

be said to be due; but he was of opinion that, as between agents and tenants, the truth was that, in many instances, if it were fairly made to appear what tenants had paid to agents, their arrears would be considerably less than the amounts claimed from them severally. As respected some agents, they had, no doubt, extracted large sums from the tenantry; but it was doubtfully as true, that much of the money so extracted by agents, instead of having found its way to the proprietors, had remained with the agents. With respect to the lot of some of the settlers whom I had treated in a very oppressive manner. They had been obliged to abandon their first improvements, and to retreat into the interior of the forest, 8 or 12 miles from the sea shore. As it was, several of the tenants had no certainty of their being able to hold their lands one day beyond the pleasure of the next agents. Mr. You had granted leases of lands to the next agents, Mr. You had granted leases of lands to the next agents, Mr. You had granted leases of lands to the next agents...

three shillings currency only per acre; and therefore that Estate could, in all financial propriety, be sold to you at four shillings and sixpence, and upwards to seven shillings and sixpence currency per acre—the latter price to be the highest you should pay for the best cultivated lands in the most eligible situations. At these prices the Government would realize from fifty up to one hundred and fifty per cent. advance on the purchase; and would secure a speedy disposal of the whole Estate, save interest, and guard against loss of land tax, and would, moreover, serve you; and after paying working expenses, leave a profit on the sales. If the Government should unwisely demand and insist upon higher prices than those I have mentioned, which include all arrears of rent, they would do you a positive injustice; and instead of bettering your condition, and alleviating your grievances, would entail upon you a fresh burden more galling to bear, and more grinding in reality than your present leasehold tenures. In consideration of the strong recommendation of the Royal Commissioners to the Proprietors, not to demand payment of arrears from their tenants, it cannot sagely be supposed that any claim would be made by the Government for rent arrears on the Selkirk Estate. It is, however, regardless of the desire of the Commissioners, the Government should require you to pay arrears, and should demand larger prices for lands than I have set down as the minor and the major rates, then, in my mind, there is no doubt that their object in so taxing you is, at your expense and injury, to set an example to Proprietors for collection of arrears; and to exhibit prices of lands for the guidance of Proprietors in the sale of their Estates, and with the object also, of having an immediate influence with the Royal Commissioners in making their Report, and thereby to prejudice and injure the interests of the tenantry generally, and necessarily shackle and impede the prosperity of this Island. Entertaining these views of such action on the part of the Executive, I am forced to the conclusion that it would indicate gross collusion between our Proprietary Government and their friends, the Proprietors.

is in jail at this present time on account of their misfortune in being landlords? Well, you know, I like consistency. If it was "wrong," "unjust," "iniquitous" for the Government to tax the land of freeholders to buy land for other folks a twelvemonth ago, isn't it every bit as "wrong" now? It is just this way, Mr. Editor: either the Tories was deceiving the people then, or they are acting against their consciences now; one way or the other, they are not doing like honest men. It will be time enough to talk about its being a "self-sustaining" business when the land is sold; they won't lay too soon; though, perhaps, they may be mistaken about it, after all. Besides, as there wasn't any sneaking land jobber come between them and their bargain, they got their land cheap. If it wouldn't be taking on myself too much, I would say a word or two now, that my hand's in, about another thing or two that struck me when the master was reading that paper. It is quite plain that the editor of the *Islander* feels so much for the proprietors, that he has no feelings left for the tenants. He sticks in a few soft words here and there like neighbour Skinfold from his Scripture texts, not because he believes in them, but just because they sound nice, and folks likes to hear them. Since he has insulted the Irish Catholics so much that he knows well they'll never support him nor his party, he gives some blame to the Scotch Highlanders, hoping that his soft soap will keep them loyal a little longer. He says, though they owe more than any other class to the proprietors, yet they haven't a bad word to say about their landlords. Now, the thing ain't true, as I know well; but supposing it was, he must be a dreadful green fellow not to see that they have a very good cause for holding their tongues. These Highlanders is a cautious people; they don't like abusing a man to his face, when he has the power to turn them out of doors, neck and crop, and clap them in limbo into the bargain. They ain't such fools, mind I tell you. But if Mr. Pope—a fellow must be respectful in the papers, I suppose—was to be in my shoes for one week, he would hear as much against proprietors from Scotch Highlanders as ever he heard from the most "turbulent" of them fellows who was guilty of the dreadful crime of coming here without a penny in their pockets, and making a decent living in spite of the potatoe rot, the weevil, and the Land Agent. I remain, yours, &c.

