They had, indeed, it was true, but a poor chance of tripping them up just then; but, before a larger tribunal—the tribunal of the people—they might, ere long, have a better chance of doing so. The Opposition had no objections to make to the Government's purchasing more proprietary estates; but as to casting them by means of the amendment, he thought that, even if they (the Opposition) should carry it, they (the Government) would have much more tender consciences than he gave them credit for, if they resigned on that account. In the other end, they were willing to accept the acknowledgment due to the Liberal Government, as an addition, but not as an amendment to the original paragraph. Perhaps the Government party in the Assembly would do the same.—As respected the maintenance of law and order, the Liberals, had they been in power, would have shown themselves quite as anxious as the Conservatives have done; only they would have taken different means for their preservation.

Hon. Mr. CONROY. As respected the purchase of proprietary lands, with a view to the extinguishment of the leasehold tenure, neither he nor his party cared by whom it was effected, provided it was accomplished on terms advantageous to the Colony. Till the land tenure be abolished, there will be periodical rebellions against proprietorism.

They had, as a citizen once said, he had been in the island, and that was for a period of thirty years. He was glad to hear that the Government contemplated the purchase of the large Curran and Sullivan Estates and he would cheerfully vote for an extension of the provisions of the Land Purchase Bill to enable them to do so. The proposed amendment is not submitted with any intention of casting a reflection upon the action of the Government in the purchase of the Montgomery estate. The Opposition are very willing to give the Government due credit for that purchase; but at the same time, they are anxious that the Government should reciprocate the compliment by giving them, in like manner, due credit for what they did, when in power, in the same direction, by the passing of the Land Purchase Bill. He believed in the party to which he adhered; but that did not prevent his giving credit to the party at present in power for their endeavours to abolish the leasehold system. He could be just to them, even while firmly adhering to his own party. He would support the amendment, as simply according to the Liberals the merit which was their due; and, at the same time, he would freely acquiesce in the ascription to the present Government of the credit to which they were justly entitled for what they had done in carrying into effect the provisions of the Land Purchase Bill.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES. The only way to judge of the future was by the past. Facts had convinced the country that the Liberals were not good men of business. It was not the time for entering into a critical examination of the management of the Land Office; when the Land Accounts were laid before the House would be the proper time. Facts, however, he might be permitted to observe, had clearly proved that the Conservatives were better and more skillful managers of the public interests, than the Liberals had ever shown themselves to be. The estates which the Conservative Government had purchased had been chiefly leased. They had not had a proportion of 50,000 acres of wilderness lands or bog to the 100,000 acres. He had always been in favor of Government purchases of the proprietary lands; but not of attempting it all at once. Had that been done, it would have brought the country into a state of bankruptcy. It was certainly a very desirable thing that the Government should be able to purchase the large estates still in the hands of the proprietors. But the fact that such a desire was generally felt in the country, was not a sufficient reason why the Government should make the purchases, unless they could do so on terms which it was quite certain would prove decidedly advantageous to the country. The Sullivan estate, he said, was a very large one, and there was much waste land upon it. The Land Tax on the Worrell Estate had proved a loss to the country, through the fault of the Liberal Government in selling the best lands at too low a figure. He was sorry that hon. members would not, or did, not confine themselves to the question immediately at issue. At the rate at which they were proceeding, it appeared to him that they would not be able to get through the Address in answer to the Speech in less time than two or three weeks.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH. No one who had spoken had denied that the Land Purchase Bill originated with the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition; but, whilst that fact was freely admitted by the Government side of the House, he ought also freely to admit their endeavours to carry its provisions farther and farther into operation for the emancipation of the tenantry from the yoke of the leasehold system. No Government had, as yet, been altogether successful in such endeavours, although, for the last fifteen or twenty years,

every Government in succession had honestly and steadily endeavoured to effect an equitable settlement of the Land Question. The hon. and learned gentleman then entered upon a review of what he maintained would have been the injurious effects of the Hon. Mr. Coles's Loan Bill, had it been passed. The Loan, had it been effected, would he maintained, have subjected the Colony for several years to an annual loss equal to the annual interest of the Loan; for it was well known that no proprietors, for some years after the loan project had been brought forward, were willing to treat with the Government for the sale of their lands, even at the maximum price per acre which the Land Purchase Bill allowed the Government to pay for proprietary lands. The amount of the Loan, therefore, lying unused by the Government, the interest, show-bill like would have gone on increasing. The hon. and learned gentleman then proceeded, at some length, to show how great a loss would, in his opinion, have been sustained by the Colony, had the Loan of £100,000 been effected at the time it was projected. The landlords, he argued, would have said, the Loan is eating itself up, we will hold on to our lands for some time longer, and that the Government will be obliged to buy at our own terms. The Conservative party were most willing to accord to the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition all due praise for sincerity and honesty of intention, as respected the Land Purchase Bill. They had not objected to the principles of that Bill; but to the means by which it was proposed to carry it into effect. The people at large took the same view of the Loan Bill.—The hon. and learned gentleman then, advertent to the Land Commission, said that the hon. gentleman (Hon. Col. Gray) whose Resolutions led to the appointment of that Commission, had not objected to the principles of the Land Purchase Bill; he considered it to be good in itself, but he saw that a more powerful lever than any which had been provided was wanted, by which to work it effectually and with certain gain and advantage to the Colony. Had the Royal Land Commission done their duty that lever would have been obtained; for they would have fixed a price or prices per acre upon the lands of the proprietors, according to their qualities respectively considered, and the prices so determined, the proprietors would have been compelled to accept. Instead, however, of doing that, the very thing which they were appointed to do—the Commissioners illegally delegated that duty to others; and, in consequence of that illegality, their Award was held to be null and void; and all the advantages which, in all probability, would otherwise have resulted from the Commission, were lost to the Colony. Adverting to the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, the hon. and learned gentleman shewed that much good had already resulted from it, and that still more would arise from its operation. The tenants on Lot 34, he said, had not effected the purchase of the freehold of their farms under that Bill; but they might have done so. They preferred purchasing the whole directly from the proprietor, and dividing the costs and expenses among themselves, in proportion to the several extents of their farms. Had they purchased under the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, the results, he believed, would have been nearly the same. As respected the Worsell estate, the hon. and learned gentleman said, it had just been clearly proved by statistics how badly it had been managed by the Liberal Government. The profits appeared to be nil; nay, worse, the mismanagement of it had subjected the country to a very serious loss. The working of the Land Purchase Bill, by the Conservatives, as respected all the proprietary estates purchased by Government, had, however, brought peace and satisfaction to the people located upon them. Both Liberals

and Conservatives, however, it was but just to observe, had been sincere in their endeavours to free the country from the vassalage of the leasehold system; but unfortunately neither party had been able to carry their intentions fully into effect, and their having been unable to do so had—as it was, perhaps, but very natural that it should—produced much discontent among the tenantry. He hoped, however, that the day was not far distant when, by an extended operation of the principles and provisions of the Land Purchase Bill, they who had the management of public affairs would be able, by its almost complete extinction throughout the Island, to diffuse joy and gladness among the many who were yet compelled to endure the bondage of the leasehold system. He knew that the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Coles) would, when he was in power, have purchased the Worsell Estate if he had been able; but he also knew that even had he been in a position to be able to purchase it, he could not have done so at as low a rate as the hon. and gallant member for Belfast (Col. Gray) had succeeded in effecting it. On the terms on which the hon. and gallant member had made the purchase, instead of even the loss of a single shilling in expenses, profit had resulted to the Colony, which, as far as it went, might be set against the loss sustained upon the Worsell Estate. The hon. and learned gentleman then concluded by saying he knew not upon what just grounds the Opposition could expect the Government and their supporters to agree to their proposed amendment. We will not, he said, stultify ourselves by according all the praise and credit of the purchases which have been made under the Land Purchase Bill to the Liberals or Opposition. I will support the clause of the Address, as it stands.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY. Hon. members had, as usual, allowed themselves a wide range in the discussion which had arisen touching the amendment submitted by his hon. friend, the member from Lot 11 (Hon. Mr. Warburton). He did not, however propose to allow himself the same latitude which some of them had taken; but would confine himself to an attempt to rectify the erroneous impressions which, it seemed to him, had been made upon the minds of some hon. members touching the Loan Bill projected by the Liberal Government. These hon. gentlemen argued against the measure on the assumption that it would have been necessary to take up the whole loan of £100,000 at once. They said that no part could have been raised unless the whole had been taken up. He, on the contrary, maintained that the words of the Loan Bill made it unlawful to raise more, at any time, than was actually required to make good any purchase of land for which the Government might have negotiated; and that those partial amounts, on the guaranty of the Imperial Government, could easily have been obtained in the London money market, from time to time as required. In confirmation of his assertion, the hon. and learned gentleman then referred to a newspaper report of a Loan which had been quite recently negotiated in the London money market, on behalf of New Zealand; which went to shew that the Loan had been effected by partial biddings under the guaranty of the Imperial Government. Although £100,000 were asked for, parties able to advance only £10,000 or £5,000, or even smaller sums, could become contractors for the same. He would stake any reputation for financial knowledge which he might possibly possess upon the opinion which he had enunciated; and he was, indeed, surprised that any hon. gentlemen in the House should, session after session, advance so great an absurdity as that in the London money market, a Loan guaranteed by the British Government or the Bri-

ish Parliament, could not be raised by partial contracts. To argue that the whole amount of the Loan—any the £100,000 which the Liberal Government of Prince Edward Island had at one time, intended to borrow—would have had to be raised at once, whether required or not; and that, having been so raised, and not immediately wanted by the borrowers, it would have been necessary to employ an agent or agents to place it in a bank or banks, at a much lower rate of interest than it was borrowed at; and that the payment of agents for their services, and the loss of interest in the way referred to, would, consequently, prove a dead and a very serious loss to the Colony, was truly absurd, to say the least of it. He had supported the Loan Bill, and he had done so fully convinced that there would be no danger of its causing any loss to the country; for, as he had already said, he believed that he had sufficient knowledge of the London money market to know positively that the Loan could have been partially raised, from time to time, just as it might have been required for use by our Government. He was fully convinced that the opinion to which he had just given expression was a correct one, although others, from motives best known to themselves, alleged the contrary.

Hon. Colonel GRAY. He had no particular acquaintance or connexion with brokers in the London money market; but, he believed, that neither at the time when the loan of £100,000 was projected by the Liberal Government, nor even now, could such a loan be obtained in the manner and on the terms spoken of by the hon. and learned member for East Point (Mr. Hensley). What was our small Island, with its population of only 80,000, to the gorgeous territory of India, with a population of 130,000, abounding with gold and precious stones, and all things valuable. And yet India could not obtain a loan under 5 per cent. How then was it probable that Prince Edward Island could obtain a loan of £100,000 at 4 per cent.? He could not but admit the great legal acumen displayed by the hon. and learned member for East Point when professionally pleading a cause; but he himself (Hon. Col. Gray) claimed, as well as that hon. and learned gentleman, to have some knowledge of the Stock Exchange, and he knew it would be impossible to get a loan under 6 per cent. In 1854 or 1855, he thought it was, about Sir Dominick Daly's time, he made himself particularly acquainted with the state of the money markets in London, and he found that it was then impossible to raise a loan at 4 per cent. The hon. and learned member for the East Point (Mr. Hensley) ought not to twit hon. members on the Government side of the House with ignorance of financial matters. He (Hon. Col. Gray) should like him to show what Colony had been able to borrow money on the terms and in the manner spoken of by him. He (Hon. Col. Gray) thought he would not be able to borrow £100,000 at less than 6 per cent. even on the security of Great Britain. He should, however, be glad to see the large estates spoken of purchased, at whatever rate almost it might be necessary to borrow money for the purpose. He had no connexion at present with the Government; but he would say that it would be ridiculous to suppose that they could not negotiate a loan at as low a rate as their opponents. He would, indeed, be sorry to hear it said hereafter that they had borrowed at 6 per cent. when they might have done so at 4 per cent.

Mr. HOWLAN maintained that if a loan of £100,000 were required to effect the extinguishment of proprietary claims it could easily be obtained upon the security which could be afforded by the land held by the pains-taking, industrious, and careful yeomen of the Island; and granting that it should result in a loss of £50,000, the extinguish-

ment of the proprietary claims, even at as great a loss, could not fail to be a most important boon to the people. We stood in need of no railroads or canals; and no great public works were either being carried on or required. We had two great resources of wealth in the land and the sea. We were steadily progressing, and the burthen of proprietary claims once got rid of, our progress would be still more steady and rapid. He would, if he had it, sooner part with £100,000 on the security of the lands of the Colony, than upon that of any railroad in the world. The lands would improve; but a railroad would deteriorate.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH did not rise to dispute the statistics of the hon. member (Mr. Howlan); on the contrary he was ready to admit that they were correct. In exports and imports, and in general progress and improvement, he believed we could compare advantageously with any 80,000 people in British America. There were £50,000 lying idle in our Banks; and if the Government were to issue debentures for the purpose of raising the means to purchase the Cunard and Sullivan Estates, he doubted not they could and would be taken up readily by the people themselves. For that purpose there would be no necessity for negotiating a loan in London, where he perfectly agreed with the hon. and gallant member for Belfast (Col. Gray) money could not be obtained at less than 6 per cent. Our people themselves could advance the money, and put the interest into their own pockets. He had been asked by a gentleman sitting near him, "If money were so plentiful among us, how did it happen that it was so difficult for individuals who required it, to obtain pecuniary accommodation?" He answered that the agrarian disturbances had caused so strong and general a feeling of insecurity, that persons, possessed of unemployed capital in money, were afraid to lend it, as they had formerly done, even on the security of real estate. It was well that this fact should be known, for it might serve, in some measure, in future to check any disposition to such disturbances, as shewing that nothing but evil could result from them in any way. There was, however, at last, an end to them, he trusted; and should the Government be able, as he believed they would, to purchase the Cunard and Sullivan Estates, on advantageous terms, leaving but inconsiderable portions of our lands unredeemed from the leasehold tenure, the country, he firmly believed, would never again suffer from their renewal.

Mr. HOWLAN maintained that no measures were as well devised to effect the extinguishment of the leasehold tenure, as the Land Purchase and Loan Bills. As a tenant, he would say that the time was arrived when the Land Question must be effectually and irrevocably settled. A justifiable feeling existed among the people that the Legislature had not done their best to settle that long vexed question.

Mr. DUNCAN. I do not wish to give a silent vote on this question, because the estate referred to in the paragraph of the Address under discussion, is in the District which I represent. I had been through the District, and it happened that, whilst I was in it, a meeting was called respecting the purchase of that estate, and I attended it. A leading member of the League who was present stated there that they had asked the proprietor if he would take 11s. per acre for front farms. He said he had not made such an offer; but they had asked him if he would accept that offer from the tenants. I saw that if the proprietor could have 11s. from the tenantry, it was not likely that he would take 6s. from the Government, although I had understood that he

had agreed with them for 6s. an acre. The people wished me to urge the Government to buy at that rate. I asked them if they had the money ready. The individual leaguer to whom I have alluded, said No; but he would do all he could to enable them to buy the estate. He had influence, he said, with the proprietor, and he would exert it on behalf of the tenants. This man keeps a grog shop, and, as he gives credit to such among the tenants as may be his customers, he may have influence with them; but I know of no other influence he can possess. The hon. member then spoke of the great benefits which had been derived from the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill. He said even in that District the tenants had been benefited by it; and if Sir Edward Canard were willing to sell his estates, the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill would not be without beneficial effects in the negotiation for them. If he did not sell the whole to the Government on reasonable terms, he would, under the operation of the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, lose all the best farms, and have nothing left but wilderness and barren lands. If the lands are to be purchased from the large proprietors, the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill will thus, beneficially for the tenantry, affect the purchase.

The original paragraph was then agreed to without a division; and the House adjourned.

SATURDAY, 14th April, 1866.

The ADDRESS in ANSWER to the SPEECH reported agreed to.

Mr. JOHN YEO, Chairman of the Committee of the whole House on the draft Address in answer to His Excellency's opening Speech, reported that the Committee had gone through the same paragraph by paragraph, and adopted it without making any amendment thereto. The Address, as previously given in the Reports, was then again read by the Clerk; and

The Hon. G. COLES moved, seconded by the Hon. J. Hensley, to amend the same by striking out the whole of the Fifth paragraph thereof, and inserting the following in lieu of the same:

"The House of Assembly regret that Civil disturbances took place in this Colony during the past year; but the House of Assembly respectfully submit that the alleged open and systematic defiance of the law might have been averted by a more prompt and energetic use of the Civil authority, when the disturbances first made their appearance, and thus the recourse to extraordinary measures, as referred to in Your Excellency's Speech, might have been avoided."

The House divided on the motion of amendment:—

Yeas:—Hons. G. Coles, J. Hensley, F. Kelly, E. Thornton, E. Whelan, J. Warburton:—Messrs. Sinclair, Sutherland, Conroy, Howat,—10.

Nays:—Hons. J. C. Pope, J. H. Gray, J. Longworth, E. Maceachen, Sol. General, D. Kaye, D. Davies, A. Laird, MacLennan, Brecken:—Messrs. Yeo, Ramsay, Montgomery, Haslam, Duncan, Howat, Green,—17.

So it passed in the negative.

Mr. Howat moved, seconded by the Hon. A. Laird, to amend the said reported Address by striking out the whole of the Fifth paragraph thereof, and inserting the following in lieu of the same:—"The House of Assembly regret the disturbances and troubles which occurred in this Colony in the past year. But the House at the same time are of opinion that the alleged open and systematic defiance of the law might have been set aside by a further recourse to the aid of the Civil power at the disposal of the local authorities, before calling in the aid of Her Majesty's troops.—"We are also of opinion that before any money was applied towards

providing Barrack accommodations for such troops, the consent of the Legislature should have been first obtained."

The House divided on the motion of amendment:

Yeas:—Messrs. Howat, Howat, Conroy, Sutherland, Sinclair:—Hons. A. Laird, J. Warburton, E. Thornton, F. Kelly, G. Coles,—10.

Nays:—Hons. J. C. Pope, J. H. Gray, J. Longworth, E. Maceachen, Sol. General, D. Kaye, D. Davies, E. Whelan, J. Hensley:—Messrs. MacLennan, Brecken, J. Yeo, Ramsay, Montgomery, Haslam, Duncan, Green,—17.

So it passed in the negative.

Mr. Howat then moved, seconded by Mr. Sinclair, to amend the said reported Address by leaving out the whole of the Sixth paragraph, and substituting the following:—"The measures proposed by Your Excellency with respect to the sale of the old Barracks and the building of the new ones, will receive our careful attention, when all the papers on the subject shall be submitted to us. The House of Assembly cannot however but regret that so large an expenditure as would appear to have been incurred for this permanent work, should have been undertaken without the consent of the Legislature."

The House divided on the motion of amendment:—

Yeas:—Messrs. Howat, Sinclair, Conroy, Sutherland, Howat:—Hons. A. Laird, J. Warburton, E. Whelan, G. Coles, F. Kelly, E. Thornton, J. Hensley,—12.

Nays:—Hons. J. C. Pope, J. H. Gray, J. Longworth, E. Maceachen, Sol. General, D. Kaye, D. Davies:—Messrs. J. Yeo, Brecken, Green, Ramsay, Duncan, Montgomery, MacLennan, Haslam,—15.

So it passed in the negative.

The Hon. J. Warburton then moved, seconded by the Hon. J. Hensley, to amend the said reported Address by striking out the whole of the Seventh paragraph thereof, and inserting the following in lieu of the same:—"The House of Assembly rejoice to learn that Your Excellency has concluded the purchase of another Estate from one of the Proprietors. The House of Assembly cheerfully recognise in this purchase, another testimony to the usefulness and necessity of the Bill which has authorized such a measure, and which the Liberal Government in 1853 were happily enabled to place the Statute Book of the Colony."

The House divided on the motion of amendment:

Yeas:—Hons. J. Warburton, J. Hensley, E. Whelan, G. Coles, F. Kelly, E. Thornton:—Messrs. Howat, Sinclair, Conroy, Sutherland,—16.

Nays:—Hons. J. C. Pope, J. H. Gray, J. Longworth, E. Maceachen, Sol. General, D. Kaye, D. Davies, A. Laird:—Messrs. J. Yeo, Brecken, Green, Ramsay, Duncan, Montgomery, MacLennan, Haslam, Howat,—17.

So it passed in the negative.

Mr. Brecken then moved, seconded by the Hon. J. Longworth, and the question being put, "Shall the Address as reported from the Committee be agreed to?" it was resolved in the affirmative.

THE DEFENCE QUESTION.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND, the Solicitor General, moved the suspension of the Standing Order, which prohibits the introduction of new matter without a previous notice of twenty-four hours.

It is necessary, said the hon. and learned gentleman, to state, in the first place, what the Resolution which I mean to move is, in order that hon. members, being cognizant of it, may be able to determine in their own minds whether they ought to support or oppose it. The hon. and learned member then read the Resolution which he meant to propose in Committee as follows:

Resolved, That, in consequence of the threatened invasion of the British Colonies by bands of Fenian marauders, this House pledges itself to place the whole of the Revenue of the Island at the disposal of the Government for the purpose of organizing the Militia and Volunteers, and for such other military purposes as may be deemed expedient for the protection and defence of the Colony.

The hon. and learned gentleman then moved that the House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House in Supply, to take into consideration the expediency of passing a Resolution, pledging the Resources of the Colony for the protection and defence thereof.

Hon. Mr. WARBURTON. It is unnecessary in this case to move any suspension of Standing Orders. I am prepared, upon the present occasion, to break through all parliamentary rules. Although I certainly do not, by any means, like the Government, I am ready to give my warmest support to the Resolution which the hon. Solicitor General has just read, and which, as he has told us, he intends to move and submit to the Committee of the whole House. Of the loyalty and patriotism of the Government—much as I am opposed to their general policy—I cannot entertain the slightest doubt; and, in this case, I am, on those grounds, prepared to manifest the fullest confidence in their wisdom and integrity. The object is the maintenance of British supremacy in these Provinces; and, therefore, I do not believe that a single member of this House will hesitate to give his hearty concurrence and support to the Resolution. I shall support it, not only in this House, but elsewhere. The Fenians are a set of most detestable blackguards. They are the vilest refuse and moral scum of the great American cities. They are not influenced by any generous sympathies for Ireland. Their only object is plunder and the most unhallowed licence in the indulgence of their brutal appetites and passions. I wish them all at a certain place called the Lake Avernus, or more commonly Hell.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND, Solicitor General. I agree with the hon. member from Lot 11 (Hon. Mr. Warburton) that there are crises in the history of nations in which it is necessary to break through all rules; but I think this not exactly one of them. The question will be a matter of appropriation as well as of ways and means; and, as no time will be lost by our proceeding according to established parliamentary rules and practice, I think we had better adhere to them, and, in the usual way, proceed to a clear and deliberate discussion of the matter.

Hon. Mr. COLES. The hon. the Solicitor General is quite right. Even in extraordinary crisis we must proceed in the ordinary way. There was, however, no necessity for moving a suspension of the Standing Order, for the hon. member had given notice, yesterday, of his intention to move the Resolution which he had just read. There was no necessity for impinging upon the Rules of the House. It was the pride of his life that, even at a time when the Island finances were not in the most prosperous state, he had moved and carried a vote of £2,000 from our Treasury, in aid of the Patriotic Fund of Great Britain. It was the desire, he believed, of every member of the House to evidence his loyalty to the Throne at the present crisis, and to manifest his affectionate regard for our widowed Queen; and, he doubted not, both sides of the House would cheerfully unite in voting to the Government such a sum of money as might be held sufficient to enable them to make due preparations to resist the filibustering and predatory attacks of the Fenians, or of any other villainous and licentious marauders. We had been told that General Sweeney was well versed in war, and would make no attempts which he did not feel well assured he would be able to carry through. That might be; but he (Hon. Mr. Coles) believed that, whenever he made an attack upon these Provinces, we would be found well prepared to receive and repulse him. Her Majesty's forces would not be wanting, and our militia and volunteers would be found ready, with strong arms and stout hearts, to march to the front in defence of British rule and supremacy.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY. When I say that the Resolution which the Hon. the Solicitor General proposes to move, will meet with the unanimous support of the House, I fully believe that I speak the opinion of every individual member of it. When tested, it will be found how deeply we are all attached to the sovereignty of Great Britain, and with what delight and pride we cherish the free institutions under

which we live. I feel truly indignant that the peace of these Provinces should be threatened by villainous marauders, the very scum and refuse of great American cities, and connived at by American authorities, not on account of any wrongs which they have sustained either at our hands or those of the Mother Country, but out of petty jealousy of the prosperity and power of Great Britain. If the Fenians really and truly wish to correct the grievances of the Irish people, let them go where the grievances exist. What have we in the Colonies done to provoke their resentment? In British America, no distinctions of country or creed are recognised by our Governments. Englishmen, Irishmen, and Scotchmen are all equally free. There are no political privileges enjoyed by any which are not enjoyed by all. A raid upon us, by the Fenians, can be projected only with a view to be revenged upon England. They can have no wrongs to be redressed here. When a great question like the present comes up, all party spirit must disappear. We cannot but be unanimous in our loyalty, and in a determination to uphold the supremacy of British Rule to the utmost of our power and abilities.

Mr. BROKEN. It is a relief, a very great relief, to find that we are about to discuss a question upon which there is likely to be perfect unanimity of opinion as respects both sides of the House. As I have said before, I am no alarmist. It is true we are directly threatened with very serious dangers; but we shall, if required, soon have a naval force in the Gulf sufficient to protect us; and if the Fenians should effect a landing in Prince Edward Island, they would find it impossible to leave it; for they would be taken prisoners as in a trap. We are certainly in a critical position, and I say it is our bounden duty to make every possible effort for our own defence. Some time ago, I doubted our desire to maintain our connection with Great Britain; but I entertain such doubts no longer. Looking over the whole world, it is impossible to find a country in which the people enjoy greater freedom than the people of these Provinces. The only two countries which may be said to be running the race to the goal of perfection are Great Britain and the United States; and I think I am not too partial when I say the former is nearer to it than the other. Recent events in the great Republic have shown that the freedom of Great Britain is of a higher and nobler character than that of the United States. Prince Edward Island of herself could effect but little even for her own defence; but, I believe, if we give assurance to the Mother Country that we will be unsparring of our resources to that end, she will freely afford us necessary and efficient assistance. If we value our connexion with Great Britain, we must do something to prove it; and, I doubt not, this House will, upon the present occasion, afford such a proof of our desire to maintain and perpetuate that connexion, as will place that desire beyond suspicion—be most grateful to the Mother Country—and secure to us, from her, all the aid and protection which, in our present critical position, we now or may hereafter require.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND (Sol. General). I am happy to find that, how much ever we may differ concerning local affairs, we are bound together by but one sentiment—that of loyalty to the British Crown and attachment to the Sovereign—when our rights and privileges are found to be wavering in the balance; and that we are determined to maintain our position as a British Colony, and even, if necessary, to aid Great Britain in her resistance to the nefarious designs of her enemies. I am happy to find that we will be found not the least staid of British opponents to the Monroe doctrine; and I was very much pleased indeed that, before a word had been said by any gentleman on the Government side of the House, my Resolution was so heartily advocated by leading members of the Opposition, the Hon. Mr. Warburton and the Hon. Mr. Coles. The Hon. Mr. Coles, with just pride, had spoken of his having, when he was the Leader of the Government, moved a vote of £2,000 from our Treasury in aid of the Patriotic Fund of

Great Britain; and, with equally allowable pride, I trust I may be allowed to state that I, although in the Opposition, was the member who seconded his motion. It would be presumptuous in me, in the middle of the nineteenth century, to put the benefits which we enjoy under the free institutions of Great Britain in juxtaposition with those which are experienced under a Republican form of government. If there were no love of country amongst us; if we had no love for the history of our ancestors; if we did not feel proud of their by-gone actions; we would be undeserving to be reckoned among men who could boast of a country worthy of having a history. But such is not the case with us. We know from whom we are sprung; we know the great deeds which have been achieved by our ancestors; we know the full value of the freedom and of the great and glorious institutions which from them, we have received as our birth right; and now in the hour of trial, shall we not prove ourselves worthy of all the honor, privileges, and blessings which have thus been conferred upon us? It is not in a bombastical spirit that I speak; neither is it out of any consideration of the eclat which may be awarded us on account of our agreeing to the Resolution which I have just proposed. The sentiments which I utter are those which spring from the purest and most patriotic regard for the welfare of our country; and they are such as, I confidently trust, are fully participated in by every other member of the House. Some persons, perhaps, there may be found in the country disposed to say that our money would be much better expended upon our roads and bridges, than in making preparations for our defence against any apprehended raids of the Fenians or other marauders. If any such persons could be found in our community, he, however, believed their number would be most insignificant. Surely no right-thinking man among us would put the state of our roads and bridges in competition with the preservation of our rights and privileges as British subjects. In the estimation of some, the apprehended raids of the Fenians may be supposed to be based upon a mere chimera; but if the reports of the newspapers are deserving of any regard at all, it is certain, in my opinion, that the Fenians are in earnest and mean mischief to these Provinces. Let us take warning then, remembering that to be forewarned is to be forearmed. As to telegrams, though they may not be altogether true, yet it is certain that whatever is untrue in them is manufactured to suit the taste of the day; and they are, therefore, cogent evidence of the existence of a strong feeling in favor of an organization, the object of which is to humble the British Lion in the dust. I believe this feeling is very prevalent in the United States, in consequence of a belief there entertained that, during their civil war, our feelings were in favor of the South. I believe, however, that Great Britain observed the strictest neutrality between the belligerents, and that in England the North had quite as much influence as the South. There was one great blot upon the South; and that was slavery; a blot, to wipe out which from her escutcheon, Great Britain had sacrificed £20,000,000 sterling. John Bull, however, as he has always done, and always will do, sympathized with the weaker of the contending parties. The North proposed nothing but war to the knife; and they now wink at the nefarious designs of the Fenians upon Canada and the rest of British America, in the vain hope that those most villainous and licentious bandits may be able to overthrow and trample upon our free and glorious institutions, and that they, upon their ruins, will be able to establish their own dominion and Republican principles. If we, the peoples of these Provinces; however, believe, as I feel certain we do; that our free monarchical institutions are, in all respects, superior to those of Republican America, let us buckle on our armour, prepare ourselves fully for the conflict; and, should it come, it will be seen by all the world that "the flag which

has braved a thousand years the battle and brood" is not doomed to fall before the Stars and Stripes. The hon. and learned gentleman then drew a comparison between the amount of existing taxation, per head, of the populations of England, Canada, the United States, and Prince Edward Island, for the purpose of shewing how lightly the people of Great Britain and her American Colonies are taxed, as compared, in that respect, with the people of the United States; and shewed even in a mercenary point of view, how disadvantageous annexation to the States would be to us. Then, adverting to the conflicts which may, in all probability, take place between our fishermen and those of the States, he expressed a confident belief that our fishing interests would receive ample protection from the British Navy; and doubted not that, to the fullest extent, we would receive protection from the same power, against either a Fenian invasion, or an invasion from the United States. We, in this Island, know nothing of the horrors of war. Our homesteads are as yet unconsumed; our hearth-stones as yet uncrimsoned with our blood; and the virtue of our mothers, our wives, our sisters, and our daughters as yet undefiled. But should the marauders once set their feet upon our shores, how soon might all that be reversed, how soon might our homesteads be given to the devouring flames—the fires upon our hearths be quenched with our own blood—and the chastity of our women, (without which we cannot boast of our manhood,) be violated! Hon. members may smile, and may estimate the apprehensions and crisis of which I have spoken as merely affording subject matter and a fit opportunity for making a speech; but, I tell them that all the calamities of which I have spoken may soon be stern realities, unless we shall be found fully prepared to encounter and repel the ruthless marauders. In the British Parliament—in the House of Lords, by Earl Russell—in the House of Commons, by Mr. Gladstone, and even by Sir John Grey, a friend of the late Smith O'Brien's in 1843, the same view which I have taken has been fully expressed. Those gentlemen have truly said of the Fenians, that they are influenced by no love of Ireland—that they entertain no desire to redress her grievances—and that they are only associated and incited by the hopes of rapine, pillage, and rape. The hon. and learned gentleman then, adverting to the late civil war in the States, spoke admirably of the courage and perseverance with which the South maintained the unequal struggle,—of the courage and endurance of hardships of the thousands among them who had been reared and trained in habits of luxurious ease—and of the sacrifices and sufferings so nobly made and endured by their ladies in the cause of what they believed to be that of liberty and independence. And, said he, shall we—the peoples of these Provinces, now amounting to four millions—shall we, without a struggle, resign our freedom and those rights and privileges which cost our ancestors so much, and, as fatalists, bow our necks to the yoke? We have a territory greater than the whole of the United States, and equally fertile with them, and our freedom is as great, or rather greater than that enjoyed by any other country in the world. We shall be backed by the whole power of Great Britain; by her army, and by her navy, which has never yet been worsted in fair conflict. Neither the Fenians nor the people of the United States, let us be assured, therefore, will be able to ride rough-shod over us, or to drive monarchical institutions from the Continent of America. The hon. and learned gentleman's motion, which had been seconded by the Hon. Mr. Warburton, was then put and agreed to unanimously.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE ON SUPPLY. MR. McLENNAN in the Chair.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND, observing that it was not necessary that he should then make a second speech, moved the Resolution, previously read by him, and above given.

Hon. Mr. GOLES. Although the Fenian organization professed to have nothing in view but the redressing of the wrongs of Ireland, the wresting of that country from the rule of Great Britain, and its erection into an independent Republic, he believed no good or truly patriotic Irishman

put any faith in their professions to that end, or thought that the correction of Ireland's grievances could be effected by any other than constitutional means. I do not believe that the majority of the Irish resident in the United States or in the British American Colonies are Fenians, or even tainted with the principles of Fenianism. And but a very small portion of the Irish at home were members of the organization, or had faith in its promises and protestations. Wherever Fenians were found, they were the mere villains and scum of society. The sinews and blood of Ireland—its wealth and intelligence—stood aloof from them. The morality and religion of Ireland shrunk from, contemned and abhorred them. Such of them as were in the Northern States were men who had enlisted and served in the Federal armies against the South. They had expected to be rewarded by free grants of the lands of the conquered Confederates; but the President will not allow a general scramble for those lands, holding that the Southerners, though they had rebelled, are still citizens of the United States, and will not allow their properties to be confiscated. These necessary cut-throats, thus finding that they will not be allowed to plunder the conquered Confederates, and having, by the license of war, been confirmed in every evil habit and propensity, are quite ready to turn their steps and carry their arms in any direction in which there seems to them to be a prospect of rapine and plunder; and, hence, they have cast their eyes upon the cities and villages of Canada as likely to afford them an easy conquest and a rich and abundant booty; but, he trusted, that should they attempt the invasion of that country, or of any other portion of British America, they would meet with nothing but disasters and discomfiture. The hon. gentleman then alluded to the War of Independence, and observed that, had not the British Government, in a most arbitrary, unjust, and unconstitutional manner, attempted to levy taxes upon the people of the Plantations, as what are now the United States were then called, those territories would have been parts and parcels of Great Britain to this day. He then expatiated upon the superiority of British Institutions over those of Republican America, and declared that our attachment to the Mother Country was cemented, and our loyalty to the British Crown secured, by our full enjoyment of all the rights and privileges of British freemen, bestowed upon us by the concession of Responsible Government, under which the people themselves must be the veritable rulers. It is this, said he, which causes the veneration of the people for the Throne, and their high esteem of our beloved Queen. It behoves us, at the present crisis, to throw off all party feelings, and to show by the liberality of our vote that we desire nothing so much as the maintenance and perpetuation of our connexion with the Mother Country, and the preservation of those rights and liberties which we enjoy under the free Constitution which she has granted to us. On this subject, so far as the Opposition are concerned, we will shew that we have but one feeling with the Government side of the House. The Resolution may not be acted upon, for the danger which has called it forth may pass away. It will, however, remain in force, and should a necessity for carrying it into practice really arrive—although I trust it will not—the Government will be fully justified in giving it effect. We in the Opposition are willing to place all needful means at their disposal; but we trust they will not make a wasteful or lavish expenditure of them. We do not presume to dictate to them; but leave them to act upon the Resolution as they may think for the best.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH, after expressing the great satisfaction which he had had in listening to the speech by

which the Resolution under consideration had been introduced by the Hon. the Solicitor General, and especially those by which it had been supported, on the Opposition side of the House, by the Hon. Messrs Warburton, Hensley, and Coles, said, In considering the matter, he believed not one member of the House would have the hardihood to disapprove or dissent from the sentiments which had been enunciated by those hon. gentlemen. The sentiments enunciated by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition would, he believed meet with a hearty response, not only in the Legislature, but throughout the whole country. The contrast which he had drawn between the Constitution and Government of the United States and those of Great Britain, was masterly and just, showing, that whilst in the former the President was at perfect liberty to choose his Executive from among his own personal friends, without any regard to the will of the people as expressed by their legislative representatives, the Sovereign of Great Britain could only take for her Ministers such men as, with respect to their political principles, had the approbation, and would consequently have the support, of a majority of the people's parliamentary representatives; thus clearly shewing that, whilst in the United States their chief magistratus was clothed with arbitrary power, the Sovereign of Great Britain was controlled in her highest and most important prerogative—the choice of her Cabinet—by the will of the people. And very justly, too, and forcibly, had he shewn that the strongest tie by which we are bound in our loyalty to the British Crown, is our full enjoyment of all the political freedom and privileges of the freemen of Great Britain. Even here, in little Prince Edward Island, it is the voice of the people which alone can make, or unmake, an Administration; and, in our connection with the Mother Country, and under her protection, we enjoy the highest moral and political freedom that man is capable of experiencing in this sublunary state. Shall we not, then, most willingly adopt every precautionary means, by which we may be enabled to do our duty under the British Flag and maintain the honor of the British Crown? The Constitution of the United States is a written Constitution. It cannot, therefore, be made to yield to the changing will of the people; and attempts to carry it out bring the President into collision with the Congress. The British Constitution is not a written Constitution; and, therefore, admits of gradual innovations, changes, and improvements, according to the change of events and circumstances, and the changing and growing wants and wishes of the people. It is true the Queen holds the reins of Government; but she cannot tighten or relax them in virtue of written records but only in compliance with the will of the people. Our present object is the placing of the whole of our revenues at the disposal of the Executive, that, by a due use thereof, we may be put in a position, by the power of arms, aided by Great Britain, to repel any attacks, which may be made, either by Fenian marauders, or by any other enemies to the power of Great Britain, upon our rights, privileges, and immunities, and be able, in retaining them, and continuing a part and parcel of the British Empire, to transmit those rights, privileges, and immunities unimpaired to our children and our children's children. Such a vote as we have it in contemplation to make, will undoubtedly confer upon the Executive a power so unlimited and arbitrary as must put to the test their wisdom, patriotism, and integrity, in the strongest light and the most public manner. Much, indeed, of vital importance to the well-being of the Colony will depend upon the manner in which they discharge the great and trying confidence, which, by that vote, will be reposed in them; but

the knowledge of their accountability to the people will be a sufficient guaranty for their expending the money placed at their disposal in the most useful and careful manner. The other Colonies have taken precisely the same course; and were we unwilling to do so, we would, indeed, be most unworthy of the privileges and blessings we enjoy—unworthy, indeed, of being ranked among the loyal Colonies of Great Britain. The Fenian Brotherhood of the United States, as the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition has very truly observed, consist chiefly of disbanded Federal soldiers, who, disappointed in their expectations of obtaining free grants of the territories of the conquered Confederates of the South, are now prepared for any and every course of rapine, carnage, and sensuality. It is not, indeed, very likely that any strong body of them will attack Prince Edward Island; but it is very probable that small parties of them getting well armed on board American fishing vessels, may land upon our shores for purposes of rapine and plunder; and, therefore, as respects the outports and shores of the Island—not knowing where they may attempt piratical landings—it will be an especial duty of the Executive to take such precautions, for their defence, by means of the enrolment and arming of Volunteers and the regular embodiment of the Militia, as may be sufficient to impart to the people so located a sense of protection and security. It may also be necessary to provide for the protection of the capital; and the so doing would doubtless occasion a very serious outlay of public money. It is not for me to say what works it would be necessary to construct for that purpose; but should they be resolved upon, they would be undertaken only with the advice and under the direction of experienced military men. They could not be prescribed by the Legislature; and the best way would be to put confidence in the Government, who would, he felt confident, not expend upon the object, great as it was—the preservation of the lives, property, and wealth of Charlottetown—one sixpence more than prudence and efficiency demanded. I do not believe that it will be found necessary to expend all that may be placed at the free disposal of the Government; but, when we reflect that the object is to prevent the desecration of all we hold dear, the destruction and seizure of our property, the overthrow of our Constitution, and the annihilation of our dearest rights and privileges; surely not one amongst us will hesitate to authorize the Government to expend, if it be found necessary to do so, every farthing in the Treasury to accomplish it.

Hon. the SPEAKER. When, by the choice of the House, I was promoted to this Chair, it was not my intention to take any part in the discussions of the House. But, by the present crisis, I feel myself released from that self-imposed obligation, and justified in standing forward to give utterance to my sentiments concerning the danger with which we are threatened, as freely as any hon. member on the floor of the House can properly claim to do. The enemy by which we are threatened to be assailed is not one prepared to carry on war according to the rules of warfare recognized and observed by civilized nations. It is not a regular national army; but a union of bands of cut-throats and marauders, composed of the outscourings of the earth. The men who constitute what is styled the Fenian Brotherhood, are men who enlisted in the Federal armies, not as having any national, or patriotic, or honorable interest in the civil struggle, but as the merest mercenaries, whose only objects were pay and plunder, and indulgence in the bestial and horrid licentiousness which are ever the hellish concomitants of war. These scoundrels now disbanded, and bent upon nothing but murder, plunder, and

sensuality of the most revolting character, are the enemy to whom we are to be opposed. Were they a common enemy, would we not prepare to encounter them in defence of our Island home, our constitution, our laws, and our liberties? But, when threatened by bands of the most atrocious marauders, fiends rather than men, who acknowledge no ties, who regard no laws, divine or human; and by whom, were they unopposed or successful, our altars would be desecrated, the sanctities of our homes violated, our properties seized or destroyed, and our laws, rights and liberties trampled in the dust—shall we not most willingly, most gladly, for the defence and preservation of all these, place our whole revenue, all our resources, ay every farthing we have in the treasury at the free disposal of the Government? It is said some will say "If the public money is to be thus expended what will become of our roads and bridges? How are they to be made or repaired?" What! will any one put a consideration of roads and bridges in competition with that of our dearest and most sacred connections, and regard them as of more consequence than the preservation of our freedom and independence? Shall we, as the most grovelling of men, forego all consideration of our domestic happiness, of our political freedom and unsurpassed privileges, lest, through our devotion of our pecuniary means for their preservation, our roads and our bridges should get out of order and repair? What! instead of expending our revenue for our own defence, are we to lay it out in making or repairing roads and bridges for the convenience of invading and murderous Fenians? No! for the sake of whatever is dear to us, for the sake of civilization, for the sake of the world, let us make every preparation in our power to withstand the murderous rapacious and licentious raids by which we are threatened! Talk of Tories and Liberals! Let all consideration of such distinctions cease. A very liberal man, indeed, he would be who would not be willing that we should make due preparations for the resistance of such an enemy! My hon. Colleague (Hon. Sol. General) has made a speech on this question which might move a heart of stone, and rouse to arms, in the cause of liberty against licentious tyranny, the most lifeless but, the dullest coward. The people of Prince Edward Island are but a small community, and it may be said, "What can they do against bands of men, well accoutred, trained and inured to war?" But let us refer to history and we shall there see what a handful of brave men, inspired by the love of liberty, did against invading armies, the most powerful and numerous ever assembled. At the pass of Thermopylae the Spartan Leonidas, with a body of only three hundred of his countrymen, withstood the passage of Xerxes at the head of an army of 100,000 men. If united and combined, few as we are, had we the sinews of war, we would be able to thrash the whole of the murderous and licentious raiders. In the conflict, our Islanders would evidence the sublime motives by which patriot souls are moved. If one amongst us were found unwilling to fight in such a cause, I would say to him in the words of Burns,

"Traitor, coward, turn and flee!"

Britain is but a small country; but small though she is, she has kept the whole world at bay. By her commercial enterprise and her bravery, she has acquired foreign possessions, so extended and remote, that the sun never sets upon her dominions; and such is her love of freedom, that wherever she rules, there has she planted and nourished the tree of liberty. All that brother Jonathan can boast of, he has derived from Great Britain; and better would it have been for him, had he been satisfied, instead of setting up for

himself, to remain under her protection, and hold on by her apron strings for a hundred years longer. I would not be surprised should we be invaded by the Fenians, if the Yankees were, at the same time, to take us in flank. However, when the note of danger is sounded, we shall not, I am certain, experience any lack of men to go to the front. That there are symptoms of danger, and that it is, therefore, our duty to take due precautions against it, we must all admit. But even were there no symptoms of immediate danger, such is the uncertainty of the times, that a mere desire to be prepared for it will urge us to use our best endeavours to put both our Volunteers and our Militia upon the best footing, and to take care that they shall be reorganized with due regard to modern and reformed military regulations and tactics. Its being known that we are prepared to defend ourselves, may render attack improbable, if not impossible. The hearts of our ancestors beat in our breasts; and that any Fenian raiders, or other depredating invaders would soon learn to their cost, were they to put us to the proof. I would sooner cover the ground on which I now stand with my dead body than allow one Fenian to pass by me, in his murderous and sacrilegious career. I support the Resolution submitted by my hon. colleague with my whole heart.

Hon. Col. GRAY. Mr. Chairman, so much has been said about the Constitution that I need not touch upon it, but I intend to confine myself to a few practical points connected with our present necessitous condition—and I will repeat that, although the present clouds which obscure our sun may pass, yet we ought to take a salutary lesson from what is now upon us. For upwards of twelve years, during my residence here, I have never failed to raise my voice in warning tones, but I have ever found such a disposition to treat all idea of the necessity of defensive preparations with indifference that even up to last year, I felt that no government could face the people with the taxation requisite, in the state of submission we appeared resolved to remain in; but now, at length, when the wolf is at the door, when his portentous howlings are heard in our midst, I assume that no class among us can say, to use a hackneyed quotation, "the time has not arrived," when our militia must be organized and kept prepared for the worst. We pay a heavy tax to insure our houses from fire, the same for various other contingencies, why then should any people object to the tax of a few shillings per head to ensure the protection afforded by a united people with arms in their hands, ready to defend our houses, our cattle, and greatest of all, the honor of our women, from a ruthless foe? I say ruthless, because although, I have no doubt, many of the Fenian leaders are men of education and not wanting in those characteristics which distinguish civilized from barbarous warfare, yet we must always bear in mind that the leaders of an armed force are not at all times capable of restraining them; even among our regular armies this is too often the case, witness Sir John Moore's retreat from Madrid, and Lord Wellington's army at Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajoz; also, I recollect the horrors perpetrated by the armed force I myself served in, in India, at the taking of Istalif. If then our regular forces cannot be restrained, what hold can be had on such desperadoes as compose much of the Fenian levies—Germans, Poles, Italians and the most reckless of our own country? I say we have no ordinary foe to deal with, and besides the outrages to which we may personally be subjected, let our people only consider the losses we may have from the firebrand applied, as it often is, out of brutal pastime. I have myself seen a little of this, I have seen a fine colony totally ruined, and, after a three months' incursion of the enemy, not a house left standing on a line of frontier for one hundred miles. I can speak confidently on this point, for, as President of a Court of claims appointed by the Governor to grant compensation to the most deserving objects, I paid out of the Military Chest eighty-seven thousand pounds as a poor help to those who had lost three times the amount; for of course we could not reimburse losses be-

yond half or a quarter the value. If such be the ruin incurred in one Colony, what may be our lot if a couple of privateers run into the harbour of this town, send their boats ashore, manned and armed, and levy upon the town? Suppose the money in the Banks to be hidden, they will seize the directors and torture them into confession of where the specie is; they may also demand a contribution from the Merchants of a hundred thousand dollars, or failing this, plunder all the stores, press the Truckmen to load their vessels, and fire the Town on their retreat. Will hon. members then shrink from the duty we owe our several constituencies and refuse to incur the expenditure necessary? But after all the expense is not very great, it is trifling compared with the magnitude of the interests involved—the first outlay for rifles will not be a continuous one, it is like building a house; and when the Militia are once organized there will not be a very large annual sum for their maintenance, required—at all events though it may large to some, it is not so, compared with the paramount importance of the object. I will take our population at eighty thousand: this will give us sixteen thousand men capable of bearing arms; but I assume the Militia will be divided into two or more classes; say then ten thousand service men and six thousand reserve. To arm the first will cost more than fifty thousand pounds for rifles, and, have no doubt if properly managed, contractors would furnish belts and accoutrements for thirty shillings: this would be fifteen thousand pounds, or sixty-five thousand pounds in all; but even the hal. of this might suffice at first. After providing arms, there must necessarily be incurred certain annual outlay for instruction, the commander-in-chief must have a proper staff, he has have an adjutant-general, but it is out of the power of this officer to organize a militia without means; there must be subordinates, there must, at the very least, be one adjutant and one sergt.-major on the permanent staff of each Regiment. There must also be armories or places of arms, at least in each County; but I might tire Hon. members if I went farther. Batteries constructed on two prominent sites, to command the anchorage off the town, with a small furnace to heat red hot shot, would soon give a good account of any Privateer having the temerity to run in. I consider a Battery at the old Block House, at the harbor's mouth, would not prove of much use. I remarked before that although this Fenian storm blow over, yet we should be prepared for what I sorely apprehend may shortly arise out of complications connected with the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty. We sometimes hear it remarked, "Oh! the Yankees left us alone in the last war of 1812, why they would not have paid for their salt if they had come among us." Perhaps then there were twenty houses in the town; now we are equal nearly to what New Brunswick or Nova Scotia then was. I much doubt if we are not too well known to the men of Marblehead, Gloucester, and Newburyport. If all we hear be not empty bombast, I much doubt if the men from these places will readily submit to be seized by our cruisers; and although I pray the Almighty Disposer of all events to avert such a dire calamity, yet we must be prepared for what is sure to be the result if one shot be fired. For twelve years I have labored to impress upon our people that to be forewarned and forearmed is safety. Now I look to the magnanimity of our Government not to leave this fair Colony to be devastated and destroyed; they bear a serious responsibility, a blessing or a curse will attend their labors. It strikes me our people have lived so long in comparative prosperity, a no war ever reaching our doors, no visit from the dire pestilence which swept off fifty souls on one day last week in Halifax,—in fact our lives have passed so quietly that we are like young colts in the pasture, quite surprised when the call to be working arrives. May it be our good fortune not to be awakened from our apathetic indifference when too late, when our houses are plundered and burnt, the honor of our families outraged, and the bravest among us rendered helpless by the neglect of the rulers we now look to to save us from what humanity shudders to contemplate. Let us then banish all vestige of party spirit. I know that this is a spirit by which honorable and upright men are sometimes led away to vote against measures, which, in themselves, are of vital import to the well-being of the community. For

myself I will say, if I have a foe, and outside these walls I know of none, but if there be any such, I now say to him, brother, forget and forgive, the time has come when you and I, inhabitants, though it may be of a very small Colony, must stand shoulder to shoulder, and without any reference to Sparta or Thermopylae and shew to the neighbouring people that we are not unworthy descendants of the men who have bequeathed us our glorious constitution, and an amount of liberty under it, not possessed by any other nation in the wide world.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: The object of the Resolution has been so well explained that I consider it unnecessary for me to add anything more; but I would just express my willingness to support it. I do not think it will be necessary to expend any great amount; but, even if the whole revenue be expended, it will be cheerfully given. For my part I will go, heart and hand, to do anything in my power to put the Colony in a state of defence.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN: I will also support the Resolution, Mr. Chairman; for it appears that the alarm has taken possession of nearly all the members of the House, and, I must confess, of myself among the number. I would offer a few reasons why I support the Resolution. It would be absurd for me to oppose it. We should we fail to pass such a Resolution, we would be laughed at and stigmatized, and accused of negligence. It was never my inclination to oppose such a measure at a time like this. I am aware of the importance of the Resolution, and of giving the control of the revenue to any Government. It is no small thing to place the whole revenue in the hands of an Administration in whom the minority are not supposed to place the most perfect confidence. But that will be their look out. They will have to take the responsibility; and we will also be responsible for giving them this power. True, our revenue, as compared with the revenues of the other Colonies, appears small, and will do nothing in fitting out vessels of war, or in erecting batteries, as the hon. and gallant Colonel has said. It would not suffice for all these. I hope the Government will use just and proper discretion in the exercise of the extraordinary power proposed to be placed in their hands; for, though we vote for this resolution, yet that does not absolve or release them from liability to close criticism. With regard to Fenianism, I entertain the same opinion of it as I did last year. I am not alarmed at it; but I look upon it as a mischievous organization. I was laughed at last year for my views, for when we were discussing the subject of Confederation, this question came up; and it is a proof of the march of intelligence that the gentlemen who then derided me for my views, now say it is a movement not only much to be dreaded, but that we should lay aside all our party disputes to resist the progress of it. At that time Fenianism was not to be branded as an evil, but now it is, and it should throw every other question out of consideration. With respect to the character of Fenianism, I have so often expressed my opinion of it that it would be superfluous for me to detain the Committee by saying anything more respecting it. With regard to the designs of the Fenians, I do not think they contemplate making a descent upon Ireland for the purpose of wresting it from British rule. Ireland certainly has had great grievances, but the ameliorating hand of time and the progress of reform have had such a tendency as to narrow them down, so that it would be difficult, at the present time, to ascertain the real extent and number of Irish grievances. They complain—and perhaps justly—of the want of a Parliament in Ireland; and prying towards the maintenance of the Established Church is a grievance, as well as the state of the leasehold Tenures. It is urged with great truth that tenants in Ireland suffer more than a like class in England. But still, all the avenues to preferment are open to her sons. To the Army and Navy, Ireland has contributed some of the most illustrious men who have fought the battles of Great Britain for hundreds of years. In the Parliament and at the Bar, the most illustrious orators have been Irishmen. Now, as to the Fenians hoping to be able to subdue Ireland, it seems to be the most absurd fancy that ever entered into the imagination of man. It was stated a few days ago, at a meeting of

the "Brotherhood," by some who had gone out to see how the order was progressing, that not a single musket had been sent there, and not a man of character or influence had appeared for the purpose of organizing resistance to Great Britain. The movement then appears to have been got up by a set of vagabonds, who have banded themselves together for spoliation, and being unable, or afraid, to trust their necks to make a descent upon England, attempt to despoil the peaceful inhabitants of these Colonies in some detached places. I never doubted but attacks would be made upon some detached places in Canada or New Brunswick; but happily these Provinces have made such preparations as to leave it out of the power of that organization to attempt anything of that kind with success. The Legislatures of those Colonies have placed at the disposal of the Executive, all the money they require for the purposes of defence, and, I believe, that a serious attack is not now apprehended, at least for some time to come. But though there should not be a single drop of blood shed, that is no reason why ample preparation should not be made; for I believe that, if the voice of the Legislatures of Canada and New Brunswick, had not responded, by placing at the disposal of the Executive, all the funds required for defensive preparations, the Fenian marauders would have made a dash to get up an excitement which they might take advantage of to increase their funds. However I do not think Fenianism, *per se*, is so much to be dreaded as the encouragement given to it by the great nation by which it is countenanced and fostered. I would speak with respect of that great nation: yet not because we are a mere cipher as compared with it as a powerful country with millions of dollars at its disposal. But while I speak of it with all due deference, I must, at the same time, speak the truth; and I do so when I say that Fenianism could never have reached the proportions it has now attained, if it had not been for the fostering influence extended to it by the Government of the United States. They may say there was no direct encouragement, or material aid, given to it, and that what little sympathy it received was in retaliation for the sympathy of the British people for the Southern Confederacy. No material aid! Oh, it is folly to say so, for it is well known that officers of the United States Army, drawing the pay of the United States, have subscribed money in support of that organization. No material aid! Why, it is a fact that, under the very eyes of the authorities at Washington, it has received countenance and encouragement. No encouragement from the "White House!" Why, a few months ago, Mitchell, who was confined for his complicity in the Southern rebellion, was released at the request of the Fenian organization. They say it is mere retaliation. We had as much right to sympathize with the South as with the North, when it was declared that their object was to exterminate slavery; but when it became known that it was not to be removed, the ground of public opinion changed and it favored the South. It became apparent that their object was to maintain their ascendancy over territory which the Southern people thought they had a right to wrest from the Government at Washington. It comes with a very bad grace from that Government to charge upon the British people as a crime, that they sympathized with the South, who were struggling at the rate of one man against five, and were successfully resisting the North which had a powerful army and navy at the outset. The Southern people had neither, and yet they gallantly maintained the struggle for four years. What people with generous and magnanimous souls would refuse to give sympathy to a people so gallantly, and so nobly struggling for what they conceived to be their rights. It is surely folly for them to say that we here, in British America, are guilty for sympathizing with the South. Has it escaped their memory, Sir, that, in the war in which Great Britain was engaged in 1854-5 with Russia, the United States did sympathize with Russia, and have been coquetting with that Northern Barbarian ever since?—Yes, have been coquetting with a power which has no feelings in common with those who cherish sentiments of liberty. They sympathized also with the Sloop mutiny, one of the most devilish and unjustifiable rebellions that ever disgraced this earth, and when sympathy for Great Britain was, except with them,

felt all over the world. I do not speak to cause feelings of animosity against the United States; but to show that there is an inclination on the part of that country to deal unfairly with us. For a proof that they are unfriendly, we have only to look at their outrageous passport system, which was inaugurated, not to protect their own commerce, but to prevent Colonists from entering the United States. They also prevented the importation of cattle from the Colonies, on the plea that they were infected with the rinderpest; and a more recent proof of their unfriendly feeling is the repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty. We are not to blame in reference to the repeal of that treaty. We held out to them every inducement to renew it. Such appeals, indeed, were made to them as, in my opinion, were humiliating to the pride of British America; but all attempts have failed. They repealed it with the declaration on their lips that all the advantage was on their side. They had the privilege, and availed themselves of it, of sending a large fishing fleet to the British American coast, an equivalent for which did not fall to our advantage under any article of the treaty; but this advantage was repudiated by them. They have said once, and will no doubt say again, that so accustomed have they been to enjoy the freedom of the fisheries, that they will go back to the old interpretation of the treaty, by which they will enter the Bays and harbours of British America with the same freedom as they did under the Reciprocity Treaty—that they will not abide by the treaty which was ratified by their own ambassadors, and enforced up to 1854, by British "cruisers" preventing American fishermen from encroaching upon the three mile boundary. The right of the former to warn off, and to seize the latter, whenever an opportunity offered, was also acknowledged. They declare openly that they will have the fisheries. Then is it a time to cavil about making preparations for the defence of the country. I say again that it is not from the Fenians, but from a larger power than they can display, and whose unfriendly and ungenerous feeling has been made manifest, that I apprehend danger. Let us hope that we have sufficient loyalty, and sufficient spirit amongst us to do all in our power to maintain our connection with Great Britain and to retain our British Institutions. And though our Government of the day is not one in which we of the Opposition can place any great confidence, still we must trust them with the funds necessary to make preparations for any emergency. I do not wish to trespass on the time of the House, and all I will say is, that no man can be more ardently attached to British connection than I am, and none would regard it as a greater calamity to fall into the hands of the United States Government. There was a time, before the late war, when, if it had been the pleasure of Great Britain, probably it would not have been imprudent or impolitic in us to have joined our destinies with those of the American people; but the reverse is the case now. Their Republican institutions have been tried and found wanting. When contrasted with those of monarchical Britain, they shew like the sun under an eclipse, while those of Britain may compare with the unclouded glory of the lord of day at noon-tide. I am sure that, at this day, there are few in British America who would say that they long to be incorporated with the United States, and be subject to their enormous taxation. It is impossible to say how long this rate of taxation may continue; for, though the South is subdued, it is not pacified; and, even in the North, there is anything but peace—there is the grossest despotism. Any man who ventures to speak with freedom of the acts of the Government is in danger of being arrested and confined for months without knowing what crime is alleged against him. And, even at this hour, when peace has been proclaimed—when it has been proclaimed that the Southern States have been restored to all their rights, as a part of the great family of that Republic—does liberty, I ask, prevail there? I ask—not because I am connected with the press, but simply as an ardent lover of constitutional freedom—is a country in which the Press can be muzzled or suppressed by military officers, a country in whose career we would like to have our fortunes and destinies involved? Far from it. And though the vote

we may give here to-night may not involve the expenditure of anything like the whole amount of the revenue, yet it will show that we are attached to British Institutions, and are prepared to make any sacrifice to preserve them amongst us.