Mr. Cooper, as to leave the Queen's Printer's Press scarcely worth having,—we may then hope that the eyes of those two gentlemen will be opened to the enormous errors of the Government; but not sooner. We shall now give a flat contradiction to some statements which Mr. Pope has published, in the article under consideration, in reference more particularly to ourselves. He states that while Mr. Whelan was Queen's Printer there were such "disgraceful publications" in his paper, under the royal arms, as to render it necessary to have the *Gazette* published in a separate form. This is quite untrue. There were no disgraceful publications in our paper at any time; and when we published the *Gazette* in a separate form, we did it on our own mere motion, and to suit our own convenience, when we were appointed Queen's Printer for the second time in 1854. During the whole period of our first incumbency the *Gazette* and *Examiner* were merged in one publication. Mr. Pope further states that "Mr. Edward Whelan, while Queen's Printer, wrote disloyal and seditious articles in the *Examiner*." Mr. Pope, having some pretensions to legal knowledge, should define what disloyalty and sedition mean. If he entertains the same opinion as the mass of mankind does with respect to the nature of these offences, he has made a positive untruth. We confess that we have not been a subservient tool to the proprietary faction like himself, and never can be. If it is disloyal to repudiate all the pretensions of that faction—to deny that they should enjoy superior privileges, and ride rough-shod over every other class of Her Majesty's subjects—we will readily plead guilty to the charge. But the time has arrived for Mr. Pope and his friends to perceive that there are thousands in the Island ten times more disloyal than we are, according to his interpretation of the offence. It is not true that this journal "lays claim to being the sole advocate of the people." The people have now many more powerful advocates than we can ever hope to be—their number is every day increasing; and if our pen were thrown aside, and our voice hushed forever, the cause of freedom and justice shall not suffer so long as Mr. Pope and his proprietary friends pursue their iniquitous career of oppression. Nor is it true that we have ever advised the people to "violate the laws of their country," or "incite them to sedition." If the editor of the *Islander* cannot make good his charge, he is a slanderer and calumniator. We challenge him to produce a particle of proof in support of his assertion. He may remind us that in our last paper we doubted the propriety of the advice given by the Royal Commissioners that the tenantry should pay one year's rent. We doubt it still, because if it is wrong to exact the arrears—which the Commissioners say it is—we cannot see what constitutes the right of the proprietors to exact the current rent, pending the award. The tenants should pay all or none. But we think they should not be asked to pay any rent under the circumstances; yet we leave them to determine that question amongst themselves. We have not advised them to violate the law, nor have we written a sentence that is calculated to incite them to sedition. Mr. Pope seems to think it is wrong, disloyal and seditious for us to oppose the recommendation of the Commission with respect to the payment of one year's rent. But what did Mr. Pope himself say, two or three weeks ago? He declared the Commission had no control over wilderness land, nor over those proprietors who did not agree to the institution of the Court. It was not disloyal in him to give this opinion—repudiating, as it did, the authority of the Crown; but we are to be denounced as a rebel because we happen to disagree with the Commission in their parting advice to landlords and tenants. We can well understand the motive which prompts the editor of the *Islander* to say that he is not under the control of the Government. It may be so; and it may be that the Government are under his control, which may be fairly inferred from the fact that he had power enough to force himself into the Secretary's Office against their will. At all events, it is inconvenient to dispel the pleasant illusion that the Government are the friends of the tenantry. As Secretary and Chief Clerk of the Council, the Government don't like to be compromised by his exclusive advocacy of proprietary claims. The editor would fain have the public to forget that he holds these important situations; but the public will persist, in spite of any disclaimer, that the editor of the *Islander* and Clerk of the Executive Council, acting under the inspiration of the latter, are one and the same individual. The Administration want to keep, if possible, on good terms with the tenantry and the proprietors. They are like the lover between two jealous mistresses, ready to exclaim— "How happy would I be with either, Were I other dear charmer away."