Hon. the Leader of the Government (J. C. POPE). The great responsibility which, at present, rests upon me, as the Leader of the Government, gives me, I must confess, great inquietude. If any serious trouble or mishap should hereafter arise, the whole blame of it—notwithstanding the Government may have earnestly, zealously, and faithfully done their utmost to avert it—will be thrown upon them. If now asked what course we intend to pursue, I must candidly and openly own that I am not prepared to master the question. Our chief dependence, apart from what aid and protection may be given us by the army and navy of Great Britain, must be upon our Militia and Volunteers. A Bill having for its object the proper and efficient embodiment of the Militia and the enrolment and arming of our Volunteers under the stringency of due military authority and regulations, is already prepared, and, in a day or two at the furthest, will be laid before the House to be dealt with as they, in their wisdom, may think meet. The placing,—through the operation of this Bill, and by the pecuniary means which the liberality and confidence of the House may place at our free disposal,—our Militia and Volunteers upon a proper footing, and at the same time placing one or two gunboats upon our waters, will, it appears to me, be the most effective measures to which we can have recourse in the face of the danger which threatens us. By these means, we may perhaps be able to afford protection to our out-ports and coasts. The construction of works for the protection of Charlottetown will, perhaps, also be required; and, however prudent and careful the Government may be in thus providing for the defence of the country and the capital, the expense will be very great indeed. But in effecting it, I should have to take the whole revenue of the Colony, I would not think I had paid too high a price for it. The responsibility of my position, at the present crisis, is great indeed, and I would much rather that it rested upon the other side of the House. Great however as it is, I will not shrink from it. I will now only say further, on behalf of my colleagues in the Government and myself, that, whatever we do, we will do with the best intention, and whenever we may be in doubt as to what is best to be done, we will ask advice from those whom we believe best qualified to give it.

Hon. Mr. WARBURTON. I will not blame the Executive for any expenditures which they may find it necessary to incur. I am, it is true, not very favorable to them as a Government; but I believe that, at the present crisis, they will discharge their duty as truly honorable, upright, and patriotic men.

Mr. HOWLAN. I am not one of those who think the Resolution uncalled for. On the contrary, I think that so great is the danger with which we are threatened, that, if we value our free and liberal institutions as we ought to do,—if we desire to preserve, and to transmit to posterity the priceless blessings of self government, and all the rights, privileges and immunities, which, as British subjects, we now enjoy, we must all be ready to confess that it is imperatively called for. For myself, I only regret that it is not much stronger. I would not only pledge our Revenue for our own defence, but I would engage to assist, to the utmost of our power, our neighbours in the Sister Colonies. The hon. member then expressed his surprise that the late contest between the Northern and the Southern sections of the United States have been dragged into the discussion in which the Committee were engaged; and, in doing so, took occasion to say that, regarding them as our own kindred, he was proud that the people of the North had upheld the constitution which had received from their forefathers, and above all that they had wiped off from their country the stain of slavery. He then proceeded to defend them against the

charge of being favorable to the Fenian organization and their predatory designs upon British America. He said the Government of the United States were not favourable to the Fenian movement; and, as a proof that they were not, they had cashiered Sweeney, for having attended and taken part in the proceedings of a Fenian meeting. The Government of the United States, he said, had given neither countenance nor encouragement to the Fenian organization; but he admitted that it was looked upon very favourably by the people. The Irish residents in British America were not favorable to the Fenian movement; and neither was any true friend of Ireland, wherever he might be found. The true friend of Ireland, under whatever Government he lived, would educate his child to obey the laws of the country in which he was born, and train him up to become a good, worthy, and useful member of the community; and such was the training which Irishmen, in Prince Edward Island, gave to their children. The Resolution was certainly an extraordinary one; but it was fully justified by the danger of our position; and, for his part, he thought the Legislature should not only, by their vote, place our Revenue at the disposal of the Government, but they should also enable them to offer, to the other Provinces, the aid of our strong and stalwart sons in their defence of British institutions. Should the Fenians enter Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, effect a lodgement in either of them, and successfully, to any extent, carry on their forays, it would be a lasting disgrace to us if we lent no assistance. He believed that, from the East Point to the North Point, the people were ready to shoulder their muskets in defence, of British institutions and British connexion; and, he trusted the Government, wisely taking on every important or doubtful question—as the Premier (Hon. Mr. Pope) had said they would do—the advice of those who were best qualified to advise them, would leave nothing undone that could possibly be effected, for the defence of the Colony.

Hon. Col. GRAY explained that General Sweeney was not dismissed because he had attended a Fenian meeting, but on account of a military crime—a breach of military regulations and discipline—such as subjects officers to be cashiered in the armies of all civilized countries.

Mr. HOWLAN maintained that Sweeney had been dismissed simply because, contrary to a warning which he had received from his superior officers, he had thought proper to attend a Fenian meeting. The Government of the United States, said the hon. member, were adverse to the Fenian movement, although the people were favourable to it.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN said if the Government of the United States were adverse to the Fenian movement, it would be very odd indeed that Secretary Seward, General Grant, Blair, and a whole host of members of Congress should have openly subscribed to the Fenian funds; and that, most certainly, they had done. And, besides, the fact that very few papers out of the thousands published in the States, were opposed to, or had condemned the Fenian movement, was, he thought, sufficient evidence that it was favored, fostered, and encouraged, both by the people and the Government.

Hon. Mr. COLES. I believe many of the citizens of the United States look upon the Fenian organization with as much contempt and disapprobation as we ourselves do. That many leading politicians, however, in the States, had calculated upon the disloyalty of the Canadians and their desire for annexation to their territories, is an undeniable fact, and one which was strongly evidenced at the late commercial Conference at Detroit. That it is the ultimate destiny

of the British American Provinces to be absorbed by their great Republic, is an opinion almost universally prevalent among the citizens of the States, is, also, I believe, an indisputable fact. I hope, however, that our attachment to British institutions and monarchical Government, sustained by practical legislative wisdom, will, throughout many generations yet to come, sustain us in our present independent and happy position. I do not, however, see the propriety of our now discussing the question whether, in the late civil struggle between the Northern and the Southern sections of the States, right was with the North or with the South. My own opinion certainly is, as it was at the commencement of the struggle, that right was on the side of the North. I think that when the South struck at the Constitution of the Republic, they were just as much rebels as British American or Irish Fenians would be, in rising in arms, in any part of the empire of Britain, against British rule and sovereignty. I can sympathize with a people in their lawful and constitutional struggles; but I have always been, and, as long as I live, will continue to be, the steadfast friend of law and order. In times past I have counseled peace and loyalty, and always recommended the adoption of lawful and constitutional means for the attainment of the rectification of wrongs and grievances. I shall never countenance resistance to the lawful and established authorities of a country. It is all very well, perhaps, to say that the struggle of the Southern States was for independence, and emancipation from the tyranny of the North—that their cause was good—that they fought bravely and nobly, in support of it, against tremendous odds, and deserved success. But let the tables be turned—let the tide of revolt or rebellion set against ourselves, and we will argue in quite another strain. I do not think that, at present, we are called upon to enquire whether the danger which we apprehend threatens us, is likely to proceed from the Fenians alone, or from the Fenians covertly aided and encouraged by the people of the States. We know very well, indeed, that the feelings of the Americans are against us. Of this they have convinced us in various ways. For instance, although at the breaking out of the civil war, we, in the Legislature, passed an Address to the Government sympathizing with them in their trouble, they had not even the courtesy to acknowledge it. All we have to do at present is—in imitation of Canada, and the other British Provinces, sinking all party considerations—with loyal and brotherly unanimity to prepare for the worst—to put ourselves in the best possible posture to encounter assault of whatsoever form, it may be and from whatsoever quarter it may come. Canada has done her duty, and so will Prince Edward Island.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY. I agree with the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, it is quite beside the question to prosecute the enquiry as to which side was right in the late civil war in the United States—the people of the North or the people of the South. A good deal of angry feeling and irritation has been excited in Canada, and also in the other British American Provinces, because the Fenians, in New York and in other cities of the States, have been allowed openly to meet and discuss their designs against Great Britain, and these Provinces in particular, without having been in any way checked or interfered with by the American Government, although Great Britain is, at present, on terms of amity with the States. But it ought to be remembered how great was the difficulty which, during the civil war in the States, our own Government experienced in preserving that strict neutrality between the American belligerents which they were bound to observe. The Fenians, it is very

true, have been organized in the United States; but they have not as yet, by any overt act, given cause to the American Government, on account of its friendly relations with Great Britain, to interfere with, or take any steps to restrain or suppress them. Mr. Gladstone, in the Imperial Parliament, has acknowledged this—nay, more, he has complimented the Government of the States for the perfect good faith which, as respects the Fenian organization, they have observed towards Great Britain. Towards the close of the American civil war, it was confidently asserted by men high in authority in the North, that Earl Russell, Mr. Gladstone, and other eminent public men, had aided the Southern Confederates by taking up their bonds; but this was proved to be perfectly fictitious. And as respects the subscriptions said to have been made, by members of the United States Government and Senate, in aid of the Fenian funds, it wants confirmation; and, very probably, will turn out to be quite as groundless a falsehood as the assertion that Earl Russell, Mr. Gladstone, and other British statesmen, had given aid to the Southern Confederates by taking up their bonds. And as to the sensation paragraphs, which are at present so rife in the newspapers, and the alarming telegrams which are continually passing upon the electric wires, I think we ought to receive them with great scruples. He who swallows them entire must have a very credulous mind indeed. I do not, however, mean to say that we have no cause for apprehension. On the contrary, I admit there is cause for alarm, and I think the Government would be most culpably negligent of their duty if they did not endeavour to put the Island in as fully defensive a position as our means will allow. The first duty of the Government will be to put our Volunteers and Militia upon as warlike a footing as possible, and to provide especially for the defence of the capital. To do that will involve a very large expenditure of public money, and possibly, in the end, it may prove to have been spent for nothing. The Fenians are loud in their threats, and they boast of the large sums of money which they have in their treasury, and by means of which they will be able to carry their threats into execution. Their threats, however, may be mere idle bravado, and all the money which they may have collected may be spent—as there is great reason to believe much of it has already been spent—in luxurious and splendid living by the leaders of the organization. In that case, whatever money we shall have spent in practical operations for our defence, will have been spent for nothing; but that would be just exactly as we would have it to be. Our being prepared to defend ourselves may be sufficient to prevent an attack upon us. But prepared to resist any attack we must be. At present, we are, however, so unprepared that a single fishing vessel, armed with only one twenty-pounder, and manned by a piratical crew of thirty or forty Fenians, could enter the harbour of Charlottetown unopposed, and lay the City under contribution, to the amount of all the specie or money in the banks. The six or seven thousand inhabitants of the city would have ignominiously to submit to be plundered by thirty or forty piratical scoundrels, who, in a few hours, might plunder their houses and their stores to the amount of several thousands of pounds in value, and safely sail out of the harbour with their plunder. Military works for the defence of the city, ought, without any delay, to be constructed under the direction and superintendence of an experienced military officer or engineer; and immediate application ought to be made to the Admiral on the station for a ship of war to be placed in our waters. As respects the composition of the Fenian organization, I do not believe it to be, properly speaking, an Irish organization, but a mixture

of the scum of all nations, and of reckless, idle and improvident men out of employment. The substantial, hard-working Irishmen of the United States are not represented by them. I am quite satisfied that it is our duty, our wisdom, to be prepared to withstand any attempts which they may make to ravage and despoil our country; but, at the same time, I do not think they will ever come near us. Their threatened invasion of these Provinces will, I think, most likely be put off until autumn; and, when autumn comes, till spring; and then, all the money having been spent, and there not being the smallest chance of raising any more, the organization will at once fall to pieces, and we shall happily hear no more of them or their foolish and nefarious designs. One most pleasing result of the alarm which they have occasioned us is this—to find that in the hour of danger, we are most ready to overlook all party distinctions, and fully resolved to stand forward, in the spirit of our ancestors, to brave any foe in defence of British institutions and British rule.

Mr. HOWAT. He did not rise for the purpose of making a long or a set speech. He had only one or two observations to make, and he would be brief in their delivery. He believed that, in the part of the country represented by him, the people would fully agree with him, that, for the purpose of defending our Island against any projected Fenian raid or invasion, or against any other enemy of Britain or British institutions, it was our duty to place at the disposal of the Government, not only all our pecuniary means, but all our physical force. In his neighbourhood, knowing them thoroughly as he did, hesitated not to say that the young men were actuated by a spirit of loyalty—a soldierly spirit of loyalty—second to none that animated the breasts of any of the other faithful subjects of Britain, in any part of her vast empire. They had provided themselves with a drill room and a loft, and were eager in their desire to acquire all such military training and knowledge, as were necessary to render them, in the event of invasion, efficient soldiers in the field. He hoped that, when the Government should undertake the re-enrolment of our Volunteers and the reorganization of our Militia, those athletic, brave, and loyal young men would receive their due share of attention and encouragement. He was not quite satisfied with what had been said about Charlottetown, and proposed for its defence, by the hon. and learned member for the East Point (Mr. Hensley). His observations and recommendations touching the defenceless state of the City and the necessity of throwing up military works for its defence, were, he (Mr. Howat) thought rather narrow-minded. It was quite as necessary, and quite as proper, to provide for the protection of our out-ports and of our coasts in general, as for that of Charlottetown. Life, liberty, and property were quite as precious to the rural inhabitants of the Island as to the citizens of Charlottetown; and the former were certainly to the full as much entitled to it as the latter.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY explained that he had only spoken of Charlottetown by way of illustrating his argument in favor of defensive operations on the part of the Government.

Mr. HOWAT resumed. He thought it was not prudent to speak of the Government and the people of the United States in the depreciatory and condemnatory manner, in which some hon. members had done. One enemy at a time would be quite as much as we could be prepared to deal with. Let us first beat the Fenians, if they attack us, and then, perhaps, we may venture to be a little saucy to those who have fostered and encouraged them as the en-

emies of Great Britain. The hon. member concluded by expressing his hearty concurrence in the Resolution submitted by the Hon. the Solicitor General, and his firm belief that the people of the Island, with scarcely an exception, were as much opposed to annexation to the States, as they were to Fenianism; and that they would never enter into the Republican Union, unless they were forced into it.

Mr. SINCLAIR. Judging by their arguments, it might be supposed that hon. members on the Government side of the House believe that some members of the Opposition are not disposed to agree to the Resolution now under discussion. If so, however they are much mistaken, for I am certain that every member on this side of the House concurs as fully in the propriety and wisdom of the Resolution as the hon. and learned member who has submitted it does himself. No party distinctions, no party interests will ever keep us back when patriotism, when the love of our altars and of our hearths, call upon us to advance. At the present crisis, we are prepared to defend our country, as our country, without any regard to party views or mere political considerations. It is not necessary to discuss the merits of the free institutions of monarchical Britain, as compared with those of Republican America, to convince us of their transcendent superiority. We know—we have happily experienced—the incomparable social and individual privileges and advantages of all who are born subjects of the British Crown, and heirs to the ennobling freedom conferred by her unrivalled Constitution. For the preservation of that freedom, and its concomitant rights and privileges, we are, I believe, to a man prepared to “do or die.” At the present crisis, I would be willing to depend almost solely upon “the glory argument.” The great mass of our people are of British origin. British blood flows in our veins, but little diluted by foreign admixture; and whatever our ancestors dared to do in the cause of freedom, we will be found equal to in the hour of sternest trial. We, in British America, have never injured the Fenians; and neither have we been the cause of any of the grievances of Ireland, which they falsely pretend it is their object to redress. It is, therefore, rather hard that we should be called upon to bear the brunt of their predatory and murderous raids. They doubtless wish to strike at Great Britain, and not being able to do that directly, they have resolved to attack her through these Provinces, which they regard as her weakest and most vulnerable parts. Let us then buckle on our armour; let us make every needful preparation for our defence; let us arouse our warlike spirit; and when they come and put us to the proof, they will find how very wide of the truth they have been in calculating upon our weakness and vulnerability, and how much beyond their villainous power it is to lay the British Lion in dust.

Mr. CONROY. He would be glad to be allowed to say a few words. It was not necessary that he should make a speech. He gave his hearty concurrence and support to the Resolution before the Committee. He had the greatest abhorrence for the principles of Fenianism; and he entertained the greatest love and veneration for the free Constitution of Great Britain, under which it was our happy and glorious privilege to live. It would be useless in him to say more. He so fully coincided with the truly noble, generous, and patriotic sentiments which had been uttered by hon. members on each side of the House, that it was sufficient for him to say “ditto” to them. Besides the villany of the general intentions of the Fenians, there was, to increase our contempt for them, a most pitiful unmanliness in their determination to attack these who had never injured or offended them in any way, but whose weakness, they

thought, would render them an easy prey, and afford them the most favorable opportunities for the indulgence of their brutal and licentious passions. Although politically opposed to the Government, he had the utmost confidence in them with respect to the present emergency, and he felt fully satisfied that they would acquit themselves, wisely, faithfully, and patriotically, as respected the trust about to be reposed in them.

Mr. HASLAM spoke very briefly. He said he approved the Resolution from the bottom of his heart. Were he, however, of himself opposed to it, his duty to his constituents would compel him to support it. The passing of it would afford great satisfaction both to the Home Government and to the neighbouring Provinces. Our Government would have a most onerous and difficult duty to discharge; but, whilst he sincerely felt for them, he had every confidence in their wisdom and integrity; and he doubted not they would be found equal to the emergency of their position.

Hon. the Leader of the Govt. (J. O. POPE). A telegram, having reference to Fenian movements, has just been received from New Brunswick; and, in justice to the American Government, I will now read it to the Committee. The hon. gentleman then read the telegram, to the effect that a United States Revenue cutter had just seized a Fenian schooner, laden with arms, between Portland and East Port, Maine; and, having done so, observed that it was but justice to the United States’ authorities, approbatively to notice the praiseworthy conduct of their officers, in promptly capturing those disturbers of the friendly relations existing between the Republic and the Provinces.

Mr. DUNCAN briefly observed that, uncertain as it was whether the Fenians would make a predatory descent upon our shores or not, there could be no doubt that our dread of their doing so was well founded; and, therefore, it was our duty to go to the very utmost extent of our means to put the country in the very best possible state of defence. Should we fail to do so, and the Fenians make a hostile landing upon our Island, life, liberty, and property, and every thing else we held dear would be at the mercy of a set of as foul, blood-thirsty and sensual miscreants as had ever polluted the earth by their presence.

The Resolution was then put to the vote, by the Chairman, and carried unanimously, amidst the cheers of the dense assemblage of strangers, who had attended to hear the debate.

FRIDAY 13th April,

PUBLIC RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

Hon. Mr. COLES. A statement has been made in some of the papers, Mr. Chairman,—I do not know whether it is official or not,—respecting the financial affairs of the Colony, by which we are led to believe that the public expenditure of the past year would be found about £1000 less than the revenue; but His Excellency seems to qualify it by saying that the revenue would have been more than sufficient if it had not been for the extraordinary expenditure. Now, Sir, this question arises: Why should the people be led to believe that the expenditure was within the revenue when it is £8000 or £9000 beyond? I suppose that, next year, there will be some other “extraordinary expenditure” as an excuse for running the Colony in debt; but why does not His Excellency say that the revenue is not equal to the expenditure? Last year, there was an excuse for the large expenditure; this year there is another excuse; and, thus, the Government admit that they have spent money without the sanction of the Legislature. But I must object to this “extraordinary expenditure.” We may be told that the Barracks are finished; but they will, I have no doubt, be an ex-

pense to the Colony every year. If there has been some little extraordinary expenditure about Government House, it will not, I think, be reasonable to object to that. In Her Majesty's Speech to the British Parliament, we do not see any excuses for extraordinary expenditure; and I believe no other Government would task on excuses of that kind to the Speech, at the opening of a Session. I believe the expenditure of the past year will not amount to less than £76,000; but we get no official accounts of the public expenditure in this Colony as we ought to have. In the other Colonies they get them quarterly; in Canada; monthly I believe; but here we are, with the session in the month of April, and there is not yet a reliable statement respecting the public accounts before us. How are we to answer this paragraph in His Excellency's Speech, when we have no official information on the subject before us? We have no information except from hearsay, and from a kind of half-official statement in the *Islander*; instead of having had the accounts published; as soon as the financial year closed, for the information of the people. The *Islander* says the expenditure is so and so, and now it comes out that that statement is not correct. Therefore I am at a loss to know what to say about the public expenditure, and perhaps we will not have the accounts before us for three weeks yet. (Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH. They are ready.) Last year the Government employed an accountant to put the accounts to rights, and, as they had refused to pay him, he had to enter an action in Court to recover what he considered he was justly entitled to, for his labour; and I suppose there will be an application to the Legislature to pay the expense of that lawsuit. I believe the Government made him some trifling offer which he refused to accept; at any rate, the Court awarded him more than the Government offered him.

Hon. J. C. POPE. I think it would be well for the hon. member to leave these matters till the accounts come before us.

Hon. Mr. COLES. Yes; but perhaps, it will be the last day of the session before the House will go into committee on the public accounts; and then, several members will be away, and there will be no time to comment upon them; however we will take our own time, although I know that, though we may move an amendment or vote against it, still it must be passed; for we cannot refuse to answer His Excellency's speech, though we are in the dark respecting the real expenditure of the Colony.

Hon. Sol. GENERAL. The common sense of the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition ought to tell him that the revenue is less than the expenditure. His Excellency, in his Speech, says it is so; and the address in answer to the speech admits it. The hon. member says that every year it is the same way; now, I can tell the hon. member that, if he will refer to the Journals of last year, he will find a paragraph in His Excellency's speech which is just the very opposite; therefore there have not been excuses every year. And certainly it is amusing to hear such a lecture from the Leader of the Opposition against the Government for their not having the public accounts published quarterly. Why, if he is such a paragon of perfection, did he not when he organized Responsible Government in this Colony, set the example? We are only carrying on the same mode of procedure which was in practice, both before and since the introduction of Responsible Government. And, as regards quoting from the *Islander*, all I can say is that there has been no official statement with regard to the public accounts published in that paper, and the Government are not responsible for any article that may appear in it, any more than they are for what is published in the *Examiner* or *Ross's Weekly*. Then the case of Mr. Roberts is dragged in, and it is said that the Government will have to pay the expenses of the lawsuit he brought against them. Well, that gentleman did some work for the Government, in assisting to classify and prepare the public accounts, for which he sent in a bill of £50. The Government thought it was an exorbitant charge, and out of all proportion to what the Auditors received; and they declined to pay it. They referred the matter to the Auditors,

who certified that it was worth so much, which the Government were willing to pay; but Mr. Roberts refused to accept it. The Government did all they could. They gave him the constitutional privilege which every person is entitled to, and told him to go before a jury of his country. He did so and they measured his services at £30.

Hon. Mr. COLES. The Hon. Sol General asks why we did not establish a rule for a quarterly publication of the Public Accounts, when we introduced Responsible Government. We laid down the principle; we could not lay down a rule by law.

The question of concurrence was then put, by the Chairman, on the paragraph under discussion, and it was agreed to without a division.

Progress reported. House adjourned.

[The above short discussion respecting Public Receipts and Expenditure, was inadvertently omitted from the Report of the day on which it took place.—E. B. IRVING, Reporter.]

MONDAY, 7th May, 1866.

House in Committee on various Despatches and Papers.—Mr. JOHN YEO in the Chair.

CONFEDERATION QUESTION.

Hon. the Leader of the Government (J. C. POPE). With respect to the important question of Confederation, I do not at present intend to say much more than that I hold in my hand certain Resolutions in which are embodied my views concerning that question, and which are most decidedly adverse to the scheme of Union as propounded and agreed to at the Quebec Conference. To hon. members holding the same opinion as myself concerning that scheme, these Resolutions will, I apprehend, be accepted as a sufficiently full and satisfactory declaration of our sentiments concerning it. To some, however, whose repugnance to the proposed union may be little less than my own, they may, probably, be considered too strong; and, perhaps, by others, not strong enough. I shall, however, submit them to this Committee in their present form; and it will be for them to modify, abridge, enlarge, or accept them in their present form just as the majority, in their wisdom, may determine. The great reason why we protest against anything in the shape of Union, is our dread of being swamped by the Canadas. When the scheme was before this House in the session of 186, it was condemned by a majority on each side. As respects the Executive, one or two members of it are, I regret to say, favourable to it, but the majority are strenuously opposed to it. That, however, as respects the discussion of the question, is but of little consequence, for opposition to the scheme is not now to be offered as any part of the policy of the Cabinet, and all parties are quite free to discuss the question wholly upon its own merits, and quite untrammelled by political ties or connexions. Two members of the Cabinet were Delegates to the Quebec Convention, and in the Conference held by that Convention, none expressed themselves more strongly in favor of the Scheme of Union projected by it than they did; and, for their consistent adherence to the convictions concerning it, which they then avowed, surely even such amongst us as are the most opposed to the Union, can have no right whatever to censure or condemn them; and neither do I believe any one of us arrogates to himself or assumes such a right. These gentlemen have, ever since the question arose, acted with respect to it, most honestly and consistently, and in perfect good faith. I speak more particularly of the Hon. the Solicitor General (Mr. Haviland), whose conduct with

reference to the projected Union, has, throughout, been so open, candid, and honorable, that honestly to impugn it, in any particular, I hold to be morally impossible on the part even of the most bitter opponent of the project. I have said that some hon. members, although in the main approving of the Resolutions, may think them too strong; it, therefore, appears to me to be only right that, before we enter upon a discussion of them, I should explain the reason why they are so strongly worded. It is this: Great fears are entertained by the public mind that the Government, in pursuance of the same course which it seems, is about to be adopted by Canada and Nova Scotia, and, perhaps, by New Brunswick, may be induced to send delegates to London for the purpose of conferring with the Imperial Government on the Conference Scheme; and that, although such delegates, if sent by our Government, might be instructed to oppose our being included in the Scheme, and they themselves should be sincere in their intension to do so, yet, when associated in conference on the question with the British Cabinet, who are desirous that the Confederation should be accomplished, and with delegates from the other Provinces, whose mission will be to endeavour to induce the Imperial Government to frame, and carry through the British Parliament, a Bill to decree and establish the Confederation, they might be induced to change their views and assent to the scheme, as, perhaps, materially modified in compliance with the suggestions of the Imperial Government; and so eventually Prince Edward Island, even against the will of our people, might be made a member of the Confederate States, or Provinces of British America. It is to prevent this that, warned by experience, the Resolutions are so strongly worded. What has taken place once may, under similar influences, take place again. The hon. gentleman then stated by what pressure the Legislature of Prince Edward Island had, in the Session of 1866, been induced to appoint His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to appoint delegates to confer with delegates from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, touching the expediency of a Union of the three Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, under one Government and Legislature, the Report of the said Delegates to be laid before our own Legislature. He then went on to state that it having been arranged that the Delegates so to be appointed by the Governments of these three Provinces should hold their Conference in Charlottetown, Canada—at that time engaged in considering the necessity of a change in its constitution—solicited permission to be present by Delegation at the Conference, and their request having been courteously complied with, the issue of the Conference—of which, however, no report has yet been given to the public—was, through the influence which the Canadian Delegation brought to bear upon the Conference, a resolution to hold a further Conference at Quebec, with the consent of the Governments of the Lower Provinces, for considering the feasibility of a Union upon a larger basis than that originally contemplated by the Maritime Provinces. That Conference was held accordingly; our Delegates, if not wholly yet in part, were induced to give their assent to the scheme of Confederation; and it is not only, with the intension of convincing the Imperial Government that the people of Prince Edward Island are most decidedly opposed to a Union with Canada upon any terms, but also to prevent the possibility of the Governments sending delegates to the London Conference without acting in the matter in direct opposition to the will of the people as declared through their parliamentary representatives, that the wording of the Resolutions are so strong and conclusive. I

shall, said the hon. gentleman, say no more upon the matter at present, although, perhaps, when it has progressed a little, I may have some observations to make touching the merits and nature, as I apprehend them, of the Quebec Scheme of Confederation itself. I will now submit the Resolutions to the Committee—to be as I have before said, modified, softened, or strengthened according to the will and pleasure of the majority; and, to that end, I beg leave to suggest, Mr. Chairman, that, in the first place, it will be proper for you to read the whole of them at once to the Committee.

The Chairman then read the Resolutions as here below given:—

“This House having had under consideration the message of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor communicating a Despatch from the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, upon the subject of a Federation of the British North American Provinces, and having most carefully and earnestly considered the project in all its bearings—

“RESOLVED, As the deliberate opinion of this House, that any Union of the British North American Colonies which would embrace Prince Edward Island, upon the terms and principles set forth in the Resolutions of the Conference of Quebec, held on the 10th October, 1864, would not only be unjust to the inhabitants of this Colony, but prove disastrous to their dearest and most cherished rights and interests as a free people, enjoying the blessings of a priceless constitution guaranteed to them by the Imperial Government of Great Britain.

“That, considering the isolated, peculiar and exceptional position of Prince Edward Island, as contrasted with the other British North American Provinces and Colonies, this House deems it to be its duty, as the Constitutional Representative of the people of Prince Edward Island, to re-affirm the decision so clearly and unequivocally declared by this House in the Resolutions passed by it, in its last Session, upon the subject of a Union of the British North American Colonies, and afterwards communicated by the joint Address of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of this Colony to Her Majesty's Imperial Government.

“RESOLVED FURTHER, That even if a Union of the Continental Provinces of British North America should have the effect of strengthening and binding more closely together those Provinces, or advancing their material and commercial interests, this House cannot admit that a Federal Union of the North American Provinces and Colonies, which would include Prince Edward Island, could ever be accomplished upon terms that would prove advantageous to the interests and well-being of the people of this Island, cut off and separated as it is, and must ever remain, from the neighboring Provinces, by an immovable barrier of ice for many months in the year: and this House deems it to be its sacred and imperative duty to declare and record its conviction, as it now does, that any Federal Union of the North American Colonies, that would embrace this Island, would be as hostile to the feelings and wishes, as it would be opposed to the best and most vital interests, of its people.

“RESOLVED FURTHER, That while this House cannot assent to a Federal Union of this Island with the other Colonies, they recognize it to be the duty of this Colony to contribute, from its local revenues, towards its defence, in fair and just proportion to its means.”

Hon. Mr. KELLY. I approve of every word of these Resolutions; and, I believe, the majority of the Committee will heartily agree to them. My determination is to adhere to every word of them; although, if they could be made stronger, I would wish that they were.

Mr. SINCLAIR. He was pleased to see Resolutions of this nature tabled by the Hon. Leader of the Government. He believed that fears were entertained throughout the country as to the action of the Government on this question. The Governments of the other Provinces have acted so unconstitutionally, and seem so determined to force Confeder-

ation upon the people, that it is no wonder the people of this Colony wait with anxiety the action of this Legislature. He was glad, however, to find, by the Resolutions submitted, that no fears need be entertained that they will commit us in any way to the principle of Confederation. Indeed, if he had any objection to the Resolutions, it would be that the language in the last Resolution was rather too strong. It might imply that we were so obstinate that no terms could be given us which would induce this Colony to comply with the desire of the British Government. He believed terms could be given, but he firmly believed no terms would be given which would compensate us for the sacrifice we would make in going into Confederation. We have this to consider in tabling our Resolutions to see that they are not such as to prevent some hon. members from supporting them, although such hon. members may be opposed to Confederation; the Resolutions against Confederation last Session were carried by a majority of twenty, and if our Resolutions this Session are carried by a much smaller majority, it might injure the cause by allowing the pro-Confederates to misrepresent the feelings both of the House and of the country, by arguing that it indicated a change of sentiment in favor of Confederation. He hoped this House would be united in supporting a Resolution which, whilst drawn up in courteous language, will yet firmly express our refusal to acknowledge the principle of Confederation.

Mr. DUNCAN. I protest against a Union of Prince Edward Island with the Canadas upon any terms. We could not possibly gain anything by it, but it would certainly be prejudicial to us in every particular. We could not be benefited even by free and unrestricted commercial intercourse with them. Everything which could be exported from this Island, Canada produces; and, therefore, no trade of any importance can spring up between that Province and this Colony. If we were to send up oats to Canada, they would have to send them down again to Halifax for a market. As for fish, they can export enough to supply all North America. Our oysters are, perhaps, all that we could supply them with; and I would say if they want them, let them pay for them. Their railroads and canals would not benefit us. As for our sending delegates to London, with a view to the procuring of better terms, the idea was absurd in the extreme. What concessions for our benefit could our two delegates—were we to send them—obtain against the opposition and eloquence of the delegates of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Canadas—two for each of those Provinces, eight in all opposed to our two? Besides Canada has declared that she will not admit of any alteration in the Quebec Scheme, and even threatened that if the Imperial Government should insist upon making any she would withdraw her allegiance to the British Crown, and declare herself independent. Nothing could be more unjust to Prince Edward Island than representation on the basis of population, as laid down by that scheme, according to which the Canadas would have 100 representatives in the House of Commons, more than the aggregate of all the Colonies, the number assigned to us being only 5. Representation on this basis might do very well for Canada; but as respects Prince Edward Island, it would be nothing but mere mockery. Again, by that scheme, in exchange for our revenue, now £67,000, we should receive only some £48,000 per annum. Even had Canada, in view of such a commutation on our part, agreed to give us £200,000 sterling to enable us to buy up the proprietary claims, we should still, in this point of view, be material sufferers. In fact the whole scheme has been devised for the benefit of Canada, and were we to go into it, we would, as I have said before, be losers in every particular. We would have to yield up our position of independence—the power to make our own laws and to direct the application of our own moneys—our local legislature would be little better than a town council; and should our local revenue become inadequate, we would have to submit to the burthen of direct taxation; and, in fact all our interests would be sacrificed for the benefit of Canada. The Resolutions are by no means too strong. If it were possible I would wish to have them made still stronger.

Hon. Mr. WARBURTON. If the determination of the great majority of the House was—as he believed it was—to declare against a Union of Prince Edward Island with Canada, upon any terms, that determination could not be expressed in language too strong. It was necessary to give the Home Government to understand that our resolution on that head was conclusive. Our representation by 5 members in the House of Commons would be of no service to us. The allowance to us of 80 cents per head of our population, as determined by the Census of 1861, in exchange for our revenue, and in full settlement of all future demands upon the General Government, would be a palpable injustice—£48,000 for a revenue already nearly double that amount! Besides, according to the system of taxation which obtained in Canada, our taxation would be doubled. To give us any chance of justice at all, the Union, should we be forced to accept, it should be a Legislative Union. In a Federal Union we should have no power at all: our Local Legislature would avail us nothing; and, in that case, it would be as well that our Legislative Halls should be blown up in the air. If we were to be compelled to enter into a Union at all, he would prefer a Legislative one; but he believed scarcely one man in the Island, certainly not many, would consent to a Union of any kind. If we looked to history, we should find a warning against the Quebec scheme in the unequal and ill-assented Union of Ireland with England.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH. Last Session, I supported the Resolutions submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the Government (Hon. J. C. Pope); and I did so because I believed that a Union of Prince Edward Island with Canada and the other British American Provinces upon the terms laid down in the Quebec Scheme, would be disastrous to her best interests. I conceive our position to be an exceptional one, and that, from its peculiarity, although we should be taxed equally with the peoples of the other Provinces for Railways, Canals and other Public Works in Canada, it was not in the nature of things that we could derive any direct benefit from them. During five months of the year, cut off as we are by an icy barrier from the continent, I considered that we could hold no commercial intercourse whatever with the other Federated Provinces; and that, therefore, our Union with them, except upon terms very different from those contained in the Report of the Quebec Convention, would have been one of extreme hardship and injustice. Another objection which I had to the Union was that according to the Scheme laid down in the Report, representation in the House of Commons is to be based upon population. Representation on that basis is as objectionable, as it respects New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, as it is with respect to Prince Edward Island; but its being objectionable as applied to those other two Provinces, does not render less so to Prince Edward Island. Upper Canada is a growing country and her population will rapidly increase; and as that increases, so, according to the Quebec scheme of representation, her representation in the Federal House of Commons would increase, whilst that of Prince Edward Island would decrease. And, in fact, if the increase in the population of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick does not, in the future, grow more rapidly than it has in the past, they will also, if the plan be strictly carried out, be losers, instead of gainers, as respects legislative representation. Thus, as respects representation on the basis of population, the scheme appeared to me to be unjust to us, and I was therefore prepared to go against it; and the result of our deliberations upon it in this House was its re-

jection by a large majority. I, for one, am not changed. I entertain the same objections to the Scheme which I entertained then, and I am therefore glad to presume that the Resolutions just submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the Government harmonize with the views on that question of a majority on both sides. In respect to Prince Edward Island, the allowance of 80 cents per head of our population in exchange for our revenue, is quite insufficient. What! only £48,000 a year for the relinquishment of our revenue of £70,000 a year, and that too to be in full settlement of all future demands upon the General Government. A most princely offer indeed! Why, in the course of a few years, it will in all probability amount to £150,000 a year, and all that, together with our independent constitution, we would, according to the Quebec Scheme of Union, if we accede to it, have to surrender for an annual allowance of £48,000 for our local expenses, all of which, with the exception of the salaries of the Lieutenant Governor and the Judges, we should have to defray ourselves out of that *munificent* allowance; and, should it not be found sufficient, we would have to make up the deficiency by direct taxation. This is quite sufficient to convince us, I think, that if we were to enter into Confederation on the basis of the Quebec Report, justice could never be done to us. This is the decided opinion of the people as a body, generally speaking, and through a majority of their parliamentary representatives they have already declared, and will now again declare, that the Quebec Scheme of Confederation will never be acceded to by them. That they are most decidedly opposed to a Union with Canada upon any terms, we know with certainty, and their decided objection to it, or rather rejection of it, as affirmed by a majority of their representatives in this House, last Session, it is now our duty to re-affirm. We must all admit that Nova Scotia and New Brunswick must be the best judges of their own affairs, and have a constitutional right to decide concerning them for themselves. But, when we see it asserted in their papers that if a Union, on the basis of the Quebec Scheme, take place at all, it must include Prince Edward Island; and, further, whilst admitting that possibly, if we exerted ourselves to procure them, better terms might be conceded to us, maintaining that we shall not be allowed to stand aloof; it behoves us most distinctly and peremptorily to declare that we will not go into the projected Union on any terms. If we were to admit that such terms could be conceded us as would make our union with the other Provinces beneficial to us, that would go a long way towards warranting an assumption on the part of the other Provinces, and even on that of the Home Government, that, by a little skilful management on their part, and the promise of one or two flattering concessions, we might be induced to give a favorable ear to the Scheme; and, as respects proceedings on our part, the next step might be the appointment of delegates to the London Conference. And, that step once taken, our delegates would be in the hands of the other delegates; the majority would decide; we could neither insist upon better terms, nor could we fall back upon our original resolution to reject the scheme. We would be completely trapped, and our heads drawn into the noose. Our best course, therefore, will be not to admit the possibility of such terms being accorded to us as would be acceptable and conducive to our interests. The first Resolution repudiates the idea that we can be embraced in any Union of the Provinces, upon the terms of the Quebec Scheme, in any way which would be beneficial or advantageous to us. The second is stronger; and one hon. member (Mr. Sinclair,) has said that it is too strong. But it only says that this House can-

not admit that a *Federal Union* of the North American Provinces and Colonies, which would include Prince Edward Island, could never be accomplished on terms that would prove advantageous to the interests and well-being of her people; and assigns a reason for that affirmation; but it does not say that, if Great Britain and the other Provinces would agree to it, a *Legislative Union*, which would allow us to retain our Revenue might not be made acceptable to us. It has been said that if Prince Edward Island remain out of the Union, she will either be left in a most undesirable isolated position, or be annexed to the United States. As to the perils of isolation, the people, I feel certain, will be very willing to encounter them, provided they are left in the enjoyment of all their present rights and privileges. And as to annexation to the United States, I believe that will never take place against their will; and, moreover, I believe that such annexation will never be sought by them, so long as Great Britain shall be willing to regard them as her children, and to watch over and protect them, with that truly parental care and solicitude for their well-being, which she has hitherto manifested towards them. The people of this Island will never consent to be annexed to a foreign power, unless great Britain shall herself cast them adrift. That, however, I believe she will never do; and our present happy connexion with her will, I trust, endure for so, ages to come. As long as Britain is willing that it shall be we will remain true in our allegiance to the British Crown. But the duties of Great Britain to us, and to all her other subjects in these Provinces are great. It is her duty to protect us, by her fleets and armies, against any foreign foe. But, whilst we assert this, we freely admit that it is also equally our duty, in each of the Provinces, to contribute freely from our local revenues towards our defence; and cheerfully will we of Prince Edward Island fulfil that duty in fair and just proportion to our means. I shall steadily resist anything like an acknowledgment of the principle of a Federal Union of these Provinces as asserted in the Quebec Report; for I believe that were we once to admit that principle, we would, inevitably, be driven into it. Our acknowledgment of the principle would be tantamount to our signing and sealing of the bond; and we, our children, and our children's children would be bound by it for all time to come. I know hon. gentlemen in this house will say that it is our duty to acquiesce in the Quebec Scheme of Confederation, because that scheme is not only approved of by Her Majesty the Queen and her Government, but also because it is their earnest desire that it should forthwith be carried into effect. Now, with great deference to the opinion of those hon. gentlemen, I beg leave to say that, although in sentiments of loyalty and attachment to the British Crown, I in no way yield to them; yet, representing, in this House, a large independent and intelligent constituency, whose opinions concerning the projected Union of these Provinces fully coincide with my own, to those opinions it is my bounden duty firmly to adhere. Now is the time for us to be cautious. These are my sentiments, and, in pursuance of them, I am ready to support the Resolutions now before us; but if they can be amended without an acknowledgment of the principle of Union, in such an amendment of them, I shall, most likely, be found quite willing to acquiesce. I will not trespass upon the attention of the House any longer, at present, further than by again saying that I am prepared not only to vote for the first Resolution, which says that it is "the deliberate opinion of this House, that any Union of the British North American Colonies which would embrace Prince Edward Island, upon the terms and principles set forth in the Resolutions of the Con-

ference of Quebec, would not only be unjust to the inhabitants of this Colony, but prove disastrous to their dearest and most cherished rights and interests as a free people, enjoying the blessings of a priceless Constitution, guaranteed to them by the Imperial Government of Great Britain"; and, as respects the second Resolution, which declares that "we cannot admit that a Federal Union of the North American Provinces and Colonies, which would include Prince Edward Island could ever be accomplished upon terms that would prove advantageous to the interests and well-being of the people of this Island,"—I am also prepared to vote for it in its full integrity; although, should it be found possible so to modify it—without any acknowledgment of the principles of Confederation set forth in the Report of the Quebec Conference—as to render it more acceptable to such hon. members as may think it rather too strong in its present form,—to such a modification of it I shall certainly offer no opposition.

MR. BRECKEN. Having, at length, in the House, last Session, and, subsequently, at public meetings, expressed his views concerning the projected Confederation of the British North American Provinces, he did not think it necessary that he should then enter into any thing like a full recapitulation of them. The Resolutions submitted to the Committee were certainly "very strong": the last, in his opinion was too strong. However it was to be remembered that in debating the question of Confederation, they were not debating a party question, nor one of only passing interest; but one, their determination of which might affect, advantageously or otherwise, the destinies of Prince Edward Island for generations to come. John Bull had always claimed, as one of his greatest privileges, the right to grumble, and to stand out, to the last moment, for whatever he thought himself fairly entitled to; and that privilege the people of this Colony had never been backward to claim and assert. The Quebec Confederation Scheme was, it was well known, favourably viewed by the Imperial Government, and equally so, it was said, by Her Majesty the Queen; yet admitting all that—and he was not disposed to dispute it; for he could see no impropriety in its being so regarded at Home—he did not think, as some did, that we could fairly be subjected to the imputation of disloyalty because, so far as that Scheme was meant to apply to Prince Edward Island, we were adverse to it, and should express our aversion to it in the strongest language. He certainly did not, for one moment, imagine that the Imperial Government would ever consent to sanction any Scheme of Confederation, by which it was obvious to them that the interests of even the smallest and most feeble of the Colonies would be sacrificed for the promotion of those of the largest and most powerful. The Imperial Government were, doubtless, bent upon carrying out the Confederation Scheme; but, in their determination to give it effect, they contemplated nothing but the general good of all the Provinces which it was intended to embrace. They could conceive nothing but the retardation of the individual interests and progress of these Provinces, and general feebleness, as the natural consequences of our governments, independent of each other, our diverse laws, our different currencies and hostile tariffs. This justly appeared to them a most anomalous state of things. A group of Provinces, lying closely together, and all paying allegiance to the same Sovereign, could not, or at least ought not, it seemed to them, to have separate and conflicting interests; and, therefore, it was, seeing that all of them were rapidly approaching to a state, the further expansion of which would require that, as respects all the relations of trade, commerce, laws, and government, they should, as it were, intertwine with and lean

upon each other—that the Imperial Government thought the very best thing which could be devised for them, was such a Union as would consolidate their growing strength, and give to all an interest in, and a share of, the individual or peculiar resources and privileges of each. And, to that end, it had doubtless appeared to them that no Scheme could be more happily framed than that of the Quebec Conference. In that opinion, however, at least so far as it respected Prince Edward Island, they were certainly in error; and what had especially led to their mistake, with respect to us, was their ignorance—for it could not be forgetfulness—of our peculiar position, resources, and trade. They did not comprehend our exceptional position. That they should be ignorant on that head did not surprise him; for, at the Detroit Trade Convention, he found several of the Delegates to that Convention, although comparatively speaking our near neighbours almost as ignorant respecting our resources and trade, as must of necessity be the peoples of China and Japan. The Imperial Government thought that, if we went into the Confederation, our material interests would all receive an immediate and most sensible progressive impulse; and that, in fact, our prosperity would increase in every direction. As respects our representation in the Confederate House of Commons, small as the number was at which it was set down in the Report, on the basis of population, and decennial readjustments on that basis, at the expiration of the first ten years of the Union, our representation would be still further diminished. The allowance of £51,850, to be made to this Island, in consideration of the transfer of our revenue and of the powers of taxation to the General Parliament, was manifestly a very inadequate compensation for our relinquishment of our Revenue, now amounting to £70,000, and which, in a few years would, in all probability, amount to £100,000 per annum. That allowance would not suffice to defray our annual local expenditure; and, whenever it should be found necessary for us to undertake any large public work for our own local benefit, we would have to provide for the expense by extra direct local taxation. As respects the direct benefits which, it was said by the advocates of Confederation, we would derive from the Canals and Railroads of the other Provinces, and towards the past and future cost of which we were to contribute, considering that we should be shut out from the use and advantage of them for five months of the year, it would be about just as reasonable to say that on account of the benefits which we might derive from the construction of public works in Kamtschatka, we should contribute towards the expense incurred by it.—His greatest objection to the Confederation Scheme was based on his dread of the enormous taxation to which we would, in all probability, be subjected under it. The construction of fortifications, the creation of a Confederate army and navy to afford protection against the annexation proclivities of Brother Jonathan, the deepening and widening of the Canals of Upper Canada, and the construction of other public works, which would be required as the country became more and more opened up and improved, would necessitate such an outlay of public money as could not be raised independently of extraordinary taxation; and to prevent either that, or to check any extravagance on the part of the General Government, the small share which we should have in parliamentary representation, would render us powerless. The hon. and learned member said he did not go quite so far as some anti-confederates; for he believed that, if the other Provinces went into the Union we should not be able to keep out. We were told that the British Government would not deprive us of a Constitution which they themselves had guaranteed to us. But we

ought to remember our great indebtedness to the Mother Country, and to take care that our refractoriness should not be the cause of some estrangement of feeling towards us on her part, and incline her to resent what she may deem our ungratefulness towards her at the present juncture. Some again said that, if we refused to go into the Union, no course would be open to us but that of annexation to the United States; but annexation to the United States would not be our fate, even if we desired it. The Imperial Government, ignorant as they might be concerning our trade and resources, knew too well the importance of the geographical position of Prince Edward Island—the key to the St. Lawrence—to allow us to annex ourselves to the United States. Some said it would be better for us, at first to go into Union as grumblers, than to be obliged to go in afterwards as beggars: there was nothing disreputable, they said, in grumbling—it was a British privilege; but begging was positive degradation. That might all be very fine; but, he maintained, there would be nothing mean in going in by begging, even at the eleventh hour, if, by remaining out until then, we could obtain better terms than were offered to us by the Quebec Scheme. He said, with the hon. member for the Third District of Prince County, (Mr. Sinclair,) that to give us better terms was not impossible; but he believed that Canada would never, of herself, consent to give us better terms. His (Mr. Brecken's) opinion then was that our best policy would be to keep out until Canada, in her eagerness to include us in the Union, should offer to treat with us on fairer terms; and then, should we find that we were suffering by keeping out, self-interest might induce us to accept the best terms we could get. The second Resolution, he said again, was too strong. To say that no terms of Union that would prove advantageous to our interests and well-being as a people, could be offered, was certainly saying too much and going too far; but, when he took into consideration the object to be attained by so wording the Resolution, which was the rendering it impossible for the Government to consent to the appointment of delegates to the projected London Convention—a course which, if adopted, would in all probability result in a repetition of the Quebec agreement—he was quite prepared to vote for it, too strong as, in its *prima facie* sense, he thought it. If Delegates were appointed, by our Government, to attend the London Convention, even for the purpose of opposing the Quebec Scheme, and endeavouring to procure a modification of it for our benefit, he feared they might, as at Quebec, be won over to the opinions of the Canadian and Nova Scotia Delegates in favor of it. Still he would like that Resolution to be remodelled, if that could be done without an acknowledgment of the principle of a Union on the Quebec basis; for, as it stood, a position was assumed in it, from which possibly we might hereafter have to recede. It was the duty of the House, however, to speak out clearly, plainly, and without ambiguity.

Hon. Mr. McEACHEN. He was happy to be able to endorse the Resolutions exactly as they had been submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the Government. They were strong; but not too strong. He agreed with the hon. members (Mr. Sinclair and Mr. Brecken) that were we to admit the principle as set forth in the Quebec Report, that was the possibility of its being made just to Prince Edward Island, we would be drawn into it. If we allowed the small end of the wedge to be insinuated, it would soon be driven through. He was glad to hear the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown (Mr. Brecken) allude to the right claimed by John Bull to grumble and to be stubborn when

called upon, to resign any thing which he believed himself entitled to hold; and to hear the hon. member then base thereon an argument for the people of this Island being, like John Bull, stubborn in the retention of their free constitution. Such stubbornness was certainly becoming in a free people; but although he would not deny that the sons of John Bull had an hereditary right to assert that privilege, yet yet would say it became them not—the descendants of the men who were conquered by the Normans and lost their liberty at the battle of Hastings—as well as it did the descendants of those men whose ancestors—the Caledonians of old—beat back from their mountain fastnesses of liberty the conquering eagles of Imperial Rome. He (Hon. Mr. McEachen) was a descendant of those unconquered heroes of the North; and he would never consent that, in asserting our right to preserve our free constitution, with all its rights, privileges, and immunities, we should adopt the cowardly, cringing tone in which it suited venality and corruption to plead for the attainment of the objects of their selfish designs. There was no reason to fear that we should be driven into the projected Confederation. The people of Prince Edward Island had a Constitution as well as Canada; and, if they did their duty, they would never lose it. Mr. Cardwell would, no doubt, be glad if he found us willing to agree to go into the Union on the terms of the Quebec Scheme; but, if he found we were not willing, he would not dare to force us into it. If once, like the Hungarians and the Poles, we should be deprived of our Constitution, we would never be able to regain it. He would, therefore, support the Resolutions, both in the spirit and the letter. They were certainly strong; but they were not too strong for him. We know, said the hon. gentleman in conclusion, what we enjoy under our present free Constitution; but we know not what we should have to endure, were we, by a Union with Canada, on the terms of the Quebec Scheme of Confederation, to be deprived of it.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY. As to the first Resolution, which went to reaffirm the decision of the House, in its last session, upon the question of a Union of the British North American Colonies, to the effect "that any Union of those Colonies which should embrace Prince Edward Island, upon the terms and principles set forth in the Resolutions of the Quebec Conference, would not only be unjust to the inhabitants of this Colony, but prove disastrous to their dearest and most cherished rights and interests as a free people, enjoying the blessings of a priceless Constitution guaranteed to them by the Imperial Government of Great Britain,"—having heartily concurred in that Resolution when it was first affirmed, it was not necessary, perhaps, for him to say more than that he still firmly adhered to the opinion then expressed by him of its propriety. And neither did it appear to him to be necessary that he should, in his opposition to the Quebec Scheme, restate the arguments which, whilst speaking upon the first Resolution, had been so ably brought to bear against that Scheme by the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown (Mr. Brecken), with every word of which he agreed. He would, therefore, proceed to give his views touching the propriety of the second Resolution, which declared that the House could not admit that a Federal Union of the North American Provinces and Colonies, which would include Prince Edward Island, could ever be accomplished upon terms that would prove advantageous to the interests and well-being of the people of the Island. He looked upon the declaration in that Resolution in much the same light in which it had been viewed by the hon. member for the Third District of Prince County (Mr. Sinclair) and the hon. and learned member for the Se-

cond District of Queen's County) Hon. Mr. Longworth. He was not exactly of opinion that it was quite impossible—as was affirmed by that Resolution—that any terms of Federal Union could be offered to the people of Prince Edward Island which would prove advantageous to their interests and well-being; but he believed that no such terms would be agreed to by the other Provinces; and he thought that, lest it should, in any way, be made to appear that we acknowledge the principle of the Quebec Scheme of Union, and should, in consequence of such assumed acknowledgment, be dragged into it, it was necessary to express ourselves in the strong, unequivocal, and decisive language used in the framing of that Resolution. It had been said to the anti-Confederates, "If you object to the terms of the Quebec Scheme of Union, why do you not lay down such as you think it would be advantageous for the Island to accept." He would reply, that we have no desire whatever to become a party in the projected Union of the Provinces; and it would be the height of absurdity in us to lay down terms for a compact which we are not only unwilling to enter into; but from which we are determined to stand aloof so long as we shall have the power to do so. These were the reasons why he was in favor of the second and third resolutions. Were we once to admit the principle of the projected Federation, it would be impossible for us to keep out of it. He would go back to the inception of the scheme about three years ago. When in the Session of 1863, the question was first brought before the Assembly, whether it would be better for Prince Edward Island to enter into the proposed Confederation of the Lower Provinces, or to remain as she was in her separate and independent position, there was not found one hon. member of the House to advocate her entering into such Confederation; on the contrary the whole House were of opinion that, if Prince Edward Island entered into the Confederation, she would inevitably be swamped by the weight of the debts of the other Provinces—that she would forfeit the right of self-government, and would, besides, be crushed by the weight of excessive taxation. The hon. and learned gentleman then went pretty fully into the history of the Question of Confederation, from its inception up to the present time, for the purpose of shewing that neither had the Scheme ever been favourably entertained by the Legislature, nor had Legislative Authority ever been given to our Island Delegates to enter into any consideration of it, either in Charlottetown, at Halifax, or at Quebec, with a view to our becoming a party to it. Upon what grounds, then, he asked, would our Confederates say that the Report of the Quebec Conference was binding upon us, when even the appointment of Island Delegates by the Government had been made independently of Legislative sanction.—We were, indeed, only a small Colony, but we were possessed of a free representative constitution; and we had quite as much right to retain it as had the English to retain theirs. He had, however, yet to learn that Great Britain would, so long as we continued true to ourselves and firm in our allegiance to the British Crown, ever seek to deprive us of it. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick might derive great advantages from their Union with Canada; but not so Prince Edward Island, separated as she is from those Provinces, by an immoveable barrier of ice for five months in the year. Mr. Brown in Canada, in his advocacy of the Confederation Scheme, had said they wanted an outlet to the sea; and that, independently of Confederation, they could not obtain without going through another country. That was true enough. But what had Prince Edward Island to do with it? Canada's obtaining that outlet, by means of Confederation, would confer no benefit upon us. It was all very fine to say we would, under Confederation, belong to a great country, and would consequently grow in wealth and importance; instead of being as we were, a little isolated insignificant Colony. We already, said the hon. and learned member, belong to a great country—the greatest in the world—and we have no desire to belong to any other. Great Britain will never cast us off so long as it shall be our wish to

remain under the protection of her flag; and we are willing, as the third Resolution expresses it, to contribute, from our local revenues, towards our own defence, in fair and just proportion to our means. I do not see that our present isolated and independent position, even although the other Provinces should confederate, would, in any way, prove disadvantageous to us, unless Nova Scotia and New Brunswick should enact hostile tariffs against us; but that, I believe, Great Britain would not allow them to do.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN then rose and moved that all after the word "Resolved" be struck out of the Resolutions submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the Government, and that the following be substituted:—

"As the opinion of this House, that the Confederation of Her Majesty's American Colonial Possessions would be,—while in conformity with Her Majesty's frequently expressed desire—conducive to their welfare, separately and collectively. And this House believes that a plan of Confederation might be so framed as not to involve the sacrifice of any material interests on the part of any Province; but inasmuch as the people of Prince Edward Island do not appear to be prepared to regard with any favor the project of Confederation, it is unwise to press it upon public attention, as its discussion is only calculated to produce excitement and apprehension, without reasonable cause.

"AND FURTHER RESOLVED, as the opinion of this House, that there should be no vote passed by the Legislature of this country in favor of a Confederation of the Provinces until the people shall first be afforded an opportunity of pronouncing their judgment on the question at a general Election."