Mr. WRIGHTMAN.—With respect to such leases as that which Mr. Wightman has read to us, I understand that the opinion is that the tenant or occupier of the land, and not the proprietor, is the person who is bound to pay the arrears of rent, and that, although their inability to pay their rents was to be inferred from the large amounts of arrears stated by agents to be due from the tenants on several townships, some of the agents of such townships had prospered so well upon their management of them, even whilst they were so unprofitable to the proprietors, and they seemed to have made scarcely any or no mention on account of rents received by them, to these proprietors—how was it, he would like to know that some of the agents of such properties had, under such unfavorable circumstances, been desirous to purchase these very unproductive properties, and had actually been able, to some very considerable extent, to do so.

Mr. WRIGHTMAN.—The ability of such a land agent to purchase estates, under his own management, and to pay the arrears of rent, is a matter which, in my opinion, can be accounted for in no other way than on the supposition that, instead of remitting the arrears received by him from the tenants, on account of rent, he had kept all to himself. The "dividend" who he never sends agents for Lot 61 have kept all they received from it, on account of rent, to themselves. And if it is a fact, as you say, that the land agent who keeps the arrears of rent, on account of rent, from the tenants, have sent home to the proprietors for a assistance to enable them to pay the land assessment.

HUMPHREY HOMESPUN. P. S.—Our Bill says that the spelling of this letter will do, but that the grammar is awful. H. H.

THE MAIL SERVICE—POLITICAL JOBBING. TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER. Sir—It is reported here, and believed, on information obtained from a member of the Government, that Messrs. Crabb & Bagnall's tender for the Western Mail has been accepted by the Government, although it is 8s. 6d. per trip, or 17s. per week more than another tender that was offered by a very competent person. It is believed, too, that one of the firm has laid this favour shown to him, at the public expense, on account of his services after the last election in coaching through Charlottetown the official candidates and their friends. It is also stated, on the same authority, that the Messrs. Irving of Cape Traverse, have obtained the contract for the carrying of the Mails across the Straits, in the Ice Boat, at a higher figure than that at which the late contractor offered to do the work. There is no doubt that the Messrs. Irving are trustworthy, highly respectable men, and will give general satisfaction to the public; but their predecessors are also respectable men, and enjoyed the confidence of the community in the able manner in which they performed their work. If the latter offered to do the work at a lower price than the former, and their offer was rejected, the only reason that can be assigned for it is—that the latter are Liberals and the Irvings are not. Yours, &c., FAIR PLAY. Summerside, October 16, 1860.

Individual propriety of Land Agents. Hon. Commissioner HOWE.—I have asked how it was that, although tenants generally were represented as being unable to pay the arrears of rent, and were subjected by their leases, and that, although their inability to pay their rents was to be inferred from the large amounts of arrears stated by agents to be due from the tenants on several townships, some of the agents of such townships had prospered so well upon their management of them, even whilst they were so unprofitable to the proprietors, and they seemed to have made scarcely any or no mention on account of rents received by them, to these proprietors—how was it, he would like to know that some of the agents of such properties had, under such unfavorable circumstances, been desirous to purchase these very unproductive properties, and had actually been able, to some very considerable extent, to do so.

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Mr. Cooper, as to leave the Queen's Printer's Press scarcely worth having,—we may then hope that the eyes of those two gentlemen will be opened to the enormous errors of the Government; but not sooner. We shall now give a flat contradiction to some statements which Mr. Pope has published, in the article under consideration, in reference more particularly to ourselves. He states that while Mr. Whelan was Queen's Printer there were such "disgr