The hon. gentleman then proceeded to say that he thought the question should not be pressed upon the people before they were educated up to it, and their judgment matured respecting it. As he had said to his own constituents, he did not think it was the duty or province of the Assembly either to pronounce in favor of Confederation, or to reject it, until the decision of the people should be fairly given, either for or against it, at the polls. With all due deference to the House, he begged leave to say, however, that he did not believe any decision, either for or against Confederation, on the part of Prince Edward Island, would materially affect the action or determination of the other Provinces concerning it; and that, if they were favorable to it, Prince Edward Island would be placing herself in a very absurd and ridiculous position by refusing to accede to it. But whilst the question appeared to be settled in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, and to be in a transition state in New Brunswick, he thought our wisest course would be to leave it as it now stood, for the calm and deliberate consideration of the people, until time and events should throw new light upon it, and, perhaps, bring new influences to bear upon their minds concerning it. He could not, however, for one moment suppose, that provided the other Provinces were confederated, Great Britain would allow Prince Edward Island to remain out of the Union, to be a source of weakness and annoyance to the Federation, which, if she stood alone and aloof from it, she, most undoubtedly, would be. He would then merely ask the Chairman to submit the Resolution which he had proposed as an amendment to the Resolutions submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the Government, although it had been his intention to speak to some other points of the question. That intention he would then, however, forego; as another opportunity might, perhaps, be afforded him of carrying it into effect, and of repelling, at the same time, the unjust, the unmanly, the cowardly insinuations of bribery, corruption, and treachery, which had, by certain parties in the community, been thrown out, not only against him, but against other gentlemen, members of the Assembly, who had, in common with himself, and in pursuance of their honest convictions concerning the question, been the open

and candid advocates of such a Confederation of the North American Provinces as would include Prince Edward Island. Will any of those who stigmatize us produce proof for their assertions? I challenge them before the country to show proof. "Bribed traitors" forsooth! Are Her Majesty's Ministers "bribed traitors?" Surely it cannot be thought that the Colonial Minister and Her Majesty's Government, who have given a decided opinion in favor of Confederation, are "bribed traitors!" And let me ask these calumniators this question: Are the Catholic Hierarchy of Nova Scotia, the Archbishop of Halifax, and the Bishop of Arichat, who have pronounced in favor of Confederation—are they "traitors?" Are they influenced by improper and corrupt motives in bringing this question favorably before their fellow Colonists? I bring this question before you and ask if it is your firm conviction that I, and others in a much higher position than myself, should be designated as traitors. It is false and dishonest in the highest degree to bring such an accusation against us in the face of the country. I do not ask you, Sir, I will not ask you, to believe that I am perfectly sincere in this matter; but I will ask you to allow me to use my own opinion, and because I do advocate this measure in accordance with my honest convictions—because I think this House should not place itself in a position hostile to the British Government, or antagonistic to the course pursued by the other Colonies—am I to be singled out for contumely? I never, in the course of my parliamentary experience of 20 years, was made the subject of so much calumny—so many false accusations, as in reference to this question. I do not, as the Resolution which I have submitted shows, force my opinion on the country. I have not done so since I returned from the Quebec Conference. I may say that at that Conference we did not get as much as I, as one of the delegates, think we should have got; but we got what I think should be accepted as a compromise, and I say now, in the presence of this House, and of the country, that ALL the Delegates did agree to the terms there proposed, notwithstanding their disagreement afterwards as to matters of detail. When I returned from Quebec I was assailed because I stated this palpable truth, and many times since, in such language as it is impossible for me to characterize. But I will allow that to pass. I do not seek to press the question upon the people. I do not wish that, without the most mature reflection, they should accede to Confederation; but I do wish that, before they decide either for or against it, they may be fully enlightened concerning it; and I will ask this House not to pledge itself to any course concerning it until the people shall have pronounced concerning it at the polls. It is my right—a right which God has given me—to form my own opinion on all public questions, and I will endeavour to exercise that right. But surely I and they who hold the same opinions as myself on the subject of Confederation ought not, on account of those opinions, to be subjected to insult and persecution, most vile and most unjust, on the part of any who hold different opinions on that subject. I ask you, Mr. Chairman, most respectfully—I ask this honorable Committee—whether this system of persecution shall continue to be practised? I appeal to the good sense and love of fair play which characterizes the members of this community, whether a man shall be allowed to have an opinion of his own or not? I do not object to this House expressing its disapproval of Confederation, without reference to the Quebec Scheme, because that is thrown aside; but in regard to the general plan of Confederation, my opinion is that these Colonies would assume great importance—they would obtain stability and security against foreign

aggression, and they would also obtain more efficient protection from Britain, were they confederated, than she could extend to them should they remain in their present isolated condition. I do not wish to trespass upon the attention of the House, but I rose to submit the Resolution which is now before you, and it is of that mild character that I do not think hon. members should vote against it. But, however, if they do, I shall be enabled to place my opinion upon record, which is, that I am favourable to Confederation, provided it be based upon a plan just to the several Provinces, without sacrificing the interests of any, and also providing that the people be perfectly prepared to accept it. Anything more fair, I do not think, could be presented to the House. If you pass the other Resolutions, which are very strong, it will not affect the question one way or the other. Let me tell you that the decision of a Colony of only 80,000 inhabitants will have but very little effect in deciding the fate of three and a half millions of people, however much some gentlemen may be under the impression that the other Provinces may be confederated and Prince Edward Island remain "out in the cold." The Confederacy of the United States took place under very peculiar circumstances, and Rhode Island, an isolated Province, as small nearly as we are, although at first refusing to enter it, was yet, before long, very glad to seek admission into it. So, if a Federation of the British North American Provinces take place, and Prince Edward Island be left out, will she, in like manner, sue to be admitted into it. Would any one tell me—and I put the question plainly—would the United States, if no Confederacy had taken place, have been so powerful a nation as they are to-day? We are not seeking a separation from Great Britain, but to combine our strength, by which we may be able to resist aggression, whether from Fenianism or from any other quarter. Last year, we were told that the advocacy of this question was premature, because there was not the slightest probability of an interruption of the friendly relations existing between Great Britain and the United States on account of the Fenian organization; but now we know that the Fenian organization, contemptible as it is, has been such as to render it necessary, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, to take extraordinary precautions against its aggressions. In England a law has been passed suspending the *Habeas Corpus* Act in Ireland, because the Fenian organization was supposed to have taken effect there. In the Colonies, extraordinary preparations have been made for resistance to any possible attacks on the part of that lawless association. The resources of the several Colonies have been pledged for their individual defence. We were told, last year, that there was no necessity to prepare for defence; but what do we see here this year? A unanimous vote placing all the resources of the Colony at the disposal of the Government for the purpose of putting the Island in a position of defence. What does that indicate? Is it not that our liberties are threatened? Does it not indicate a feeling of insecurity—a feeling that Prince Edward Island is not safe while those marauders threaten the invasion of the other Provinces? A gentleman in the other branch of the Legislature said, on a former occasion, that in the event of Confederation, if Canada was to be threatened by hostile invasion, the young men of Prince Edward Island would have to go and fight for that Province. I ask you was there ever such intolerable nonsense uttered by any man in his senses? Does any man suppose that the young men of this Island would have to be sent to the borders of Canada? No, Sir; it was nonsense sought to be imposed upon the people. The fact is that, for twelve months past, Canada has been exer-

using its great influence—expending its enormous resources—to ward off the foe, and has been a protection, not only to Prince Edward Island, but to the whole of the Lower Provinces. There have been no raids into these Provinces; and, if they were to be invaded, Canada surely would be, and that Province once lost to the British Crown, these Maritime Colonies would fall an easy prey, either to Fenians, or to some other foe. But I think, Mr. Chairman, that, in view of the hostile spirit manifested by the Government of the United States towards these Colonies, in a variety of ways, it is right that we should take counsel and act in accordance with the views of the British Government. It is scarcely necessary to observe that the United States have no love for Great Britain—no desire to see these Colonies remain a part of the British dominions. And they would rather that they should remain separated and isolated, than be consolidated in power by Confederation, so that, one by one, they might fall an easy prey whenever they should choose to set about their absorption. Isolated, they could be—united, they could not, be absorbed. United, Great Britain would employ her whole power to defend them; isolated she would not. All I wish to say is that the subject having been so well debated last year, I am not disposed to trespass upon your patience, Sir, and that of the House, at present; but I ask that forbearance which is due to any person holding an opinion of his own on a great public question. The Resolution I have submitted is not offensive to those holding views opposed to mine. It is that I believe Confederation would be conducive to the best interests of these Colonies; but I will not press it, but leave it to the people to decide; and I may express the hope and belief that, while hon. members have their own opinions, they will not use offensive expressions, or insinuate that any member is influenced by improper motives in advocating his own views of the great question now under our consideration. I am influenced by no such motives; and, if I be assailed on any such grounds I will take the earliest opportunity to retaliate. I do not bring any charge against those whose views upon the subject are adverse to my own, nor offer any offence to their sensibilities. They have a perfect right to believe that Confederation will not be conducive to the interests of the Colony. I believe it will; but I beg that we may be permitted to agree to differ. I leave the subject for the present; perhaps before the debate closes I may take an opportunity of offering a few more observations concerning it.

Mr. HOWAT. I must say this is a very moderate Resolution, Mr. Chairman, but there are two or three points in it in which I cannot concur. The hon. member, (Hon. Mr. Whelan) proposes to admit the principle of Confederation; and the Resolution would teach us that, while the hon. member himself would not force us into a union with the other Colonies, yet some other power would do so. Now the hon. member has not clearly explained what power that is by which we are to be forced, but I admit that some grounds for the argument may be drawn from the despatch of the Colonial Minister, who says it is the strong desire of the British Government that we should go into Confederation. But whether he thinks that despatch is to force us into the Union, or whether it is some power in the Colonies, I do not understand. Whatever power it is I do not know how we could respect a Government of which we stand in dread. Up to the present time we have been proud to look to the British flag, not in dread, or as a coercive, but as a protective power; and I do not think, therefore, that we have anything to fear in that direction. When the Governors of the different Colonies were at Downing Street,

we have reason to believe that they were instructed to use their influence to carry Confederation; but I am at a loss to know why any force should be brought to bear upon us.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN. Will the hon. member allow me to put him right? I did not suggest, either in my remarks, or by the Resolution which I have submitted, that any force was to be used. Then why should the hon. member dwell so long upon that word?

Mr. HOWAT. Well, I may have mistaken the tenor of the hon. member's remarks, but that was the impression they left upon my mind; and I cannot believe that the British Government, which has always protected the Colonies, would now force us into Confederation. The amendment proposed by the hon. member (Mr. Whelan) is certainly very moderately worded; but it admits the principle of Confederation, and, therefore, I will oppose it. I do not think the Resolutions of the hon. the Leader of the Government are too strong; but I had a small objection to them, which was, that while they do not admit the principle of Confederation, as applicable to this Island, yet I was afraid that they were admitting it in regard to the other Colonies. However, as some hon. members think it will not bear that construction, I am willing to waive that objection, though I consider that there is a pressure brought to bear upon the other Colonies, which, in my opinion, is hardly constitutional. And I would regret, to the latest day of my life were I in any way to assist in strengthening that pressure, which might result in carrying Confederation. I believe the day has come when we must make a stand for the preservation of our independence; for, when we see a pressure brought to bear upon the other Colonies, we may be sure that our turn is coming. If the other Colonies go into Confederation, no doubt a pressure will be brought to bear upon us also; and then does it not remain for us to make a united effort to resist any attempt to take away our constitution, our revenue, and, I might almost say, everything else belonging to us? I was opposed to Confederation last year, for I saw there was danger even in admitting the principle of it, and I am just as much, or more, opposed to it now. Suppose, for argument sake, we should even go into Confederation with terms with which we would be satisfied, would we be safe then? I should say no. Does not the British Government recognize the right to change the constitution? Now, if this is the case, though I do not profess to have any great knowledge in constitutional matters, I believe that, even if we should go into it with the most favourable terms, the Federal Government would have power to change the constitution, and therefore we would not be secure.

Hon. Sol. GENERAL: I would like to know what authority has laid down a constitutional law of that kind?

Mr. HOWAT: Well, it appears to me that the constitution of the United States is undergoing a change; and if we go to former times we will see that even the British Constitution has undergone a change. Surely then, if those constitutions have been changed, it is reasonable to suppose that an agreement of this kind might be changed also. And considering that we would be such a small portion of the Confederacy, our voice would not be heard in it. We would be the next thing to nothing. Indeed I would almost as soon be without any voice in it at all. We would be as small a minority as the hon. member on my right (Hon. Mr. Laird) and myself are in this House. Are we then going to surrender our rights and liberties? It is just a question of "self or no self." Talk about a local Legislature! It would be a mere farce. We would not even have the control of our local affairs, for every trifling or petty bill would have to be sent to Ottawa for

the approval of the Federal Government. This House would be dwindled down to a level with the small municipal bodies throughout Canada for the management of local affairs. Again I say that, for the good of the country, I will waive any objections I have to the Resolutions of his Honor the Leader of the Government, and will give them my hearty support; believing, as I do, that we require a united effort to resist any invasion of our rights and liberties. Taking away the constitution of a country is a serious affair. We have now the management of our own matters; and if one party does not please us, we can have another; but the moment we would go into Confederation we would cease to have any control even of matters which concern ourselves. The other colonies speak of us now with the greatest contempt, and then what chance would we have? All we would get would be by begging. Therefore, I will resist, to the utmost of my power, any attempt, either to drive or lead us into Confederation.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES: When this question came before us last year, there was a Resolution submitted by which the members who supported it would be pledged to support the Quebec Scheme; and as I was not in favour of that scheme, I opposed that Resolution, but still I am in favour of Confederation on fair terms. It has been argued by the hon. member for the East Point (Mr. Hensley) that, as attempts have been made to force it upon the people of New Brunswick, that, therefore, we should not admit even the principle. He believes we have a Constitution which cannot be taken away from us without the consent of the people. Well, then, if we have, how can an affirmation of the principle draw us into Confederation? I shall support the Resolution of the hon. member for St. Peter's, (Mr. Whelan,) which states that no action is to be taken till after a general election; and I am glad to be able now to express my opinion, so that, at the election the constituency I represent may return a member who is opposed to it if they desire to do so. I think it is better fairly and openly to state one's opinion so that there may be no mistake or misconception about it. Attempts have been made to draw a parallel between the Union of the Colonies and the Union of Ireland with Great Britain; but I cannot see any similarity between them. An agitation has been kept up in Ireland for many years, chiefly on account of religious disabilities, but which I believe will soon be done away with my objections to the Quebec Scheme were on a financial basis. Eighty cents a head, with the light duty adjusted on a fair basis, and, in view of the comparative smallness of our debt, would be entitled to the interest of something like a half a million of money. When we consider that for five or six months of the year we are bound up by ice, and the great tide of prosperity by the railroad would be rolling past us, I admit that, taking that peculiarity of our position into view, we should get a greater sum than 80 cents per head, which would only be about one third of our revenue. All they would pay for us would not amount to a great deal. I think the grant should be doubled; then there would not be so much objection to that scheme. As to being swamped in the Legislature, I have no fear of being treated with injustice. We see what influence a few men bees of Ireland going into the British Parliament have, and it would be the same here. Even if they were disposed to treat us with injustice, they could not accomplish it. My colleague has said that our small population would become less in proportion to the other colonies; but I do not look upon it in that light. We have plenty of unoccupied land yet, which, together with the fisheries would absorb a large population. I am quite satisfied to remain as we are; but I do not think, with the hon. member from St. Peter's, that whether we agree to have it or not will have little influence on this question. I think it is a proof that there is a pressure brought to bear upon the other Colonies that, while last year their was only a small minority in favour of Confederation, this year they passed Resolutions in favour of it, and yet it is pretty well known that a large majority of the people are opposed to it. Therefore, the inference is that if there is such a pressure on the large Colonies, we, of course, will have to follow. From the time these Colonies were wrested from French, till the intro-

duction of Responsible Government, they were governed by the "old family compact," as it were called; but now Great Britain says "you are 34 millions of people, and it is time for you to unite and look forward to the period when you will become a great Monarchy, and one of the first Powers in the World." These Provinces have almost every element of greatness, and they are peopled by a superior race of mankind. Great Britain also knows that we have a great and powerful neighbour on our borders, and we would be much more easily absorbed, it is stated, than if united. Many persons say they would rather be absorbed into the American Union than be confederated with Canada; but they surely do not consider the enormous taxation to which annexation to the United States would subject us. I think the Resolutions of the Hon. the Leader of the Government are very strong; and I do not believe with the hon. member from the East Point (Mr. Hensley) that our Constitution would not be taken away from us—that Great Britain would still protect us, if we rejected Confederation. It is too much to expect that she would do so. It is the policy of the British Government to unite the Colonies; and I think our duty is not to go flat in the face of the Despatch before us, and say we will not go into the Union on any terms. Great Britain will say we are sorry we cannot fall into your views; but your geographical position is such that you must go into Confederation. But if our Constitution cannot be taken away without the consent of the people, I do not see how it can prejudice us to admit the principle.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH: I would be glad if the hon. member would define his intention as to how far he would admit the principle. If we do not admit the principle we may have the right of submitting terms upon which we would enter the Union, and to which Her Majesty's Government might accede; but the moment we admit the principle we must submit to the Imperial Government or a Board of Delegates, and I would ask what would be our fate if the question were submitted to either?

Hon. Mr. DAVIES: I do not see how, merely admitting the principle, would prejudice our interests. I do not wish to send Delegates to England on the question; but suppose we did do so, it does not follow that we are to go into Confederation on any terms that may be dictated to us, if our constitution cannot be taken away.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH: If you do not admit the principle.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES: That does not follow. I believe that if we refuse to adopt the views of Great Britain on this question, she both can and will take away our Constitution. I think she has been preparing us for it.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: I do not see that there is anything before us that would lead us to think that we will be deprived of our Constitution if we do not go into Confederation; neither do I think we have any reason to fear such a result; and why then should we be asked to surrender it voluntarily? For my part, I see nothing to induce us to go into a Union with Canada. If the Canadians take it into their heads to agitate a Union of the Colonies, that is no reason that we should do so too. It is for ourselves to say whether we will go into the Union or not. I have no inclination to go into the Union; for I do not see what we would gain by it. Our expenses and taxes would be increased, and our liberties would be curtailed. As our time to represent the people has nearly expired, we should leave the Constitution of the country as we found it, and if the people desire a change it will be for them to say so at the next election. There was nothing about this question when we were elected; and I do not think there is any necessity to discuss it at such great length now, for it is pretty well understood in the country. The Resolutions

are strong; but, perhaps, it is necessary that they should be so. If the people wish for Confederation at the next election, well and good; but I would have nothing to do with it at present. We are not offered anything to induce us to go into the Union. We would get eighty cents per head, and never to increase. All the Colonies are progressing, and why should not this Island do so too. We need not, so far as I can see, expect fair play if we go into the Union, and I will, therefore, support the Resolutions introduced by the Hon. the Leader of the Government.

Mr. HOWLAN: It is very amusing to listen to the Confederationists. They are not in favour of Confederation on the terms of the Quebec report as it—not they. We are to propose our own terms—to say what we will do and what we will not do—but hear the Resolution which they introduced last year:—

“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.”

Hon. Mr. WHELAN: That is not fair.

Mr. HOWLAN: It is quite fair; I have listened to the speech of the hon. member (Hon. Mr. Whelan) attentively, and I perceive that his views have undergone a change since last year. It is very gratifying to know that he has seen the error of his ways. The advocates of Union desire something more this year than we would get by the Quebec Scheme. Now, suppose that a change has taken place, and no basis is laid down with regard to the financial part of the Scheme, what would our position, or what would our influence be? I might refer to Rhode Island, but that is an old story now. It would be said, “Who are you that attempt to raise your head? A little isolated place like Prince Edward Island attempting to raise your voice!” Some say now, “What do you suppose that little Prince Edward Island will be allowed to stand in the way of this magnificent Union?” Then, why ask us to say yes or no? Why sit here discussing the question when members are so anxious to get home. It is said that we are only 80,000 people—that we are not able to protect ourselves—and, therefore, we must go into the Union. And, say some hon. members, “If you do not go into the Union the Army and Navy of Great Britain will not protect you;” but I have higher authority for stating that the Army and Navy of Great Britain will protect us. Mr. Gladstone says that the Imperial Government pledges itself to protect, to the utmost of its power, every British subject in British North America. [Cries of—No! No!] I say Mr. Gladstone does say so; and he is a member of the House of Commons, and quite as good a statesman as any of the hon. members who say “No.” Is not this then sufficient authority for us to say that the British Government will protect us? Is any class in this Island tired of our Constitution? There is nothing respecting which we have not the right to petition, or which we have not the right to ask for, why then should we be forced to give up our Constitution? I see gentlemen here who are older than my father, and who say we must go into Confederation. If the ruling statesmen of Canada and Nova Scotia, say that we must unite, is that any reason why we should do so? If that is the right and privilege of British subjects, I am sorry I am one; but I believe that though I live on this little Island, I have as much liberty as if I lived in London; and I feel proud that the British Government is composed of men who pledge themselves to protect us with the whole resources of the Empire. We are now told that we must unite—that the

British Flag will be swept from the seas unless we confederate;—but I remember that an hon. member (Hon. Mr. Whelan) enunciated very different views a few years ago. I do not wish to misconstrue the hon. member's sentiments—far from it—but there appears to be a sort of hallucination as about the subject; for, otherwise, his mind and those of some other hon. members, it is difficult to account for the change which their views have undergone concerning it. We are told that, whether we adopt the Quebec Report or not, we must confederate upon some terms; but I consider that we have just as much right to call upon the other Colonies to confederate as they have to call upon us. It is said that, if Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, go into the Union, we also must, for the purpose of mutual defence; but we have already placed the whole Revenue of the Colony at the disposal of the Government for putting the Island in a state of defence, and we are willing to pay our proportion for the general defence of the Colonies; but why should we be forced into Confederation against our will? If, after a general election, there should be a majority in favour of Confederation, the case would be different; but to say that we must unite with Canada is absurd. If we were considered fit to govern ourselves, and if we have conducted the business of the Colony properly for fifteen years, it does not appear reasonable to suppose that the British Government will now deprive us of our Constitution. I do not think the people of this Island are so much afraid of Confederation; but they object to being forced into it. We have, at present, as much right to tax ourselves as Canada has; but, in the event of Confederation, will we stand in the same relative position to the other Colonies as Rhode Island does to the rest of the American Union? That Island has the same representation in the United States Senate as New York. Rhode Island is the smallest part of the American Union, and I suppose we would remain for a long time the smallest part of British America; still, we have shown a disposition to do what we can to defend ourselves, and have thereby shown that we are not disloyal, but we wish to let it be seen that Confederation is not as applicable to us as to other portions of British America, and that, therefore, we are not disposed to go into a Union on the basis of the Quebec Report.

Progress reported and House adjourned at 10 minutes to 12.

TUESDAY, 8th May, 1866.

Hence in Committee of the whole on Despatches. Mr. JOHN YEO in the Chair.

Mr. CONROY. Sir, I have very little to say in addition to what I said upon the question last Session. I am decidedly opposed to Confederation. I am quite satisfied to remain as we are, and to retain the management of our own affairs. I have considered the question with all the ability and attention I could bring to bear upon it, and I have failed to discover any advantage which would accrue to us through a Federal Union with Canada. But whilst I am persuaded that we should reap no advantages from it, I am convinced that, in almost every particular, it would be highly injurious, if not absolutely ruinous to us. According to the Quebec Scheme, we would have to give up our revenue, however great its amount, in exchange for £80,000 or £10,000 per annum; and we would have to surrender to strangers the power to raise our duties of impost and excise to any amount they pleased. We would be allowed to retain our local Legislature; but of what service would the

machinery of legislature be to us, without the power to appropriate our revenue for our own immediate benefit? A great part of the allowance of £30,000 or £40,000 a year would be required to keep up the useless paraphernalia of a local Government and local Legislature. All that was said last night upon the subject, was merely a repetition of what was urged for and against the Union last Session. I have myself nothing new to advance against it; and I will, therefore, say no more but that I heartily support the Resolutions submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the Government, although I must admit I see nothing objectionable in the Resolution submitted, in amendment, by my hon. friend the member for St. Peter's (Mr. Whelan).

Hon. COL. GRAY, apologized for his absence from the House for the last two or three days; which, he explained, had been occasioned by indisposition. The Resolutions which had been submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the Government, he presumed he had before him in the Legislative Summary; but he was not exactly aware of the purport of the amendment which, it seemed, had been submitted thereto. He would, therefore, feel obliged by the Chairman's reading it for his information.

The Chairman having, in compliance with the request of the hon. and gallant Colonel, read the amendment submitted by the Hon. Mr. Whelan, he—the Hon. Col. Gray spoke as follows: I will say I am glad that I have now, in my place, an opportunity to give my opinion upon the Resolutions submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the Government. It appears to me that the House in saying,—as, by the words of the second of those Resolutions, they are made to do,—“That they cannot admit that a Federal Union of the North American Provinces and Colonies, which would include Prince Edward Island, could ever be accomplished upon terms that would prove advantageous to the interests and well-being of the people of this Island,” are in a most arrogant, and almost impious manner, assuming to themselves two of the grand attributes of the Deity—prescience and omniscience. I must say I would be very sorry to have my name, as a supporter of such a Resolution, recorded for transmission to posterity. I do not look for posthumous fame; and I regard popular applause as little, perhaps, as most public men; but I regard my own conscience, and nothing, I trust, will ever induce me to give my sanction or concurrence to any act, project, or declaration, which, through a cool and dispassionate exercise of my judgment, I cannot conscientiously approve. I regard my own conscience much more than any thought of future fame or prospect of immediate popular applause. As a parliamentary representative of the people, I endeavour to act in accordance with its dictates. On every public question which comes before the Assembly, I claim the right to exercise my conscientious judgment, independently of all party connexion or considerations; and that right I not only, most willingly concede to every other member of the House, but I most sincerely desire that, on every occasion, whatever the nature of the question at issue may be, he may freely exercise it. The hon. member from Casumpeque (Mr. Conroy) has very properly said, if I understood him aright, that nothing more than was enunciated upon the question of Federal Union, in the last Session, could now be advanced concerning it. In the last of the Resolutions against the Union, agreed to by the majority of this hon. House, last session, it is said, “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.” This, surely, was language strong enough; and its simple re-affirmance now, without the most absurd and insupportable assumption of the Divine attributes of prescience and omniscience, ought to have fully satisfied the opponents of Confederation in this House. On my return from Canada, in 1864, I publicly declared that, in my opinion, simple justice to the people demanded that no

further action, either executive or legislative, should be taken, either for or against the projected Union, until after they should have had an opportunity to pronounce concerning it at the hustings. That was my opinion then; and it is still my opinion; and, I, therefore, hold that this House is not in a position to pronounce constitutionally concerning the matter. Whether the people as yet rightly comprehend the question in all its features, it is not for me to determine. But my individual opinion is that they have not yet, through the labours of any competent and impartial instructors, been enabled to arrive at that full understanding of it, to which, before they can wisely conclude concerning it, it is necessary they should attain. So vast a subject has never before been submitted to their consideration; no question so likely to arouse their prejudices, and, with reference to which, there has been so great a probability of misconceptions on their part, has ever before been propounded to them for solution. They are called upon to deal with a matter of such gravity and importance, as may, according to their decision concerning it, either settle or unsettle the whole balance of our Constitution; and, therefore, it seems to me to be absolutely necessary that, before they form a final judgment upon it, they should be enabled to understand the measure in all its bearings, and have ability to look upon it with an enlarged and comprehensive view. I do not see, however, that any remarks made in this House, at this time, can in any way alter the state of the question; nor can I perceive that—uninstructed, as we are, by our constituents with regard to it—we can with any regard to constitutional propriety, take action upon it. Such being my view of the present state of the question, it is only in consequence of the unexampled features of the Resolutions which have been submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the Government, and which I apprehend will be sustained and carried by a majority of the House, that I have risen to offer any remarks upon the subject. The Resolution which asserts that “this House cannot admit that a Federal Union of the North American Provinces and Colonies, which would include Prince Edward Island, could ever be accomplished upon terms that would prove advantageous to the interests and well-being of the people of this Island;” shuts out every member who shall agree to it from ever again entertaining the question, how changed soever, and how much more favourable soever may be the terms upon which acceptance of Confederation may be required of the Colony. Nothing can be more preposterous than such a Resolution. We know not what changes even a single day may bring forth. And yet, as if all the events of futurity were laid open to our view, we are called upon to decide against the projected Union of these Provinces upon any terms. We talk of the Island being cut off and separated, by an impassable barrier of ice from the neighbouring Provinces. Science and art may yet overcome the obstruction of that barrier. An unobstructed intercourse and communication with the Mainland, by properly fitted Steam-propellers may yet be secured to us in the winter season. What is the barrier which Britons cannot overleap? But, if the Island is to be bound by the Resolutions in question, it will indeed be more effectually cut off and separated from the neighbouring Provinces, and—denied for ever all participation in the growing strength, wealth, and prosperity of the Confederated Provinces—it will have little prospect for the future beyond a dwarfed existence, or ultimate absorption into the neighbouring Republic. The great burthen of all the speeches which have been delivered in the Island, both in this House and out of it, against Confederation has been that the terms offered to us are not commensurate with our wants or such as our exceptional position demands that they should be—that they are not sufficiently favorable. But now, by these Resolutions, you shut yourselves out from the acceptance of any terms which may be offered, however favourable they may be. In declaring that a Union of these Provinces can never be effected on terms favourable to Prince Edward Island, you arrogate to yourselves the power of Omniscience. The hon. and gallant Colonel, then ridiculed the idea which had been put forth by some anti-con-

federates, that, in the event of the Federation's taking place, and Canada's being invaded by Fenian marauders or any other enemy, we would be called upon to send up our Militia or Volunteers to assist the Canadians to defend themselves. What probability, he asked, was there that a Province which, in obedience to a call to arms, could, within 24 hours, have an army of 150,000 well disciplined men, fully equipped, and ready to encounter whatever foe might menace or assail them, and which, besides, had at its disposal a surplus revenue of one million dollars, should stand in need of any direct aid, either of men or money from Prince Edward Island? Bankrupt Canada! The idea was most preposterous. The hon. member then significantly hinted to the Committee the very great probability that their determination to remain out of the Union, in opposition to the wishes of the Home Government, might prove a cause of such irritation as they might, when too late, have reason to repent their having provoked. As a proof that he had never contemplated the forcing of the Quebec Scheme upon the people against their will, he stated that after his return from Canada, in 1864, he had, at a public meeting of his constituents, at Belfast, told them that the question of Confederation, so far as it was intended to apply to Prince Edward Island, was one for the people—and for the people alone—to decide. The Delegates had drawn up a Report embracing a scheme of Union; but the people were at perfect liberty to accept or reject it as they themselves should think best. Because I, as one of the Island Delegates, assented to that Scheme I have been accused of having sold my country, and been stigmatised by the name of traitor, even a clergyman—I will not say of what denomination—has declared that he had been told that I had been bribed to give my assent to that Scheme. When that rather amusing charge was brought against me, it was brought equally against the other Delegates from Prince Edward Island, for we all assented to the Quebec Report, and the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Coles), who was one of us, when—after the Conference had terminated—publicly speaking of the Report, at the Dejeuner, at Ottawa, said: "He thought they (the Delegates) had reason to congratulate themselves upon the labours of the Conference. That thirty-three men, representing the various political opinions of six different Provinces, could have assembled so and amalgamated their opinions as to agree upon a Constitution suited for that great Confederation, was something, he believed, such as the world had never seen before, and showed that the Delegates were worthy of the position they held. He said this, although there was no man more disappointed than himself with respect to some parts of that constitution; but, by mutual concessions, they had arrived at a result which they could all agree in supporting and submitting to the people; for he held that it must be submitted to the people. They could not force it on the people; they must endeavour to show them that it was for their benefit, and thus induce them to accept it." The foul charge of his having been bribed to agree to the Report—a Report which was agreed to by all the Delegates—must apply equally to all the other Island Delegates; but a charge so scandalous was one which they with him, would trample under foot. By a part of the Island press, it had been said that he and his brother Delegates who were advocates of the complete Federation of these Provinces were prepared to thrust it down the throats of the people. He, on the contrary—and he wished it to go forth to the public—took the very earliest opportunity which presented itself, to publish in the papers that, in his opinion, it would be most unjust to the people to take any action with respect to the Quebec Scheme, until it should have been fairly put to them at the Meetings. The people have not had it before them, and therefore what we may say now can be but of little avail. This is the last Session of the House; and, at the ensuing General Election, every candidate for the suffrages of the peo-

ple will have an opportunity of declaring his sentiments concerning the Confederation Scheme; and such as shall be elected will take their seats in the Assembly duly instructed how they are to vote concerning it. If I be again returned to this House—I shall, according to the instructions of my constituents, know how to comport myself with respect to that momentous question. As to the appointment of Delegates to a London Convention, I do not see how His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, at the question now stands, would dare to make such an appointment. Before any step of that kind can be constitutionally taken, there must be an appeal to the people; and that appeal must be first responded to by an approval of Confederation views. I believe there are members on the floor of the House who, although adverse to the terms of the Quebec Scheme, would yet willingly vote for a reconsideration of it. I believe the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition is not opposed to a Federal Union of all the Provinces; but he wants better terms than those offered to us by the Quebec Scheme. He wants the very best terms which it may be possible for us to obtain; and so do I. His opposition to the Quebec Scheme is based upon his conviction that the terms which it accords us are not sufficiently favorable to our interests.—I am not much to the habit of looking to members in opposition for amendments to Resolutions submitted from this side of the House. I was returned to support the Conservative party; and, in good faith, I have fought with them, and done my duty in every conflict which they have had with the Opposition. In the support of any particular policy or measure to which the Conservatives have been pledged, I have never flinched. This, however, is the last Session of this House, and with it my immediate connexion with the Conservatives will cease. At the ensuing General Election, if I offer myself again as a Candidate for a seat in the Assembly, I will not do so either as a Conservative or as a Liberal; and, if elected, I will not pledge myself to support either party. I will reserve to myself the privilege of judging for myself, independently of all party considerations. The present question is not a Government question; but a free and open one; and, therefore, in voting, as I shall do, for the amendment submitted by a member of the Opposition—the hon. member for St. Peter's (Hon. Mr. Whelan)—I shall not be forsaking my party. The good sense and moderation of that amendment, especially when contrasted with the assumption, at once arrogant and fatuous, of the Resolutions to which it is opposed, so recommended it to my judgment and sense of propriety, that I can have no hesitation in voting for it. In speaking against the Resolution submitted by the Hon. Premier, I have done so on account of their binding character. As to the Resolution of amendment, I do not see how any member, on either side of the House, whatever his opinions concerning the Quebec Scheme may be, can object to it. But, by the other, we are called upon to exclude ourselves for ever from a Confederation which, in all probability, is destined to become one of the greatest nations on the earth. What are we going to ostracise ourselves from the community of our Sister Provinces? Are we going to stand alone to become the resort of smugglers, and a nest of hornets in the sides of the Confederation? Do we suppose that Her Majesty's Government will allow such a political solism? Will not our declared hostility to any scheme of Union which will include Prince Edward Island, in opposition to the well considered and truly parental desire of the Government of Great Britain, be very likely so far to exasperate them, as to cause them to legislate us into the Confederation even against our will? As to the Hon. the Leader of the Government, I have the highest respect for him, both politically and socially; and although voting against the Resolutions submitted by him, I am not voting against the Government of which he is the Leader. The Confederation question is not a Government one [Hon. Mr. Coles. It should be, though.] I will not say whether the question might or might not have been made a Government question. A Government question, however, it could not have been made constitutionally without an appeal to the people. But I will ask how can the hon. the Leader of the Government now tell that his own or other constituents are at present opposed to Confederation, even although he may have had reason to believe they were so at the time of the last general election. Instances of a most serious character have occurred since then; and in consequence perhaps,

in some districts they who were formerly opposed to Confederation, may now be in favor of it. The great objection has been to the terms offered us by the Quebec Scheme; but not, I believe, generally to Federation on any terms. Thinking men who, at first, were opposed to it, may now take another view of it; and recognize the possibility of our obtaining better terms, if, through a constitutional channel, we should be wise enough to seek them. In accepting the Premier's Resolutions, the Committee will be blindly committing themselves to a rejection of they know not what. Not a member of the Committee knows how the Quebec Scheme of Confederation may yet be modified; and, therefore, I say every member who may now vote in favor of those Resolutions, may afterwards find that, by having done so, he has bound himself to reject terms of Union, which, in his own judgment, he is forced to admit could not, if accepted, fail to be for the lasting benefit and welfare of the country. Can anything be more absurd than such a course as this? To bind ourselves down to reject terms of Federation which, perhaps, may be of so favorable a character, and so advantageous to us, that, if accepted, they would, in a manner, pour down showers of gold upon us! I cannot see the soundness of the spirit in which these Resolutions have been conceived; and I fear the acceptance of them, by the Committee, may so far exasperate the Home Government, that we may have much reason to regret the determination which they express. The hon. and gallant Colonel, then, referring to the time when, not long since, he had the honor to fill the post of President of the Executive Council, and to the part, which, with the concurrence of his hon. colleagues therein, he then took with a view to the accomplishment of a Federation of the whole of the British North American Provinces and Colonies,—said, he hoped that, not only such of those hon. gentlemen as still agreed with him in opinion as to the desirability of such Federation, but also such of them as now differed with him, on that subject, would kindly bear with his free and independent expression of his sentiments concerning it and the Hon. Premier's Resolutions then before the Committee; and that although, as respected those Resolutions, he stood forward politically opposed to some hon. gentlemen, of whom, not long since, he was a colleague in the Government, he should not, on that account, have any reason to believe that he could not still amicably look upon them as his friends. The Government of Great Britain, continued the hon. gentleman, had ever been truly parental to this Island as well as to our sister Provinces, and our opposition to what the Imperial Government were thoroughly convinced would be for our lasting benefit, could not be viewed, by them, in any other light than that of a most ungrateful return for benefits and privileges, which Great Britain had most abundantly and generously showered upon us; and we could not, therefore, reasonably expect that she would submit to be thwarted, by that ungrateful opposition, with respect to so grand a scheme as the Confederation of the British North American Provinces—the inauguration of another great power in the world. The Hon. and gallant Colonel—after again expressing a fear that the determined rejection of Confederation upon any terms, by the House, would so exasperate the Imperial Government as to cause them to determine concerning us, as respected Confederation; according to the practice of resolute parents when necessitated to enforce submission on the part of refractory and disobedient children—concluded by saying he gave his hearty support to the Resolution of amendment submitted by the hon. member for St. Peter's (Hon. Mr. Whelan.)

Hon. Mr. McEACHEN. It appeared from the great sensitiveness of some hon. members on the subject of bribery, that only to hint the possibility of their being accessible to the influence of bribes, was a crime almost as gross as blasphemy. But we knew that no man was infallible; and that traitors had been found in higher circles than any in which those hon. but sensitive gentlemen had ever moved in, or were likely ever to move in. The hon. member who had spoken last had ridiculed the idea of Canada, with her army of 150,000 disciplined men being saved through the aid of little Prince Edward Island; but we had read of a lion's having been saved by a mouse. It was crouching and cowardly to accept the idea that Great Britain would ever force us into Confederation against our will. What reasons could Mr. Cardwell have to assign for so arbitrary a step? We were not disloyal, we were not traitors. The terms of the Quebec Scheme were unjust to us in every point of view—most glaringly so in a financial one—but the wrong done to us in that respect, would be light indeed when compared with the loss of our liberty—the loss of the power to regulate our own affairs.

Hon. Mr. COLES denied that he had ever agreed to the Quebec Scheme, and declared that when he found that,

financially, it was impossible to obtain justice for Prince Edward Island, he told the Conference that they had better leave us out of the Scheme altogether. The hon. gentleman then argued that the only means by which we could escape being dragged into the Union, was positively to declare that we would not enter into it upon any terms. Unless we declared ourselves altogether hostile to the Scheme, we would be dragged in. It was true that the Home Government had not endeavored to compel our acceptance of the Scheme by threats of compulsion. Although we are the smallest of the Provinces, Mr. Cardwell knows better than to do that. Let us, then, decidedly take our stand against our being included in the projected Union, resolved not to be comprehended in it, until we find that we can no longer keep out. Some Confederates argued that if we agreed to go into the Union, even upon the proposed terms, there would be no insuperable difficulty, after its consummation, in the way of our obtaining better terms, should our claims be fully urged by our representatives in the Federal Parliament. Such an idea was absurd in the extreme. Of obtaining better terms, or even a revision of our claims, through the exertions on our behalf of our members, in the Federal House of Commons, opposed to 147 Canadian members, we should just have as little chance as a cat without claws in Hell. It was folly, indeed, to think that we might go into the Federation, and then obtain better terms than were offered to us by the Quebec Scheme. The Canadian statesmen thought we were too well off in being free from direct taxation; but, happily, free from burdens of that kind as we were, we had quite enough to do with all our money. The hon. gentlemen then commented on the Government with respect to the Confederation Question,—four members of it, in the Legislature, arguing in favor of Union, against five opposed to it. For a Government when so divided in opinion concerning the most important, the most vital question that the Government and Parliament of any country could be called upon to entertain—the remodelling of its Constitution and Government,—was a thing unheard of. In the British Parliament, it was never found that, upon important questions, one member of the Administration voted in one way, and another, in another. It was said by those who argued in favour of Confederation, that if we valued British institutions, if we valued our rights and privileges as British subjects, we would accede to Confederation. He, however, maintained that were we to become a member of the projected Union, we would actually be deprived of all these, and retrograde a century. Confederation, instead of being a means of binding us more closely and indissolubly to the British Crown, would, eventually, be the cause of our separation from it. The moment the Upper House should come into collision with the Lower House, some extreme measure would be had recourse to. Should we, however, remain as we were, we would be safe. If we entered into Confederation, we would be much more in danger of quarrelling with the United States than we are now. As we were, should we be assailed by the United States, what would Great Britain do with us, but protect us? The glory argument was, that, by confederating with Canada and the other Provinces, we should become part and parcel of a great nation; but the people of Prince Edward Island knew themselves to be already part and parcel of a great nation, and they had no desire to belong to any other. As to defence, we were quite willing to contribute our full quota for that purpose according to our ability. We were told that, as it was the positive desire of the Home Government that we should agree

to confederate, we would be looked upon as rebels if we did not. No fear of that. So long, said the hon. gentleman, as Great Britain shall allow us to remain in our present independent position, there will be no fear of our assuming towards her any thing like a disloyal or rebellious attitude; and a manifestation of our sacred regard for the priceless boon of Self-Government, which she has conferred upon us, and our determination to retain it unimpaired, as long as we shall be able to do so, will never be looked upon by her as a proof of disaffection, but rather as an undeniable evidence of our most just and grateful appreciation of that inestimable blessing. What drove Canada into rebellion was the Home Government's refusal to grant her Responsible or Self Government; and what had brought her back to loyalty and affection was the conferring upon her, under a free representative Constitution, the full control and management of her own revenues and affairs. Great Britain will know that the boon of Responsible or Self-Government was the greatest which she could confer upon any of her Dependencies or Colonies, and that which bound them most strongly in loyalty and affection to her; and, as respected any Colony or Dependency, upon which she had conferred that privilege, as long as it continued true in its allegiance to her, and obedient to the laws, and desired to retain that form of Government in all its independent integrity, so long, he firmly believed, would she consider it to be beyond the constitutional stretch, even of her Imperial power, either to suspend or withdraw that form of Government from such Colony or Dependency, or even to impair it. We had not obtained that form of Government by rebellion, but by an exercise of constitutional means; and, both as account of the mode by which we had obtained it, and the happy manner in which—although even to the establishment of universal manhood suffrage—we had carried its privileges into practice, we were entitled to the especial consideration of the Home Government; and, he doubted not, we would receive it. Hon. members who advocated our being embraced by the Confederation Scheme had very plainly hinted their belief that if we did not, of our own accord, agree to enter it, the Home Government would compel us to do so; but he did not believe that the British Parliament would allow us to be coerced. Hon. members may refer to speeches made by me in Canada, and endeavour, by attaching undue weight to the import of some isolated expressions which I then, perhaps rather unguardedly made us of, to shew that I then approved of the Quebec Scheme; but, at the same time, these hon. members well know, in their hearts, that I was not so; and you, yourself, Mr. Chairman, might, I think, testify so much in my behalf, for you will, doubtless, recollect that when I met you, in New Brunswick, on my way home from the Quebec Conference, I told you it would be impossible for Prince Edward Island to go into Confederation upon the terms of the Quebec Scheme, without a sacrifice of her independence, and of her best and dearest interests; and that, therefore, I was decidedly opposed to the Island's being included in it. But, even granting that, as has been said, I changed my views concerning Confederation after my return from Canada to Prince Edward Island, what will that matter? If we are never to change our views concerning any measure which may be projected, of what use is our debating upon it. In a Legislature, if members were never to be allowed to change their opinions, there would be no chance whatever of reform, and abuses would for ever remain unredressed. In Great Britain, every reform, every rectification of wrong, every redress of grievances, which has been effected by parliamentary action has been brought about by a change of opinion, and infrequently both with-

out, as well as within, the walls of Parliament. It has been said, by some hon. members, that with our tariff lower than that of the Federation we would not be left out, because in that case we would become the resort of smugglers; but, I believe, if the people would submit to be governed by the opinion of mercantile men, and consent to the abolition of customs and impost duties, and fully establish free-trade privileges, and have recourse to direct taxation in lieu of those duties, they would find the change a most beneficial one. It was also said by hon. members who advocated Confederation, that no action should be taken with respect to it, by the Assembly, until it should have been fairly put before the people at the coming General Election. Well, we would all be glad, no doubt, to have an opportunity of again appealing to the people. When we do so, they will certainly wish to know who of the candidates for their suffrages, are in favour of Confederation, and who are opposed to it; and I am quite willing that "Confederation or No Confederation" shall be the issue to be submitted to the people for their determination, and the test of the fitness of candidates for election. As respects the amendment, said the hon. gentleman, if we vote for it, we shall vote for Confederation; and yet, most inconsistently, it concludes by saying that, in the opinion of this House no vote should be passed by the Legislature of this country in favor of Confederation until the people shall first have been afforded an opportunity of pronouncing their judgment on the question at a General Election. Now, as I do not wish to go into what I said last Session, I will be brief in any further remarks which I have to make touching the subject. As respects the Resolutions which have been submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the Government, I will now merely observe that, had I been consulted concerning them, I would have advised the striking out of the middle one, and the retention of only the first and last. I know not what pressure has been brought to bear upon the Government, but I believe some has, and the effect has been the bringing down of the Resolutions in their present form. As they stand, however, I will vote for them. I certainly was once, I must confess, in favor of a Federal Union of these Provinces, because I was of opinion that it would give us greater weight at the Colonial Office, where the influence of the large proprietors had always prevailed against us to the hinderance of any fair and equitable settlement of the Land Question. But now I am fully convinced that any advantage we might, on that score, derive from our confederating with the other Provinces, would be far overbalanced by the losses which it would, politically, commercially, and financially, directly bring upon us; and, therefore, with the qualifications which I have already made with respect to them, I am prepared unhesitatingly to vote for the Resolutions of the Hon. the Leader of the Government. I do not wish to say any thing harsh against those hon. members who differ with me on this question. If we went into the proposed Union, we would be at the mercy of those who do not think as we do on the subject of parliamentary representation. We have universal manhood suffrage and an elective Legislative Council; but they have neither. I think that, if we, in little Prince Edward Island, be left as we are, we shall be able to manage our own affairs quite as well as the people of Canada have managed theirs, and indeed, I believe a great deal better. We are told that Her Majesty the Queen is earnest in her desire that such a scheme of Confederation as will, without exception, embrace all these Provinces, shall speedily be carried into effect; and that, if we oppose ourselves to that earnest desire of Her most gracious Majesty—a desire entertained by her solely in consequence of her belief that such Confede-

ration would afford the best security for the preservation of our free British institutions and for the promotion of the present and future well-being of the whole—we shall justly lay ourselves open to the imputation of disloyalty. From this view of the question, I, however, wholly dissent. I sincerely believe, indeed, that our good and gracious Queen is, at all times, animated by a truly parental solicitude and regard for the well-being of her faithful subjects, in every quarter of her immense empire; but I do not believe that she will ever determine to manifest that solicitude and regard towards any portion of them, constituting a people, by urging them to do that which they believe will be either fatal to their best and dearest interests, or at least be greatly injurious to them. I do not, therefore, believe that Her gracious Majesty, if duly informed of our unwillingness—and of the grounds of that unwillingness—to be included in the projected Confederation of these Provinces, will ever consent to our being coerced into it; or that, because—after the experience of a long and, upon the whole, successful management of our own affairs—we presume to know better, than we believe she can possibly do, what is best for our own interests, she will ever be brought to think of us as a disobedient or disloyal people. But besides, Sir, I do not believe that the question of the Confederation of these Provinces has ever been submitted to Her Majesty for the purpose of ascertaining her views concerning it, or that she has really, of herself, expressed any opinion either for or against it—any wish either that it should or should not take place. Her present ministers are, indeed, in favor of it; and, in the usual ministerial style, when recommending it, they give to their own views the semblance of the Royal will. But all this we fully understand; and we know that neither in Parliament nor out of Parliament, are parties or individuals opposing an administration ever, on account of such opposition, accused of disloyalty to the Sovereign. Therefore to say that we shall deservedly subject ourselves to the imputation of disloyalty, if, on the question of Confederation, we oppose the views of Her Majesty's Ministers—men who, although in power to-day, may, to-morrow, have to give place to others of a different way of thinking—is truly absurd. As respected the hints which had been thrown out concerning the probability of our obtaining, by means of Delegates to the proposed London Convention, the concession of better terms than those which are offered to us by the Quebec Scheme of Confederation, he was fully persuaded that, should any attempt of that kind be made, it would be altogether futile. The leading Canadian statesmen and the Home Government were pledged to the integrity of the Quebec Scheme; and, even although the Home Government might be found willing to have it modified, either for the benefit of Prince Edward Island, or that of any of the Lower Provinces, leading Canadians had declared that no modification whatever of that scheme should be made, and that, rather than it should, Canada would declare herself independent of the Mother Country and defy the power of Great Britain to control her. To show how really small are the chances of our obtaining, by any means, better terms than those which are offered us by the Quebec scheme, I will read from an article on this point from the Quebec "Weekly Citizen," of 6th May, 1866. The hon. gentleman then read as follows:

(From the Weekly Citizen, 5th May, 1866.)

Mr. Cartier, in the Canadian Parliament, in 1865, in reply to a speech of the Hon. Mr. Dorion, intimating that the British Government might introduce into the Act to be passed by the Imperial Parliament features not contemplated by the original Resolutions, said:—

"In reply to what the hon. member for Hochelaga has just said, I shall merely tell the honorable members of this House that they need not take alarm at the apprehensions and predictions of these hon. gentlemen. I have already declared in my own name, and on behalf of the Government, that the delegates who go to England will accept from the Imperial Government no act but one based on the Resolutions adopted by this House, and they will not bring back any other. I have pledged my word of honor and that of the Government to that effect."

Will this satisfy the opponents of the Quebec Scheme in the country, how unsubstantial and insincere are the representations

that have been made as to the possibility of the terms of Union being changed? If not, if anything more is wanted to convince them, let them read the following from the *Journal de Québec*, the organ of Mr. Cochebon, an able and influential supporter of the McDonald Cartier Ministry and of their Confederation policy:—

"The Canadian Parliament has adopted a scheme of constitution which has been approved of by England, and that of Nova Scotia has adopted a simple resolution which permits the Government of the Empire to determine its future lot. The first Province numbers more than three millions of inhabitants; the second has but three hundred thousand. Which of these two Provinces will make its opinions prevail in the Council of the Sovereign? Moreover, if it is the Parliament of Nova Scotia which has adopted the resolution of which we have just spoken, it is the Parliament of Canada which has adopted the plan of the Quebec Convention, and our Ministers cannot renounce it without the consent of the same authority. Hence we may, and do say that if the Delegates should go to England, on the invitation of the Imperial Government, before the opening of our Legislature, they must go there to maintain absolutely the plan of the Quebec Convention; and England, even if she desires it, could not go beyond that, because she NEITHER WOULD NOR COULD RETAIN CANADA AGAINST HER WILL."

The hon. gentleman then argued that, such being the opinions of the fathers of the Confederation Scheme—and as, in all probability, the Delegates who should be appointed to the London Convention, as well on the part of the Lower Provinces as on the part of the Canadas, would be such as had already pledged themselves to support the Quebec Scheme in its entirety—any Delegates from Prince Edward Island who might be appointed to that Convention for the purpose of obtaining a modification in the Quebec Scheme favourable to our interests, would—however talented, and however zealous they might be in their endeavours to obtain such a modification of it—be overborne and outweighed by the Canadian Delegates. In further evidence of the soundness and tenability of my opinion, said the hon. gentleman, I will read another short passage with reference to the same point from a late number of *La Minerve*, the Hon. Mr. Cartier's own organ. He then read as follows:

"The position taken in Nova Scotia requires the formation of a new Convention at London, for the elaboration of a scheme to be presented to the Imperial Government. This Convention, as we have already said, will have little to do since THE QUEBEC SCHEME CANNOT BE AMENDED."

The hon. gentleman then concluded by saying, that these opinions concerning the Quebec Scheme, expressed in so ambiguous language, fully warranted, he thought, his belief that neither by any appointment of Delegates to the London Convention, nor by any other means to which it was possible for us to have recourse, could we either procure the framing and adoption of such a new scheme as we could approve of, or such a modification of the terms of the Quebec one as would render it worthy of our acceptance. Prince Edward Island, would, therefore, in his opinion, act wisely in remaining as she is—leaving to others the hazardous experiment of abandoning their present several independent and assured positions to engage in an untried connexion, and to assume burthens and responsibilities, the weight of which is unknown.

Hon. SOL GENERAL: I would like to give some explanation respecting a clause in the Quebec Report referring to the manner in which the Legislative Councillors for this Island were to be selected. The hon. member has laid down the theory that, by that Report, the Councillors were not to be selected from the Council as it stands, and no doubt, he said, the Canadians would not select them for particular reasons; but I say to you, Mr. Chairman, and to this House, and to the public, that the clause referred to, was placed in the Report at the unanimous request of the Delegates of Prince Edward Island, because we considered it unfair that, as the other Colonies had nominative Councils, and we had our elective one, the choice should be narrowed down to twelve or thirteen hon. members who were elected by constituencies, and make them Councillors for life. We considered that they should have the length and the breadth of the Island to choose from. That, I considered a sound principle.

Mr. DUNCAN: If they were chosen from the Council there would be some probability at least that they would be the choice of the people; but very little respect was paid to the wishes of the people. The members of the

Council were elected by men of property, and therefore, are more likely to be fit to be members of the Federal Council than men chosen by the Government of Canada, which knew nothing about the Island, and cared less.

Hon. Sol. GENERAL: The hon. member himself has laid down the principle that the members of Council should possess a property qualification, and 'real and personal estate' was placed in the Constitution at the suggestion of the hon. the Leader of the Opposition. He showed that, if it was confined to freehold, it would not be fair, because many tenants on the Island were as well qualified as freeholders. When he threw out that suggestion the other Island Delegates were in favor of it; and it should be remembered that they were to be chosen by the Federal Government, not by the Canadian Government. If members of the House and the people would look upon it independently of party views, and if they were asked whether they would have them chosen from the Council or have the whole Island to choose from, I believe nine-tenths would pronounce in favor of the mode adopted in the Report.

Mr. DUNCAN: I was not opposed to a property qualification, either real or personal; but I said, and I think it is very strange, that they should be taken from the Councils in the other Provinces, and this Island be made an exception. The views of both parties were to be respected; but it is very possible that they had little prospect of finding persons favorable to their views in the Council of this Island. Whatever it was, I hope it will never be put to the test; for I hope we will never have more to do with them in that way than we have at present.

Hon. J. C. POPE: It is not my intention to occupy the attention of the Committee for any length of time; but, regarding the remarks made by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, I must object to the principle that some members of the Government disagreeing with others should resign. On the contrary, I think they should state their views on this great question freely and independently. We know that the hon. member agreed to the Report of the Delegates at Quebec, as well as members of the Government. Therefore, having been assented to by both sides, it could scarcely be expected that it would be brought down as a Government measure; and suppose it had, there is a majority in the Government opposed to the Quebec Scheme, who do not think that Prince Edward Island should go into Confederation with Canada. And how is a Government to be carried on in the country? Suppose some members favorable to Confederation should resign—the Leader of the Opposition was favorable to it himself, and how would a Government be formed? Under all the circumstances, I do not think a resignation was called for, and it was so understood when Resolutions were introduced by myself last year. It was plainly stated that it was a free and open question, and that members could not as they thought proper. Allusion has been made to some pressure brought to bear upon the Government.

Hon. Mr. COLES: I only repeated what the hon. the Solicitor General said.

Hon. J. C. POPE: I do not acknowledge a pressure from any quarter so long as I represent the views of the people and the majority of the Legislature. If a pressure were brought to bear upon me I would not hold the position which I occupy to-day. If the question were put to me I would, perhaps, say the Resolutions are stronger than I desire; but, at the same time, there is a necessity at present to make them strong, so that there can be no possibility of

mistaking what the views of the Legislature are. It has been said that Confederation could not be carried without an appeal to the people. In Nova Scotia it was not submitted to the people. In two or three places where elections were held, the friends of the Scheme were rejected; but now there is a Delegation to be sent to England to arrange a Scheme of Confederation, and that Scheme is the Quebec Scheme. It would be useless for us to send Delegates. This Island is so small in comparison with Canada and the other Provinces, that they would have no influence beyond the proportionate extent of country they would represent. I believe the Governor of New Brunswick has taken an improper course. The Quebec Scheme was rejected at the polls; and how could the Governor carry on the business of the country with a Government opposed to the wishes of the people? Therefore, it behoves this House to pass stronger Resolutions than it would, perhaps, otherwise do, because I do think that if Nova Scotia and New Brunswick go into the Union, this Island must, sooner or later, go in also. At the same time we will not be told by the British Government that we must go in, but a pressure will be brought to bear upon us, and we will be made to feel that it will be for our own interest to go in. The reason the Resolutions were made so strong was that a large majority might support them, for if they were not strong, while there is such a strong feeling in the House and in the country, stronger Resolutions would be introduced, and parties would be split up. One or two more, perhaps, may declare in favor of Confederation than voted for it last year; but the course pursued by the Colonial Secretary last year was such that members were debarred from voting on the abstract question of a Union of the Colonies. I dare say some will be prepared to vote against the Resolutions; but, as I believe that ninety-nine out of every hundred of the people are against Confederation, I think we, as their representatives, are bound to represent or express their views, even though the matter has not been submitted to them at an election. And as to the Government not being composed of members who are all favorable to the Quebec Scheme, if so, the Leader of the Opposition would support the Government, and we would have no Opposition at all. Now, there are two or three points in that Scheme which I particularly object to, though I do not intend to go into the details. Representation by population is not fair as regards this country. Where there are large towns there are not so many different interests as there are in a country like this. Therefore, I do not believe in it as a principle. It is not favorably looked upon by reformers of the present day. Even Earl Russell does not believe in representation by population. As was said here last year, by that rule London would have more representatives than Scotland. If I had acted as a delegate when the delegates from Canada were here, and when they laid it down that they would not entertain the question at all, unless representation by population were acceded to, I would stopped there and said no, I will not agree to it and I blame the Leader of the Opposition and those other delegates who agreed to it. They should not have done so; for it is one of the strongest objections to that scheme. The Solicitor General says he was opposed to Legislative Union; but, in my opinion, that is the proper Union for us to have if we have any. If we have a Parliament in Canada, what do we want with a Governor and Legislative Council and House of Assembly here? It is considered the next thing to a farce now. We are looked upon as too small to have a Government and Legislature. The thing would be absurd. If the Colonies were confederated, and we had our Local Legislature, you would not get a man of intelligence and independence to come

here and go through the farce of legislating. The Island would dwindle down to the position of a small rotten borough. These are two of the strongest objections I have to the Quebec Scheme. I do not find fault with gentlemen for adhering to what they agreed to in Canada; but I do not think it was fair for the Canadians to come here and say "We will not entertain the question unless you acknowledge this principle." The Leader of the Opposition said he would rather see the middle paragraph struck out of the Resolutions. So would I; but I said they were here for the House to deal with them as it thought proper. The Resolution says:—

"This House cannot admit that a Federal Union of the North American Colonies, that would include Prince Edward Island, could ever be accomplished upon terms that would prove advantageous to the interests and well-being of the people of this Island, out off and separated as it is, and must ever remain, from the neighboring Provinces, by an immovable barrier of ice for many months in the year; and this House deems it to be its sacred and imperative duty to declare and record its conviction, as it now does, that any Federal Union of the North American Colonies, that would include Prince Edward Island, would be as hostile to the feelings and wishes, as it would be opposed to the best and most vital interests of its people."

Now, that is the strong part of the Resolutions; but what is meant is that we presume that no terms could be got from the Canadians, that would be just and acceptable to the people of this Island. But once make an admission that we are favorable to a Union and there is a probability of our being dragged into it in such a way that we could not well extricate ourselves from it. As I believe these Resolutions represent the views of the majority of the people, I have, so far, very little objection to them. I am prepared to vote for them as they are; and, if the House should choose to strike out the middle paragraph, I would care very little about it. The Resolutions of last year were strong, and the first Resolution here conveys all that is required to confirm them; which, for me, would have been strong enough. I said, Sir, on rising, that I did not intend to prolong the debate, and it may be considered presumption in me to criticise the amendment of the hon. member for St. Peter's (Mr. Whelan); but I do not think I can give him credit for its being a very able and straightforward Resolution. It says:

"RESOLVED, as the opinion of this House, that the Confederation of Her Majesty's American Colonial Possessions would be—while in conformity with Her Majesty's frequently expressed desire—conducive to their welfare, separately and collectively. * * * * But inasmuch as the people of Prince Edward Island do not appear to be prepared to regard with any favor the project of Confederation, it is unwise to press it upon public attention, as its discussion is only calculated to produce excitement and apprehension, without a reasonable cause.

Now, I consider it to be the duty of a representative of the people, if he considers that any measure would be for their benefit to bring it before, and urge it upon them; but to say that although, in his opinion, it would be conducive to the welfare of the people, yet, because they do not think so, it should be pressed, is not a good argument. If I considered any matter to be for the good of the country, I think it would be my duty to advocate it, whether the people were satisfied with it or not; and if he believes his constituency would be benefited by Confederation, he should use every means in his power to bring the people up to it, instead of saying because the people do not think so it is folly to press it. Then, if he admits that the people are not in favour of it, the proper way would be to go against Confederation in any shape. I take it, that a gentleman standing here should represent the views of his constituency. If he is satisfied that any measure is for the good of the country, it is his duty to go to the country and stand or fall by it; and if he cannot make the people believe that it is for their interests, he should either keep his opinion in abeyance, or retire, and let the people choose another who would represent their views.

Hon. Mr. COLES: The Hon. the Leader of the Government said that the Delegates should not have consented to the principle of representation by population. They did not consent to it; for, after the Canadian Delegates came here and stated their case, the first Delegation ceased, and another

was appointed. Therefore, it was for the Government to consider the matter.

Hon. Col. GRAY: The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition was not present when the Canadian Delegates declared that they would not entertain the question unless the principle of representation according to population were acceded to.

Mr. McLENNAN: It was my intention to have addressed the Committee at an earlier stage of the debate; but as the big guns wished to fire off first, I was prepared to listen to their report, if not to feel their shot; and as the remarks I intended to make have been already expressed, I shall not now detain the House by repeating them.—When the question of the Quebec Scheme was before us last year, I said that anything I might say would not hasten or retard the Union. I am of the same opinion still. Whatever change may have taken place outside, it is evident that there is some change in the members of this House since last year. It is certainly a very important question, and the hon. member for New Glasgow (Mr. Longworth) said, yesterday, that we should be very guarded for it would be legislating for our children's children. That I admit; but at the same time I would not say that there never could be a scheme of Union propounded which would be a benefit to the Island. I have no desire to misrepresent any member of this House; but I believe there are some who are extremely strong anti-confederates; and without doing any injustice to the hon. member for Murray Harbour (Mr. Duncan) I believe he would bind his children and children's children never to take any action in Confederation; but I have no desire to do that. I stand here as the representative of an independent, progressive and intelligent a constituency as there is on the Island; but I have no desire to bind them, or their children, not to go for Confederation. The hon. and learned member for Charlottetown, (Hon. Mr. Brecken) said, yesterday, that the British Government was determined to carry Confederation. If so, anything I can say will not prevent it. He, at the same time, admitted that we would be a great deal stronger if we were united. I was glad to hear him say so, for I am of the same opinion. I would be satisfied to remain as we are, if the other Colonies would do so. I believe we have progressed, according to our means and resources, as much as the other Colonies for the last few years; but, if they will unite, the great question for us to consider will be, whether we will go with them or remain as we are? I want to leave it an open question; and, for that reason, I will support the amendment introduced by the hon. member from St. Peter's (Mr. Whelan). Many things have been said about bribery—that those in favor of Confederation are bribed: as well might we say that those against it are bribed. I believe that those in the other Provinces who have the most means are against Confederation, and why would not they be as likely to use bribery as those who are in favor of it. I consider the conduct of the hon. member, the Leader of the Opposition, to be as inconsistent as that of any member of this House; and, in fact, I believe it is getting like the land question. I did not think, when the Conference was held at Quebec that this question would be settled in such a short time. We hear some members express some very extraordinary ideas. The hon. member from the East Point (Mr. McEachen) would defy the British Government to take away our Constitution. And then it is said we will show our loyalty by placing the whole Revenue at the disposal of the Government. What would our whole Revenue do towards defending us, if the British Government should cast us off? We acknowledge Great Britain as our parent, and we know that parents, when their children disobey, will cast them off; so will she do with us. If I were to support the Resolutions of the Hon. the Leader of the Government, I believe I would be advancing or advocating Confederation more strongly than in supporting the amendment. We are not going to say to the Mother Country "We will not listen to your suggestions": We are not going to say "They may withdraw all their troops; but then see how loyal we are!" What would our whole revenue do? It would not equip and command one good gun boat. We talk about our Militia and Volunteers. I spent some time in connection with the vol-

unpopular movement myself; but I got tired of it, and tendered my resignation last year.

Hon. Col. GRAY. It was not received through the proper authority.

Mr. McLENNAN. Well, I never was notified that such was the case. I shall not detain the Committee any longer. I have listened to long speeches here, but I often think they are intended for electioneering dodges, but it is not so with me. I believe my constituency understand my views, and I will abide by the consequences. I do not see why any hon. member should object to the amendment; nor do I see why we should say that no Scheme of Union that could be propounded would be a benefit to the Island. Circumstances alter cases, and circumstances have changed since last year. Then we had a flourishing trade with the United States, but now it is cut off. I would not bind myself or my children to pursue any particular line of conduct. With these few remarks I will support the amendment.

Mr. BRECKEN. I did say that union would strengthen British America, and I am of the same opinion still; but at the Quebec Conference, due regard was not paid to the interests of this Island. I have no respect for the man who would advocate or condemn this Scheme for the purpose of popularity. Perhaps the advocates of Union occupy a more honorable position in this House than those who oppose it; but I would not advocate it for that reason. I do not altogether agree with the wording of the Resolution; but I would not entertain the question at all unless there was a prospect of getting the terms changed. I give the hon. member (Mr. Whelan) credit for the ingenious way in which he has worded the amendment. It admits the principle of Confederation, and the terms were said, by the Colonial Secretary, to be just and liberal to Prince Edward Island. I presume the hon. member did not refer to the Quebec Scheme, though I think the amendment has some connection with it. And is there any prospect of a change being made so that the interests of this Colony will be protected? I do not want to see a Union at the expense of the people of this Island; and I believe the men who propounded that scheme did not know anything about the local circumstances of this Island. I have not thrown out any improper insinuations. I would accord to every man the same respect as I would claim for myself. But I believe it is mere delusion to talk about the Quebec Scheme. Let the Canadians show the people of Prince Edward Island that, while they pay due regard to the broad principle of Union, they will give us a chance to live—that our peculiar wants and circumstances will be properly looked after—and not say to us, “you must take any particular scheme of Union,” when they do not know anything about our circumstances.

Mr. SINCLAIR. The hon. member from Summerside (Mr. McLennan) will not vote for the Resolutions of the hon. the leader of the Government, because they would bind us for all time to come; but that is only a matter of opinion. The next House may pass very different Resolutions. I do not see how any hon. member can vote for the amendment; for it is certainly a strange Resolution. It admits that Confederation would be for the benefit of the Island, and yet says it is unwise to press it upon the attention of the people, because it would create unnecessary apprehension in their minds. The meaning I take out of it is, that it is better to let the thing slide on—to let Delegates be appointed and sent to England—to let a Scheme be concocted and carried into effect, and the people allowed

to pass an opinion on it at a general election afterwards. The Resolution says:—“And this House believes that a plan of Confederation might be so framed as not to involve the sacrifice of any material interests on the part of any Province; but, inasmuch as the people of Prince Edward Island do not appear to be prepared to regard with any favor the project of Confederation, it is unwise to press it upon public attention, as its discussion is only calculated to produce excitement and apprehension without reasonable cause.” What is the meaning of this, if it is not that the people of Prince Edward Island are not capable of forming an opinion, and, therefore, it is better to pass a Resolution to allow the British Government to take action, and then it will be time enough to press it upon public attention. I agree with the hon. member from Murray Harbor (Mr. Duncan) inasmuch as I do not see how we could vote for that Resolution, and refuse to appoint a Delegation. The hon. member from Summerside (Mr. McLennan) said that if the British Government was determined to unite the Colonies, it was little matter whether he supported the Resolution or not—that it would be as well to drop the subject and leave it alone.

Mr. McLENNAN. I did not say that it would be as well to drop the subject and leave it alone.

Mr. SINCLAIR. I understood the hon. member to say that it would be as well to take no action on it. The British Government has certainly expressed a desire that the Colonies would unite; but we are not told that we are to be forced into a Union. The Colonial Minister, in his Despatch, expresses an earnest desire for the consolidation of the British Provinces in one Government. In regard to Colonial defences, I would be willing that the views of the British Government should be urged upon the Colonies with all just authority. While I believe we are willing to allow that—for I consider it to be our duty to give all due consideration to the opinion of the British Government in things of that kind—yet, sir, I am of opinion that we owe a higher duty to our country and to our children—the duty to preserve the inalienable right of self-government. “Self-preservation is the first law of nature,” and it will hold good with regard to nations and colonies, as well as individuals. We are willing to contribute of our means, but not to give up our liberties, which our fathers have obtained for us. Though we are a small Colony and unable to offer any formidable resistance, that is no reason that we should voluntarily surrender a Constitution with which we are satisfied. We are prepared to do everything in our power, within the bounds of reason, to maintain our connection with the British Empire. We have liberty to tax ourselves, and we are prepared to do our part; therefore, I do not think the British Government will ever attempt to coerce us into a Union against the wishes of the people, and which we believe would be prejudicial to our interests. It is useless for us to go into the details of the Scheme or to point out all the disadvantages to the Island of a Union with Canada. It is admitted by nearly all, even those in favor of a Union, that it would not be an advantage to the Island to enter the Union on the basis of the Quebec Scheme; and, for my part, I do not expect to get better terms, though, even if we could, we are an exception to the other Colonies, and a basis of Union which would be suitable and advantageous to them would not be so to us. I might point out objections which I have to the form of the Constitution, but I do not intend to go minutely into the merits or demerits of the Quebec Scheme. It is a conglomerate Constitution which I do not think would be, or should be, sanctioned by the people of British North America.

Mr. McEACHEN. I think it would be better if the hon. member from Georgetown (Mr. Haviland) would propound some feasible scheme of Union than to work himself into such a flaring passion. It is a very bad sign of a cause when its advocates lose their temper. Indeed the advocates of Confederation appear to be very thin-skinned. I never accused them of being bribed, but I have no doubt but they may have seen something looming in the distance which dazzled their eyes. I do not say it was gold; perhaps it was something else. I suppose those gentlemen who sold Ireland for £600,000 were just as sensitive touching their personal honor as the gentlemen who held the Conference at Quebec. The Hon. Sol. General made allusion to the stand the Catholic Bishops have taken, but I do not believe they understood the situation of the question; and, if they think to get us bound to Canada, they are mistaken. The people who hunted the Prince of Wales from town to town as if he was a wild beast escaped from a menagerie, are not the people with whom they would be willing to be united. I wish the advocates of Union had propounded some Scheme instead of scolding us; and, as they have not done so, I still adhere to the opinion I expressed yesterday.

Hon. Mr. DUNCAN. In reply to the Hon. Sol. General, I would say that when I was young there were very few public schools, and when he was going to school, I was probably holding the plough or working in a ship-yard. I do not pretend to be able to use very classical language, but if I can make people understand me, that is all I want. Though I have not had a liberal education, yet I have some natural ability. Nature has not been so niggardly to me that I have not been able to provide for myself; and I did not need the help of a father to set me agoing. I feel the want of education—I do not deny it; but I would call the attention of the House to the amendment which says: "This House believes that a plan of Confederation might be so planned as not to involve the sacrifice of any material interests on the part of any Province." Now, if that is the case, who is the party to frame it? I know the gentleman who drew up that Resolution has had a good education, and he has drawn it up in a very nice way. Perhaps he will not deny that there is some prize in the distance. The Resolution implies that it is possible to frame some plan of Union which would be acceptable to the people, and if we make that admission, just when the House is rising, it will be an excuse for appointing a Delegation. I believe the man who votes for that resolution votes for a Union of some sort, and he must do so either ignorantly or intentionally.

Hon. SOL. GENERAL. I must reply to the hon. member from Murray Harbour again. He says that if we agree to this amendment we will be selling the rights of the people—that the Governor will be bound to appoint a Delegation to Downing Street. Do we not know that Governors who come out here have previously served an apprenticeship in the House of Commons? And if one should come here who is a stranger, would he not enquire if a majority in the Legislature would support a delegation? If not, he would say he could not appoint one. The hon. member has made a great blow off respecting his position, which he has obtained altogether in consequence of his own merits. He has thrown out an insinuation—and I take his challenge—that I hold my position in consequence of the assistance of my father. I say, before this House and the country, that I owe nothing to my father as regards my political or pecuniary position. Though I have a father who is well off, he has kept his money to himself, and left me to fight my own battles. The hon. member boasts that his talent has placed him where he is; but what I produce is my own, and free from outside influence. What I protest against is, that members of the House do not enunciate their own views, but use what is placed in their hands by back-street influence outside of the Legislature. This I say deliberately, and hon. members are at liberty to take the constitutional course re-

lative to the statement I now make. But I am not going to stultify myself with regard to this question. It is my interest to advocate what I consider to be for the interest of the Colony. I have three sons and three daughters who were born here, and that shows that it is not a mere matter of moonshine with me. Hon. members may say what they like about gold, but let them prove their base insinuations.

Mr. HOWLAN. No member used the word "gold."

Hon. SOL. GENERAL. I say it was used.

Mr. HOWLAN. If any person used it, it was the hon. member from St. Peter's.

Hon. SOL. GENERAL. I have heard a member of this House use it outside of these walls.

Mr. HOWLAN. We should not say anything here about assertions made outside.

Hon. SOL. GENERAL. It is my firm belief that it has been used, but if the majority say it was not, I will bow to their decision, yet I will not bow to the individual opinion of the hon. member from Cascumpec. The Hon. member from the East Point may say that I speak in an excited manner on this subject, but when I hear the Hon. member from Murray Harbour (Mr. Duncan) attempt to put a construction upon the Resolution which it will not bear, I must speak as I have done. And when it says that no action should be taken till an appeal is made to the people, and he says that it will authorize the appointment of a Delegation—that the country may be sold—and such like assertions; I say he does not understand the Resolution, and he must believe that every man in the Government is as corrupt as he can be.

Mr. HASLEM. I think such insinuations are quite uncalled for, and are highly improper. I have heard the term "Canadian gold" used, but I cannot believe that any hon. member of this House would be so corrupt as to accept a bribe to sell his country.

Mr. DUNCAN. I said that if the Government would not do so, others would.

Hon. Col. GRAY. The hon. member from Murray Harbour (Mr. Duncan) insinuated a great deal, such as a member by his vote being guilty of treason to his constituency. What does he mean by treason? If a gentleman goes down to a constituency at the request of another, and that gentleman turns round and throws out a groundless insinuation against the gentleman who supported him, what connection would that have with treason? Or will he say how far my supporting the amendment will be treason to my constituency?

Mr. DUNCAN. I do not know what the hon. and gallant Col. means unless it is that he returned me to the House of Assembly. If so, I was not aware of it, and if it is the case, I must thank him, not my constituency; but they did not give me to understand that they were voting for Col. Gray, I thought they were voting for James Duncan. I am still of opinion, that if we pass the amendment, the Governor will have it in his power to send a Delegation to Downing Street.

Hon. J. C. POPE. He can do that at any time.

Mr. SINCLAIR. Should we vote for the amendment would it not be voting in favour of Confederation?

Hon. Sol. GENERAL. We want no action taken till it is decided at the polls; and no action to bind the Colony would be proper without an appeal to the people. If the hon. member would read the Resolution carefully, I think he would form the same opinion.

Mr. SINCLAIR. I have read the Resolution carefully, and the opinion I have formed is that if it is adopted this House will be voting in favour of Confederation.

Hon. Sol. GENERAL. It merely admits that practicable terms of Union could be devised, and it is impossible to lay down the principle, that no terms could be devised, which would be beneficial to this Colony. We admit that such terms could be devised, but in consequence of the extraordinary feeling in the country against Confederation, it would be injudicious to press the matter till after a general election.

Were the Governor to appoint a Delegation without an appeal to the people, he would be guilty of an unconstitutional act, unless he had a majority in the Government to support him in doing so.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN. I mean to say a word about the amendment. You know, Mr. Chairman, that I have not trespassed on the patience of the Committee, and you, Sir, have exercised a degree of forbearance highly commendable during this long debate; but it would be unwise to trespass upon your time at this late hour with any lengthy remarks; yet I think I should say a word or two in reference to some remarks which have been made in this debate. Before doing so, let me express my satisfaction at the calmness and moderation with which this debate has been conducted. It is certainly an improvement on the debates of last year, and leads us to suppose that, though we are not improving very extensively in regard to Confederation, yet we are in good temper; but I believe we are also improving in our views of Confederation—improving inasmuch as we admit that if the other Provinces unite we cannot stand out. I will not trespass upon your time, but I have a right to ask the indulgence of this hon. Committee for five minutes to refute some observations made in opposition to my views yesterday evening and to-day. Yesterday evening in particular, I was assailed by my hon. friend from Cascumpec (Mr. Howlan) on the ground of my inconsistency in making a speech in this House, in 1864, on this question of Confederation. But it was not on the broad question of Confederation I then spoke, and the hon. member knows that he did not fairly represent me. It was in reference to a Legislative Union of the Colonies, and he knows that I have always been opposed to a Legislative Union.

Mr. HOWLAN. I did not state anything in disparagement of the hon. member; but I showed that the views held by him now, were not the same as those held by him then. I quoted this passage:—

“I care not for the nature of the Union, whether it be Federal or Legislative, either will be absurd while we remain tied to the apron strings of our venerable mother—Great Britain. The time will come when, as foreshadowed by the statesman and politicians of Britain, the Colonies will be cast off; and when that time shall arrive, they may, with far more propriety than at present, discuss the principle and details of a Union, either Federal or Legislative.”

Hon. Mr. WHELAN. I ask you, Mr. Chairman, to protect me in my position on the floor. I do not wish to hinder independent members from speaking, especially young members; and I am always willing to give to my friend, the junior member from Prince County, a latitude which I would not be disposed to give to others. The extract from the speech he has read ought to be thoroughly impressed upon my mind, inasmuch as it has been called to it so frequently. It does not establish the proof of my inconsistency. I protest against it. That speech will show that I was not favorably disposed towards a Legislative Union at that time. A Federal Union is another question. In what light did I view it, or how was it viewed by other members of this House?—that we would still be subservient to the Colonial Office as we are now?—It is not that the experience I have gained—not that the intelligence communicated to me from other quarters—not that I am inspired by undue motives that cause an apparent change of sentiment on my part—but that I have a perfect right to exercise my judgment in reference to this and other matters. But even if I admit that there was a slight shade of inconsistency on my part, why should this be brought up as an argument against Confederation? We know that a great change of opinion has taken place in all the other Colonies. Has it not been the case in Canada? And in New Brunswick, where the Government came in with a large majority, a little more than twelve months ago, has not a change taken place there? In all the other Colonies public opinion has been undergoing a change in reference to this question. It has changed in the Nova Scotia Legislature, inasmuch as last winter Dr. Tupper could not venture to ask the House to pass a Resolution in favour of Confederation, and this year it has been carried by a majority of 31 to 19. Does not this show that there is a change in public senti-

ment?—That it is progressing with the progress of intelligence all over the Continent? Does it not show that public men have a right to exercise the privilege at times of correcting their ideas? I scorn the man—I say it without disrespect to any gentleman in this House or community—I scorn the man who says he is incapable of changing his mind on important public questions. I change mine from time to time, if it is in conformity with the progress of the age in which I live. And I do not think I bring any discredit upon myself by doing so. This has been the character by which public men have been distinguished in Great Britain and all over the world. I would allude to one who has changed his opinion on this question. I mean the Hon. Mr. Howe of Nova Scotia. He was at one time decidedly in favor of a Confederation of all the British North American Colonies. Now he is not. The reason why, I shall not explain to you at present; but I believe that if he had been at the Quebec Conference he would have acted a very different part from what he has done.

Now, the hon. member from Cascumpec has referred to the speech of Mr. Gladstone wherein he says—

“We are told that Canada and New Brunswick are threatened with fire and slaughter from the revenge of the Fenians for the wrongs inflicted by England upon Ireland; and this I must say, that if the men of Canada and New Brunswick, who are wholly guiltless of these wrongs—be they what they may—who are not entangled in the controversy, who have no more to do with it than the people of the Sandwich Islands—if the Fenians, as they call themselves in America, are capable of the abominable wickedness of passing their frontier and of making their impotent miserable attempts, which they will be (cheers) to carry desolation over these peaceful districts and among these harmless colonists, then, I say, that so far from your treating the conduct of these men—let them be Americans or whom they like—with allowance or indulgence, no more execrable manifestations of folly or guilt have ever been made in the annals of the human race from the time that it commenced its existence upon the earth. (Cheers.) Men who are capable of such proceedings would at once by their insanity and their guilt place themselves entirely beyond the sympathy of the whole civilized world. (Lead cheers)”

What interpretation can the hon. member put upon these words? It is that if Great Britain finds the Colonies in a position to help themselves, then the power of the British Government will be employed to supplement their resources for defence. Can any hon. member place any other interpretation on these words? Again, Mr. Gladstone says in the same speech:—

“I feel the fullest confidence that these men who inhabit the provinces of British North America, who have proceeded from our time, and who are governed by principles in the main our own, know well how to defend their homes, their wives, and children; and if, unapparently, the need arose, there is no resource possessed by this country that she would not fairly spend to assist them in their holy work. (Cheers)”

What does that indicate? A feeling on the part of the British Government that the people of these Colonies will have to defend their own homes, and in the event of their failing to do so then Great Britain will withdraw her support. I will not address myself to the question at present as to whether we should be influenced by the opinions of Statesmen in England or not. The hon. member from Cascumpec gave the opinion of the British Minister; but he did not give his words. I have given the words of Mr. Gladstone's speech to show the connection in which they were used, and they plainly indicate that when the Colonies use their proper amount of influence to protect themselves, then the power of Great Britain would be used in their behalf. That was the opinion I set forth last year. It is borne out by the opinion of Mr. Gladstone, and also by Her Majesty's Colonial Minister. I will read an extract from the Colonial Minister's despatch, not only for the information of the hon. member from Cascumpec, but other members who may have forgotten it:—

“But there is one consideration which Her Majesty's Government feel it more especially their duty to press upon the Legislature of Nova Scotia. Looking to the determination which this country has ever exhibited to regard the defence of the colonies as a matter of Imperial concern, the colonies must recognize a right and even acknowledge an obligation incumbent on the Home Government to urge with earnestness and just authority the measure which they consider most expedient on the part of the colonists, with a view to their own defence.”

"Nor can it be doubtful that the Provinces of British North America are incapable, when separate and divided from each other, of making those just and efficient preparations for national defence which would be easily undertaken by a Province uniting in itself all the population and the resources of the whole."

Now, what lesson are we to take from these words? Is it not that the Colonies must accept the Imperial policy? Is it not that one Colony will not be allowed to stand in the way of the Imperial policy which will be found acceptable to the majority? Is it not clear that the whole question of Confederation, no matter what view we may take, depends on the action of the continental Provinces. I am sure that I am quite willing to stand up for our rights and privileges; but is it to be supposed that we will be allowed to be regarded by the British Government as obstructive to the Continental Provinces, if they choose to adopt a Scheme of Confederation? I think not. Others may think differently, and we may agree to differ. My opinion is that if Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Canada, and Newfoundland, unite, Prince Edward Island may hold out for a short time, and seek for better terms; but it cannot hold out long. The Quebec Scheme is not before the Committee, and it is unfair to argue upon that Scheme. If it were before us then I might express my opinion upon it.

Hon. J. C. POPE: There is no other Scheme proposed.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN: No, there is no plan at all; and the bare question is whether it is desirable that the Colonies should be confederated or not. I do not press it upon the people's attention now, and when I was at Quebec I thought some of the details were such as the people would be dissatisfied with.

Hon. Mr. THORNTON: What is your scheme?

Hon. Mr. WHELAN: I propounded none. It was not my place to do so. I was there as a delegate, and though I objected to some of the details, yet I felt myself in that position that I could not refuse to accept it as a compromise. The delegates from all the Provinces had complaints to make about it; and who, pray, in his senses would suppose that a written Constitution could be framed that would be acceptable to all the people concerned in it? Could it be possible that a Constitution, affecting the rights of nearly four millions of people would be so framed that no fault could be found with it? When it came up that the Constitution was to be framed on the principles of representation by population, I had to yield to the majority. Now, though perhaps I am trespassing in making these observations at this late hour, I would, before sitting down, ask the question of the hon. member from Murray Harbour (Mr. Duncan) whether he really believed what he said when he declared that this Resolution would give the Government authority to send a Delegation to England without the people being first consulted? But I believe he is not in his place. There is no mistaking the language of the Resolution; and no language could be more moderate. I believe it will be considered by a succeeding House that Confederation will be for the benefit of all the Colonies; and that it would be possible to frame a Constitution that would not involve the sacrifice of any material interests on the part of any Province. Can any body doubt for a moment that a plan might be devised which would not involve the sacrifice of the interests of Prince Edward Island? Are we to be forever excluded from what the Continental Provinces consider a benefit? Well, I cannot congratulate those members who think we should remain forever in our present feeble, isolated position. It would render us contemptible to pass a Resolution to that effect. The amendment says:—"This House believes that a plan of Confederation might be so framed as not to involve the sacrifice of any material interests on the part of any Province." Who is to deny that? The Hon. the Leader of the Government, in the course of his speech, made some reference to this paragraph, and said those who believed that Confederation would be a benefit to this Colony should use their influence in every way to press it upon the people. I do not think so. I think it would be unwise to force public attention to anything in which the minds of the people have not been properly schooled. I think it would be better to leave it to take its course, and let the hand of time use its ameliorating influence in reference to this as well as every other question. I bow to the public opinion of this country in reference to all public questions. When I returned from Canada, in 1864, I called meetings and told my constituents the opinion I entertained, and which I will probably entertain as long as I live; but I told them that I would not seek to force it upon them. This is the proper course for a representative of the people to take. I conceive that a spirited man, like the Hon. the Leader of the Government, may sometimes seek to control public opinion; but let him take this advice: the better way is to follow public opinion while he seeks to control it. The hon. member from Murray Harbor (Mr. Duncan)

alludes to the great sacrifice of having our rights and privileges destroyed, and it sounds strange from gentlemen who, up to 1851, were opposed to what they now term a "priceless Constitution." It sounds strange, I say, that gentlemen should now value that Constitution so highly, who, up to that time, had no faith in it.

Hon. J. C. POPE: That was before the commencement of my political career.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN: I am speaking in reference to the party, and particularly in reference to the hon. member from Murray Harbour; for I remember that no gentleman was more disposed than he to use his influence to oppose the introduction of Responsible Government. Does it not sound strange that a gentleman should have worked himself up to the consciousness of the "priceless blessing of our Constitution," just at this particular hour, when a few years ago he was fighting against it most indignantly? But, as he is not in his place, I will not press my observations against him. In reference to the original Resolutions, if we put them upon record we place ourselves in the most extraordinary position that ever a Colony occupied. They say that Prince Edward Island will not have anything to do with Confederation—that we will not accept it on any terms—no matter how advantageous they might be to the people. The words of the Resolution cannot bear any other interpretation. I am not wedded to any particular scheme of Confederation, but to the principle. I will not occupy further the time of the Committee at this late hour, now close upon mid-night. I did not hear all the arguments used before this Committee to-day, but I can bear testimony to the good spirit and feeling which has characterized this debate; and if anything has been gained it has been by the moderation of those who have not pressed unduly upon the attention of this House.

The question was then put on the amendment, and the Committee divided:—

YEAS: Honorables E. Whelan, Sol. General, Col. Gray, D. Davies, Dr. Kaye, Messrs. Green and MacLennan—7.

NAYS: Honorables J. C. Pope, J. Warburton, J. Hensley, E. Maceachen, E. Thornton, F. Kelly, J. Longworth, A. Laird, G. Coles, Messrs. Conroy, Howlan, Sinclair, Sutherland, Duncan, Howat, J. Yeo, D. Ramsay, F. St. G. Brecken, D. Montgomery, W. Haslam, and R. Walker—21.

The question was then put on the original Resolutions, which were agreed to on a division: the same as that above given—the Yeas for the amendment being taken as the Nays against the Resolutions, and the Nays against the amendment, as the Yeas for the Resolutions.

Mr. Sinclair then rose in his place, and moved the following Resolution, for the purpose, he said, of fortifying the Government with an opinion of the House against any attempts which might be made to induce them to appoint a Delegation to the projected London Convention for the final consideration of the Report of the Quebec Conference of 1864:

"Resolved, That inasmuch as there will be a General Election this summer, it is therefore inexpedient to appoint any further Delegation on the subject of Colonial Union or Confederation, or to take any action calculated to commit the people of this Colony to any Scheme of Union until authorized by the people and sanctioned by their Representatives returned at the said General Election."

The Resolution was seconded by the Hon. Mr. Kelly, and then a short discussion ensued, in which it was argued on the Government side of the House, that the adoption of such a restrictive course would be tantamount to a direct expression of a want of confidence in the Government, and would, in fact, be an imposition of an unconstitutional restriction upon the Administration.

The hon. members who spoke in favor of it, were Mr. Sinclair, and the Hon. Mr. Coles; they who spoke against it, were the Hon. J. C. Pope, Hon. J. Longworth, and Hon. E. Whelan. The question having been put thereon, it was negatived on the following division:

YEAS: Messrs. Sinclair, Conroy, Howlan, Walker, Sutherland, Howat, Hous. F. Kelly, J. Hensley, G. Coles, J. Warburton, E. Thornton, A. Laird,—12.

NAYS: Hons. E. Whelan, Sol. General, D. Kaye, E. Maceachen, D. Davies, J. Longworth, J. C. Pope, J. H. Gray; Messrs. Green, Duncan, MacLennan, J. Yeo, Brecken, Montgomery, Haslam, Ramsay,—16.

Adjourned.

Thursday, 10th May, 1866.

House in Committee of the whole to take into consideration the Message of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of the 16th day of April last, transmitting to the House various despatches and papers. Mr. McLennan in the Chair.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S DESPATCH CONCERNING THE SALARY OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, &c.

The Despatches of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to the Colonial Minister, accompanying the Joint Address to the Queen from the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, praying that Her Majesty will be pleased to recommend to Parliament the continuance of the annual provision for the Salary of the Lieutenant Governor, and the Reply of the Colonial Minister thereto, having been read as follow :

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND,
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

7th April, 1865.

SIR :—I have the honor to enclose an Address of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly to Her Majesty the Queen, praying that Her Majesty will be pleased to recommend to the Imperial Parliament, the continuance of the salary of the Lieutenant Governor of this Island.

The principal reasons urged in this Address, are the alienation of the lands in this Island in 1767. The fact that at the time of the surrender of the Crown Revenues to the Colony, provision was not required to be made in the Civil List for the salary of the Lieutenant Governor, and at that time the Secretary of State informed the Lieutenant Governor, in his Despatch, No. 93, of 27th December, 1849, (44), that he had no reason to suppose that the Imperial Parliament was likely to withdraw the provision made for that service.

The Crown Revenues surrendered at the time of the introduction of Responsible Government, were those derived from the permanent Spirit Duties, the sale of Crown Lands and the Quit Rents, which were together estimated by Sir Donald Campbell to be of the annual value of £2,600.

I wish that the Legislature had placed it in my power to recommend this Address for your favorable consideration, without any reservation; there are, however, some points, which, in the interest of the office which I hold, I think it right to bring under your notice.

I regret that the Legislature should apparently have thought proper to have reduced, as low as it well could, the comparatively small expenditure incurred in connection with the maintenance of the office of the Lieutenant Governor.

Amongst other retrenchments, I may remark, on the Legislature having ceased to make any provision for the salary of a Private Secretary.

I have no hesitation in stating, that a Private Secretary is necessary to the Lieutenant Governor of this Colony, in his official capacity, and that the salary of the Lieutenant Governor is barely adequate to meet the requirements of his position, much less to enable him to appropriate, out of it, a sufficient sum to pay a salary of a Secretary.

On my arrival here, in 1859, I found the Government bound, by husting's pledge, to discontinue the very small amount, £66 13s. 4d., which had previously been appropriated for that service: In consequence, I believe, of the knowledge that I had brought from England a Private Secretary, on the understanding, that the small salary I have mentioned, was attached to that office, that sum was granted for the period he was with me; at the expiration of a year, he resigned his office on receiving another appointment elsewhere, and since that time no provision has been made for the salary.

For more than five years I have, in consequence, been dependent upon the chance circumstance of a relative of my own having given me his assistance as Private Secretary.

Another retrenchment was made about the time of my arrival, by the withdrawal of two out of three men who had previously been allowed as Gate-keepers or Messengers.

Government House is only partially furnished at the expense of the Colony; the rest, by the Lieutenant Governor for the time being. The house itself has been of some expense to the Colony, owing in a great measure to its having been constructed of wood. I am glad to be able to report that considerable improvements have been made in it since I came here, principally at the time of the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

But for keeping it and the Farm Buildings, &c., in repair, £100 a year appears to be now considered adequate, a sum hardly sufficient to make the repairs which cannot by any possibility be avoided.

In fact, the whole Expenditure of the Colony towards the support of the Lieutenant Governor, according to the Estimates for the present year, will be—

Government House,	£100 0 0
Guard at Gate,	33 6 8

I may further add, that the Lieutenant Governor does not receive any fees or allowances of any kind.

In my despatch No 93, of 26th October, 1863 (415), I enclosed a plan of a small farm of about 80 acres attached to Government House, which was granted in 1789 by Lieutenant Governor Fanning for the use and accommodation of the Lieutenant Governor for ever.

It was with surprise that I observed from the Journals of the Legislature (Extract enclosed), during last Session, that a Petition signed by Citizens of Charlottetown had been presented, praying that the Legislature would procure a portion of that ground for a Public Park. I think it but just to remark that many of the leading citizens did not sign that petition.

As no action was taken on the subject by the Legislature, I trust that this attempt to deprive the Lieutenant Governor of a portion of his land may not be renewed. Apart from other considerations, the Farm itself (consisting not of 100 acres as would appear from the Petition, but of about 80 acres), although, perhaps, it hardly pays its working expenses, is of very great convenience in many ways, and is more particularly valuable on account of the privacy which it affords.

I have, &c., &c., &c.,
(Signed) GEORGE DUNDAS,

Lieutenant Governor.

The Right Honorable EDWARD CARDWELL, &c., &c., &c.

DOWNING STREET, 29th April, 1865.

SIR :—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch No. 30, of the 7th of April, enclosing a Joint Address to the Queen from the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, praying that Her Majesty will be pleased to recommend to Parliament the continuance of the Annual provision for the salary of the Lieutenant Governor.

I have duly laid this Address before the Queen, but advertising to the very favorable representation as to the resources of the Island made by both branches of the Legislature in their Address which accompanied your Despatch No. 27, of the 3rd April, I am unable to advise any departure from the decision of Her Majesty's Government, which I communicated to you in my Despatch of the 8th of February last.

I have, &c., &c., &c.,
(Signed) EDWARD CARDWELL.

Lieutenant Governor DUNDAS, &c., &c., &c.

Hon. Mr. COLLES. This Despatch of His Excellency is the strongest that has ever been sent Home, by a Lieutenant Governor, in condemnation of a Joint Address of both Houses of the Legislature, unanimously agreed to by both. When that Address was placed in the hands of His Excellency, by a Joint Committee of the two Houses, with the request that he would be pleased to transmit it Home to be laid at the foot of the Throne, it was expected that His Excellency, in his despatch accompanying the Address, would

recommend it to the favorable consideration of Her Majesty. Such, at least, would have been the course pursued with respect to such an Address in any other of the Provinces. But, instead of a despatch recommendatory of the prayer of the Address, what do we find was the nature of the missive which accompanied it? Why, nothing less than a direct censure of the Legislature, concocted and transmitted to the Imperial Government, by the Executive Council. But this most extraordinary proceeding on the part of the Executive was kept secret from us. It has not been fairly communicated to us. We have, in fact, found it out. It was only through my having observed, in looking over the numbers of the Despatches laid before us, that No. 80, His Excellency's Despatch, transmitting the Address, was not, as it ought to have been, among them, and my then pointing out the omission, that that Despatch was at length sent down to us. The Despatch of the Colonial Minister was sent down to us with the other Despatches, but the Despatch of His Excellency, touching the Address, was not. This shews that there was a desire, on the part of His Excellency's Advisers, to keep it back; but now we have got it, and we hold them responsible for it.

Hon the Leader of the Government (J. C. POPE.) His Excellency's advisers knew nothing about it.

Hon. Mr. COLES. If you know nothing about it, you ought to have known. Now, Mr. Chairman, I say this despatch is of so unjustifiable a character, censuring the whole Legislature as it does, that in no other Province, could a Government have retained the reins of power for a single day after its having been brought to light. Indeed, were not the House so thin as it is, I would be disposed, on account of this Despatch alone, to move a vote of no confidence in the Government. The Despatch bears date the 7th April, 1865; and if His Excellency's Advisers were cognizant of it, they ought to have expressed their dissent from it by a Minute of Council. If they knew nothing of it until the present time, it is a proof that, for more than twelve months, they had not seen the Despatch Book; a fact which would, most certainly, argue a most culpable remissness of duty on their part. If His Excellency has occasion at any time to make a *private* complaint to the Imperial Government, he is perfectly free to do so by a *private* despatch; but he has no right to couple a *private* despatch with a *public* document, such as an Address of either, or of both Houses of the Legislature to Her Majesty the Queen. The Despatch accompanying such an Address should be a public one. As respects the Despatch now under our consideration, every member of this Committee must be well aware, that the duty of the Government, as members of the Legislature, with respect to the Address, did not terminate with their having caused it to be placed in the hands of His Excellency for transmission to the Colonial Office; but that it was further their duty to have positively ascertained whether it was duly forwarded or not; and, if forwarded, what was the nature of His Excellency's Despatch accompanying it—recommendatory or otherwise? That they exercised no such care or vigilance concerning the Address, is admitted by themselves; and by what excuses or explanations they can hope to ward off the censure due to their remissness, I am truly at a loss to imagine. It was certainly not the duty of His Excellency to send after the Leader of his Government to Summerside, or elsewhere, whither the calls of his private business might have taken him, nor yet to despatch a messenger after the Colonial Secretary, on one of his pleasure tours, for the purpose of making known to his Council, through either the one or the

other of these gentlemen, the purport or contents of his Despatch concerning the Address. No; but it was clearly the duty of his Council to have respectfully requested him to be pleased to shew them the Despatch; and, had he declined to do so, to have told him that, then, it would be their duty respectfully to request him to forward, on their behalf, to the Colonial Minister, a Minute of Council, expressive of their own views and sentiments in favor of the prayer of the Address to Her Majesty. Had they done so, and caused such a Minute of Council to be forwarded to the Colonial Office, they would have done their duty in the matter, and no blame whatever could have attached to them on account of the adverse despatch. His Excellency would then alone have been responsible for that. With these views, I will move this Resolution:

Resolved, That this House is of opinion that the Government were remiss in their duty with respect to the Despatch of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, with which he thought proper to forward the joint Address of the two Houses of the Legislature to Her Majesty, the Queen, concerning the payment of the Salary of the Lieutenant Governor of the Colony, in not sooner ascertaining the nature of the said Despatch, and in not taking steps to forward a representation to the Colonial Office, supporting the views set forth in the said Joint Address, by a Minute of Council.

Hon. Solicitor General (Mr. HAVILAND) I cannot agree with the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition in what he regards as the constitutional view of the question which he has brought before the Committee. The theory, as respects that question, is this: the Executive Council are not responsible for either the private or the public despatches of the Lieutenant Governor; and they cannot claim a constitutional right to see either the one or the other. Despatches of both kinds are only for the information and consideration of the Imperial Government; but all not marked "*Confidential*" are laid before the Imperial Parliament: others are not, unless their being made public should be necessary for the due consideration of some question of moment or important interests. The proper mode by which the Executive Council can express their views, relative to any public question, is by Minute of Council. As to the confidential Despatch in question, the Executive Council, it is said, knew nothing about it. The question touching such Despatches was set at rest in New Brunswick, in 1858 or 1859, when the late Duke of Newcastle wrote a Despatch to the Lieut. Governor, the Rt. Hon. Manners-Sutton, laying down the principle that the local Government had no right to a perusal of the Lieut. Governor's Despatches, previous to their transmission to England. The matter was brought up, in the Legislature, next Session, and a vote of want of confidence in the Government was moved for their having allowed the Lieutenant Governor's Despatch against the allowance of a Bill relative to the New Brunswick University to be sent Home, without their having endeavoured, by means of a Minute of Council, to neutralize His Excellency's Despatch against the Bill.

Hon. Mr. COLES. They do not act according to that decision in New Brunswick. The Hon. Solicitor General has read one authority in support of his views; I will read one in support of mine. The Governor, I admit, may write what he pleases to the Imperial Government; and what he writes may be withheld from the knowledge of his Council; still, however, there is a means, by which a truly honorable and independent Government can cause all his private Despatches be brought to light; and that is by resignation. The *Church Witness* represents the opinions and intelligence of a large portion of the people of New Brunswick;

and I find, in its editorial columns, an article upon this very question, by which it appears that the dictum of the late Duke of Newcastle with respect to it does not meet with practical acceptance in that Province. [The hon. gentleman then read the article of which he had spoken; but, as the Reporter has not been able to procure a copy of the *Church Witness* containing it, he is unable to give it in this Report.] We say the Executive Council have neglected their duty in not having made a Minute of Council expressive of their dissent from the Despatch of His Excellency, relative to the Joint Address of the two Houses of the Legislature to the Queen, in which Despatch he severely reflects upon the whole Legislature. We say that, seeing what His Excellency had done, concerning that Address, it was their duty, either by a Despatch of their own, or by a Minute of Council, to have recommended or sustained the prayer of it. They have done neither, and we hold them responsible for the Despatch in which the whole of the Legislature has been directly arraigned and censured. — We have had a Governor who said he wanted no private despatches: he neither wished to receive, nor desired to send any such despatches. The Government excuse themselves by saying they are not bound to see His Excellency's Despatches. Having a majority in the House of Assembly to sustain them, they believe they are not responsible for any thing.

Hon. Sol. General (Mr. HAVILAND). When he was Leader of the Government, did he not refuse to produce a Despatch which we asked for?

Hon. Mr. COLES. Despatches, although asked for, are frequently withheld in the Imperial Parliament; but I have yet to learn that the Liberal Government of Prince Edward Island can be justly accused of ever having done so. It is indeed true that, on one occasion, in compliance with a demand of the Opposition for a certain Despatch, they gave them merely an extract from it; but the part withheld was of no public moment, having reference only to the Lieutenant Governor himself, as they themselves found, two or three years after, when they came into power. That, I believe, is the Despatch to which the Hon. Solicitor General has alluded; for I am not aware that we, when in possession of the Government, ever withheld even a part of any other Despatch that was asked for by the Opposition.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY. Mr. Chairman, I do not rise to speak in support of the Resolution which has been submitted by the hon. member, the Leader of the Opposition, in the expectation of its being carried; but simply to second it, and briefly to give my reasons for doing so. With reference to the assertion which has been made by my hon. friend the Solicitor General (Hon. Mr. Haviland) that the Governor is not constitutionally bound to show all his despatches to his Council, allow me, Sir, to observe that I am not aware that any one maintains that he is so bound. The Governor acts in a double capacity. In the first place, he is the representative of Her Majesty; and, in the second, he is the head of the local Government, and as such, a branch of the local Legislature. We can imagine a great many cases to arise, not involving opposition to acts or measures of the Legislature, in which it may be proper, and even necessary, that His Excellency, in his first capacity, should hold private or confidential correspondence with the Imperial Government. But the case is very different with an Address to Her Majesty, passed unanimously by both Houses of the Legislature, and directly involving the pecuniary interests of the Colony. With respect to such an Address, I cannot agree that, after it has passed out of

the hands of the Legislature into those of His Excellency, his Council have nothing more to do with it, and that His Excellency should be left, by them, entirely at liberty, to neutralize it, by a private or confidential despatch, should he think proper to do so. I cannot but say that I think the Executive Council have been very much to blame in not having taken care that that Address should either be forwarded to the Colonial Secretary, accompanied by a despatch from His Excellency, recommending it to the favourable consideration of Her Majesty; or, in case,—having endeavoured to satisfy themselves that such a recommendatory despatch was to be forwarded, with the Address, by His Excellency, and having failed to do so; or His Excellency having declined to communicate to them, the purport and contents of the despatch, and, if, in answer to their request he should have said, "No, gentlemen, I will not shew you this despatch; for I have thought proper that it should be a private and confidential one."—then they might well have concluded that it was not favourable to the measure, and they should, at once, have made a Minute of Council, declarative of the facts of the case, and expressive of their own sentiments concerning it; and have insisted that it should immediately be transmitted to Her Majesty's Colonial Minister. The regulation which authorizes such a proceeding is a good and necessary one. Its due observance would, at all times, prevent a Governor's successfully endeavouring, by means of private or confidential despatches, to neutralize or damage any expression of public sentiment, transmitted through his hands to the Imperial Authorities for the purpose of being laid at the foot of the Throne. And, besides, I may observe, Sir, that I have yet to learn how a Government could hold their position when in direct antagonism with their head, on a most important public question; although, it would seem, our present local Government have contrived and still think it constitutional to do so. In this case His Excellency, it seems, thought proper to transmit to Her Majesty's Colonial Minister, Mr. Cardwell, a certain highly important Address of the two Houses of Legislature, to Her Majesty, accompanied by a private despatch, intended to contravene the prayer of that Address, and in direct opposition to the views of his Council concerning it; and, yet, after the adoption of this course by His Excellency,—a proceeding at variance with their own views as a Government, and adverse to those of both Houses of the Legislature, as unanimously expressed by them,—and, after the receipt of Mr. Cardwell's answer to that Despatch of His Excellency, in which he (Mr. Cardwell) says, "I am unable to advise any departure from the decision of Her Majesty's Government," concerning the Salary of the Lieut. Governor, "which I communicated to you in my Despatch of the 8th February last,"—after their having become thoroughly acquainted with the condemnation which His Excellency had passed upon themselves, (and I will not say but that it was fully deserved), and with the steps which he had taken to contravene their views—that they are still satisfied to retain their position, as His Excellency's advisers, argues, I think, something more than a common love of place and power. Mr. Cardwell says, in effect, that he has not changed his opinion with respect to the propriety of the Colony's being burthened with the Lieut. Governor's Salary; and it is not likely that he would when the Address, instead of being sustained by the Government, was accompanied by such a Despatch as that which His Excellency thought himself called upon to send with it. Had the Government manfully come down to this House, on becoming acquainted with the issues of the Address, and candidly stated that, after it had been placed in His Excellency's

hands, for transmission to the Colonial Minister, they had had nothing to do with it, had neglected their duty, had never even asked His Excellency for the Despatch, and were consequently in entire ignorance of its purport and contents, such an acknowledgment on their part might have been accounted some extenuation of their fault; but it would, nevertheless, still have been held that it was their duty to see that the Address was forwarded. If they knew nothing of any Despatch concerning it, how did they know that the Address was transmitted Home at all? If they knew that His Excellency had written a Despatch concerning it, and it was their duty to have ascertained whether he had done so or not, they should have respectfully requested His Excellency to show it to them; and, had His Excellency refused compliance with their request, then it would have been their duty to tell him that they would be obliged to have recourse to a Minute of Council in support of the prayer of the Address. But they have done nothing of this kind; and the position which they now occupy, sustained as they are by a majority of the parliamentary representatives of the people, is one which, I think, cannot be easily or satisfactorily defined. I do not pretend to be a constitutional lawyer; but it appears to me that Government is at an end if it does not exist to prevent or to endeavour to prevent a neutralization of the views of the people as expressed by the Legislature. I support the Resolution submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition; and, yet, I am almost sorry that the question to which it has given rise should have been brought forward. I entertain the highest respect for His Excellency, and believe in his desire to advance the true interests of the Island. The position of the Government is certainly a very peculiar one; perhaps they have got into it through their having failed to exercise due vigilance. His Excellency, in the Despatch, states that he found the Government bound by Hastings' pledges to discontinue the former allowance of £66 13s 4d sterling to the Private Secretary. That is strictly correct; it was one of the Hastings' pledges of the Government party, which, perhaps, they would now wish they had never made. Let them take care that this pledge not pay £66 13s 4d a year does not result in saddling the country with the payment of the Lieut. Governor's Salary of £1500 a year.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH. It might all be very well for the hon. member for East Point (Hon. Mr. Hensley) and the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Coles) to lay down imaginary cases, and to say how they, as Executive Councillors, would have acted with respect to them. Such cases, however, were altogether foreign to that then before the Committee. The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, in opening his case, had attempted to fix the responsibility of His Excellency's Despatch concerning the Address of the two Houses of the Legislature upon the Executive Council. His attempt to do so had, however, proved altogether abortive. He (Hon. Mr. Coles) had,—in opposition to the authority of a Despatch of the late Duke of Newcastle, bearing upon the question in general, and which had been pertinently quoted by the Hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Haviland),—maintained that it was the duty of the Lieutenant Governor to submit all his public Despatches to the Imperial Government to the inspection of his Executive Council, and that they had a right to insist upon being permitted to examine them all. The Hon. the Solicitor General had, on the contrary, argued, most ably and correctly, on the conclusive authority of a Despatch of the late Duke of Newcastle, written expressly for the purpose of finally deciding the question, that the Lieutenant Governor lay

under no official or constitutional obligation to show any of his Despatches, whether public or private; to his Executive Council. His Grace's dictum applied to all the Despatches of a Lieutenant Governor without exception. It was useless for either his hon. and learned friend (Mr. Hensley) or the Hon. the Leader of the opposition (Mr. Coles) to say that cases might occur with respect to which it would be the duty of the Executive Council to insist upon seeing the Despatches written by the Lieutenant Governor; for no such cases could occur. The hon. and learned member (Mr. Hensley) has given the Committee to understand that, with reference to His Excellency's Despatch in question, had he been a member of the Executive Council he would have considered it his duty respectfully to require His Excellency to submit it to the examination or consideration of his constitutional advisers; but, I reply, by the question, What would have been the use of his doing so, when he had no power to enforce a compliance with his request? By making such a request, he would only have placed himself in a false position. I, however, fully agree with him; that, in such position, it would have been his duty to use his best endeavours to have the views of his constituents, or those of the majority of the Legislature, carried into effect. He says, in effect, that it was the duty of His Excellency's Council to see that the views of the majority of the Legislature, by whom they are supported, were duly seconded by the Despatch, accompanying their Address to Her Majesty, the Queen; and that they ought either to have dictated that Despatch, or to have suggested the language and impart of it to His Excellency. But, I again ask, if His Excellency, knowing himself to be clothed with a constitutional power to act, in the matter, independently of his Council, should have declined their dictation or interference, and asserted the prerogative of his office to write his Despatches on his own responsibility, could any good have been effected by their powerless endeavours to control him? The responsibility of all Despatches, written by His Excellency without the knowledge or concurrence of his Council, rests wholly with himself. He acts in a double capacity. As the representative of the Crown, he has the right to pen all Despatches, independently, if he thinks proper to do so, of any control, dictation, or interference, on the part of his Council. Were it otherwise, he would occupy a false position. He represents the Crown, and we, his Executive Council, cannot act as spies upon his conduct. It is a constitutional privilege of the Lieutenant Governor to write all Despatches to the Imperial Government. The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition has said that—as we, the Executive Council, were kept in ignorance of the nature of His Excellency's Despatch, relative to the Joint Address of the two Houses of the Legislature, to Her Majesty, now in question—it was our duty to draw up a Minute of Council, in support of the prayer of that Address, and to cause it to be transmitted forthwith to Her Majesty's Minister of State for the Colonies. But, I will ask the hon. member, did he ever hear of a Minute of Council—a communication to the Imperial Government—bearing the signatures of an Executive Council upon a subject previously advocated or recommended by the two branches of the Legislature? No such duty devolved upon His Excellency's Advisers, with respect to the Address in question. In the Address itself the whole subject was exhausted in a very able and argumentative manner. It was not possible for the Executive Council, by any additional arguments which they could use, to render it weightier, or to make it in any way more worthy the favorable consideration of Her Majesty, or of

Her Majesty's Advisers, than it was. The forwarding a Minute of Council in support of it, would, indeed, have been a work of supererogation, in every point of view. Would not the Colonial Minister assume that the two Houses of the Legislature contained the several members of the Executive Council? A separate or additional Address, on the part of the Executive Council,—for nothing else, in fact, would such a Minute of Council, transmitted to the Colonial Minister have been—could only have been regarded by him as a very needless duplicate of their views and sentiments, as set forth in the Address itself. The Executive Council had reason to believe that the Address was forwarded in the usual way; and, therefore, they could not be aware of the existence of any necessity for their having recourse to any unusual proceeding concerning it. Minutes of Council have been forwarded, even this year, to the Colonial Minister, and with effect too; but not in cases, in which, as respects the subject of the Address now in question, all recommendatory arguments had been previously exhausted. The hon. and learned gentleman then concluded by saying that, under all the circumstances of the case, he held the Executive Council were, in no way, responsible for the Despatch in question, which, in the exercise of his official and constitutional privilege, the Lieutenant Governor had written without their privity.

Hon. Colonial Secretary (W. H. POPE) Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Mr. Coles has asked whether it is the intention of the Government to shirk this question—I answer that I do not desire to shirk it. My honorable and learned friend who has just resumed his seat (the Hon. Mr. Longworth) has, in my opinion, correctly defined the position of a Lieutenant Governor of a Colony in so far as relates to reports which that officer may think proper to make in his Despatches to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Despatch now under the consideration of this Committee was written by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and by him transmitted to the Colonial Minister—I believe without the knowledge of any member of the Executive Council. The members of that Council, therefore, are not, in my opinion, in any wise responsible for the representations of His Excellency which are contained that Despatch. An Address to Her Majesty, the Queen, praying that, for reasons which were fully stated in such Address, the people of this Colony might not be called upon to provide for the salary of the Lieutenant Governor of this Island was, last session, passed by both Houses of the Legislature of this Colony. His Excellency, was, in the usual manner, formally waited upon by a Committee, which handed the Address to His Excellency and requested that he would cause it to be forwarded to the foot of the Throne. The Committee duly reported to this House that His Excellency had been pleased to say to them that he would cause the Address to be forwarded to Her Majesty. His Excellency did, accordingly, forward the Address to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies; but His Excellency thought proper to forward with the Address, representations having a direct tendency to defeat the object which the Legislature had in view in addressing Her Majesty. It is not incumbent upon me, on the present occasion, to attempt to refute the representations of His Excellency. I consider them impertinent to the subject matter of the Address. His Excellency states that they were made in the interest of the Office which he holds; they, certainly, in my opinion, were not made in the interest of the people of this Colony. It is unjust to censure the Executive Government for this act of His Excellency, which the Council never advised, and with

which they were not even made acquainted. The Government were aware that His Excellency had been pleased to say that he would forward the Joint Address of the two Houses of the Legislature, to Her Majesty the Queen. As a member of the Government, I could not have anticipated that His Excellency intended to forward the Address accompanied by a Despatch containing representations such as are found in the Despatch of His Excellency now before this Committee. In the interests of the people of this Island—who should not be called upon to pay the salary of the Lieutenant Governor—I am prepared to support a second Address to Her Majesty the Queen, in reply to the representations of His Excellency contained in the Despatch before this Committee, or to join my colleagues in the Government in any refutation of His Excellency's representations which it may be deemed proper to make.

Hon. Mr. COLES. In the Despatch of the late Duke of Newcastle, quoted by the Hon. Solicitor General and referred to by the hon. and learned member for the Second District of Queen's County (Hon. Mr. Longworth), it is not said that the Executive Council shall not ask to see any Despatch of the Lieut. Governor which may have been written without their privity. In any such case, were the Executive Council to request the Lieut. Governor to shew them his Despatch, and he were to refuse to do so, their proper course would be to fall back upon a Minute of Council, by means of which they would have it in their power to make their own views and sentiments concerning the matter in question, fully known to the Imperial Government. I am glad to hear the Hon. Colonial Secretary say he is prepared to support a second Address to Her Majesty the Queen in reply to the representations contained in the Despatch now before the Committee. The hon. and learned member for the Second District of Queen's County (Hon. Mr. Longworth) presumes that he has shown that the Executive Council are not liable to censure for remissness of duty in not having ascertained, at the earliest moment possible, the nature of the Despatch which accompanied the Address touching the payment of the Lieutenant Governor's Salary. I, however, maintain that they are justly liable to very severe censure for their neglect of duty concerning that Address. This opinion of mine they may altogether disregard at present; but there is, I can assure them, a time coming when they will be made to regard it. I contend that there should be no secrets between the Lieutenant Governor and his Council.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH. The late Duke of Newcastle was of a different opinion.

Hon. Solicitor General (Mr. HAVILAND.) Common sense itself is opposed to the dictum of the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Mr. COLES. The system of secrecy was, perhaps, suited well enough to the mode in which the affairs of a Colony were administered before the introduction of Responsible Government; but, under the system of Responsible or Self-Government, it ought to find no place. If the Lieut. Governor thought proper to make a secret of any of his Despatches, there was, under the Responsible System, a means by which a knowledge of them could be obtained. The Despatch of the Duke of Newcastle does not say to an Executive Council, "You are not to trouble yourselves about the private Despatches of the Lieut. Governor"; but it plainly intimates to them that they can have their Minute of Council, which is equal to a Despatch.

Hon. the Leader of the Government (J. C. POPE.) I regret exceedingly that His Excellency thought proper to

keep the nature and contents of the Despatch now in question from the knowledge of his Council. He did so, however, and I am not prepared to take upon myself the responsibility which attaches to one word of it; and neither is any other member of the Government. If it had been shewn to us, we would have endeavoured, by a Minute of Council, to counteract the impression which the statements contained in it were calculated to make upon the minds of the Imperial Government. I am, however, opposed to the passing of any Resolution, by means of which the subject of

the Lieut. Governor's Salary would again be brought under the notice and consideration of Her Majesty's Colonial Minister, because I believe that, if we call his attention to it again, we will have to pay it. I, therefore, Mr. Chairman, move that the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition have leave to withdraw his Resolution.

The motion of the Hon. the Leader of the Government having been seconded and put, the Committee divided thereon, *Ayes* 12, *Nays* 4; and the Resolution of the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition was withdrawn accordingly.

R. B. IRVING, Reporter.

ERRATA in the Report of the Speech of the Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH on the Confederation Question, as published in the *Examiner* of the 20th August, 1866:

In the sentence, "That they (the people) are most decidedly opposed to a Union with Canada upon *any* terms we know with certainty," &c., the word "*any*" should be *such*, meaning such terms as are set forth in the Quebec Scheme.

The sentence, "*Our best course, therefore, will be not to admit the possibility of such terms being accorded to us as would be acceptable and conducive to our interests,*" should have been expunged from the Report.

In the sentence commencing "But it only says that this House cannot admit that a Federal Union of the North American Provinces and Colonies, which would include Prince Edward Island, could *never* be accomplished," &c., the word "*never*" (a typographical error) should be *ever*; and the remainder of the sentence should have stood thus: "But it does not say that it is not in the power of the Mother Country and the other Colonies to concede to us terms that might prove advantageous to us—it does not deny the possibility of such a thing, but it expresses the conviction of this

House that those terms cannot be obtained;" and then should have followed this short sentence, "This, it appears to me, is the only proper and safe course for us to adopt."

In the sentence, "These are my sentiments, and, in pursuance of them, I am ready to support the Resolutions now before us; but if they can be amended without an acknowledgment of the *principle* of Union, in such an amendment of them I shall, most likely, be found quite willing to acquiesce," the word "*principle*" should be *principles*; and after "of Union" should follow, "as set forth in the Quebec Scheme."

Another error—a typographical one—has obscured the meaning of two consecutive sentences. In the sentence ending thus, "and our present happy condition with her" (that is Great Britain) "will, I trust, endure for so, ages to come," the word "*so*" and the comma, which belong to the next sentence, have been inserted through mistake on the part of the compositor. This word "*so*" and the comma being restored to their proper place, the following sentence will be read correctly thus: "As long as Great Britain is willing that it shall be so, we will remain true in our allegiance to the British Crown."

R. B. IRVING, Reporter.

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APPENDIX.

CLOSE OF THE SESSION.

On Friday afternoon, May 11, 1866, at four o'clock, His Excellency GEORGE DUNDAS, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor, proceeded to the Council Chamber, and having taken his seat on the throne, he was pleased to assent to the following Bills:—

An Act for the purpose of transferring the Fund raised by the Sale of the Military Barracks in Charlottetown, to the purposes therein mentioned.

An Act to incorporate the Western Bank.

An Act to incorporate the Charlottetown Woollen Factory Company.

An Act to compel Masters of Vessels to exhibit a Light while in harbor in the night time.

An Act to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of the Presbyterian Church of Cascumpec.

An Act to amend the Acts incorporating the Minister and Elders of St. John's Church, in the District of Belfast.

An Act to incorporate the Mechanics' Fishing Company of Charlottetown.

An Act to amend the Act intitled "An Act for establishing a Court of Divorce in this Island, and for repealing a certain Act therein mentioned."

An Act to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of St. Andrew's Church, Brackley Point Road, Township 33.

An Act to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of St. Andrew's Church, Cardigan, Township No. 53.

An Act to continue certain Acts therein mentioned.

An Act to incorporate the Grand Lodge of the British Order of Good Templars of Prince Edward Island, and to provide for the incorporation of the County and Primary Lodges in connection therewith.

An Act to alter, add to, and amend the Act to incorporate the Town of Charlottetown, and the Acts in amendment thereof.

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.

An Act to continue and amend a certain Act therein mentioned.

An Act to incorporate the Souris Bank.

An Act to amend the Act relating to the Presbyterian Church at Valleyfield.

An Act to continue the Act to prevent the running at large of Hogs within the Town, Common and Royalty of Charlottetown, in so far as relates to the said Royalty.

An Act for the regulation of Benefit Building Societies.

An Act to amend the Act to amend the Law of Real Property.

An Act to prevent the running at large of Swine within the town and Royalty of Princetown.

An Act to authorize the Commissioner of Highways for District No. 4, in Queen's County, to place a gate at the northern extremity of certain roads therein mentioned.

An Act further to amend the Act for the establishment of a Bank of Savings in Prince Edward Island.

An Act to amend an Act to repeal the Act relating to the Oyster Fisheries in this Island, and to make other provisions in lieu thereof.

An Act to authorize the establishment of an additional Small Debt Court in Prince County.

An Act to prevent the clandestine training of persons to the use of arms, and to the practice of military evolutions.

An Act to amend the Laws relating to Elections.

An Act to exempt property belonging to Her Majesty or to the Government of this Island, from Duties and Assessments.

An Act for settling doubts relative to titles acquired under the several laws of this Island for levying an Assessment on Lands.

An Act to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the conveyance and transfer of Real and Personal Property vested in Mortgagees and Trustees.

An Act for the better security of the Crown and Government of the United Kingdom within this Island.

An Act to incorporate the Summerside Fishing Company.

An Act to prevent the concealment of Arms or Munitions of War, intended for unlawful purposes.

An Act for the regulation of the Militia and Volunteer Forces.

An Act relating to the Office of Solicitor General of this Island.

An Act in addition to and in further amendment of the Land Purchase Act.

An Act for appropriating certain Moneys therein mentioned for the services of the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty-six.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor then closed the Session with the following Speech to both Houses of the Legislature:—

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

In relieving you from further attendance on your Legislative duties, I am happy to be able to congratulate you upon the large amount of public business which has been transacted during the Session.

APPENDIX.

I hasten to acknowledge the loyalty and the zeal which have induced you, without a dissentient voice, to place the whole Revenue of the Colony at the disposal of the Executive, for the Defence of this Island.

I am glad that a like spirit of unanimity has also characterized your discussions on the Militia and Volunteer Laws, to which I directed your special attention at the opening of the present Session.

I have given my assent, with much pleasure, to the Act which you have passed for the regulation of these Forces, and no exertion shall be wanting on my part to carry out the determination you have shown of placing the Militia on a sound and effective footing.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :

I thank you, in Her Majesty's name, for the Supplies which you have granted for the Public Service.

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

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

The measure by which you have extended my powers of purchasing Land, has my hearty Concurrence; and I trust that, under its Provisions, I may be enabled to purchase large Estates from the Proprietors.

I now release you from further attendance here by proroguing this Session of the Legislature.

After which, the Honorable the President of the Legislative Council said :—

GENTLEMEN :

It is the will and pleasure of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, that this General Assembly be prorogued until Wednesday, the Twentieth day of June next; and this General Assembly is accordingly prorogued until Wednesday, the Twentieth day of June next, to be here then holden.