Your Petitioners also beg to state that those of the Tenantry on the said Estate who have long Leases, and who have been longer in possession of them, are in equally unfavourable circumstances, as those aforesaid, on account of a greater amount of arrears, in consequence of the same being a greater length of time accumulating, they also having commenced to clear the Land under the same unfavorable circumstances, as those first mentioned: And, therefore, they also pray for a cancelling of their arrears and *reduction* of present Rent.

Your Petitioners further wish to make known (through your Honorable House) to their Proprietor, that, being situated in an intensely cold climate, and all the crops they can raise on their improvements, not being more, in many cases, than what is sufficient for sustaining their families during the long winter: that often, since the failure of the crops, and in years of scarcity, as of late, many of the Tenantry have to surmount great difficulties in procuring seed—often depending upon Legislative aid during the Summer:

Hence their inability to fulfil their liabilities to their Proprietor. and their great necessity of having their arrears of rent *cancelled* and their present yearly rent *reduced*, which would secure their Honorable Proprietor their cheerful efforts in future to fulfil such new engagements as may be granted to them.

Your Petitioners, therefore, humbly hope and earnestly pray that your Honorable House will be pleased to take their very embarrassed and depressed condition into your serious consideration, their grievances being such as call loudly for legislative interference; and through your Honorable House, they hope their Proprietor, the Earl of Selkirk will be informed of such existing grievances aforesaid,—that such measures may be adopted as shall lessen the evils complained of: And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Here follow the Signatures, as Mr. Davies stated, of 260 Leaseholders.

Mr. Davies. The Petition which had just been read was signed by 260 leaseholders, of whose circumstances of difficulty and distress, it contained a statement, by no means exaggerated, but which, on the contrary—from his own personal knowledge of the circumstances of the Petitioners generally—he could say was very much short of the reality. These persons had emigrated to this country under a most mistaken idea of its climate, and of its actual state and condition, both as respected its natural capabilities and its actual improvement. That these had been unfairly represented to them, by interested parties, before they left the old country, he would not say; but it was an undeniable fact that they had been influenced to emigrate to this Island, by the belief, however induced, that its climate, its resources, its condition, the facilities for the prosecution of agricultural labour, its commerce, and its markets, would afford them opportunities to improve their circumstances, much more desirable than any they had experienced, or could hope to experience in the Old Country. Their pecuniary means, as was stated in the Petition, and as hon. members might well suppose, from a consideration of their state and condition in the Old Country, and after payment of their passage-money, were very limited indeed; and, on their arrival here, even although their eyes had been suddenly opened to the real state of things, as they respected the tenantry of the country in general, and they had been enabled to foresee the difficulties and distress, in which their becoming tenants on the terms offered them would inevitably involve them, the knowledge of these things would have come too late for their benefit. In their pecuniary circumstances—circumstances very little above those of actual destitution—the step which they had taken was irretrievable: they were here—here obliged to remain; and, with a view to their future subsistence, they had no course left but to accept of lands, on whatever terms they could be obtained. The terms on which they obtained lands were such as those contained in the copy of a Lease which accompanied the Petition. In that Lease, the term is 21 years, the quantity of land leased is 85¾ acres, and the Rents reserved, *Two Pounds* per annum for the *first three years*, and *Five Pounds Fourteen shillings and four pence* for the residue of the term—18 years—the tenant being bound, at the same time, to extend his improvements, every year, at least so far as the clearing, cultivating, and fencing of Two Acres of land; and, lastly, the Lease contains a covenant and agreement with the Tenant, to the effect that he, his heirs and assigns shall have the privilege of purchasing the said tract of land, at any time during the continuance of the Lease for Eighty-five Pounds and fifteen shillings of the lawful current money of Prince Edward Island. Many of the tenants in this Colony, besides those whose cruel bondage was set forth in the Petition which he had just presented, had, he was too well aware, great, very great reason to complain of the burthen of their leasehold obligations, but, to the credit of the Island Proprietors in general, he was happy to be able to say, that, with the exception of the Proprietor in question, and, perhaps, one or two others, none of them had ever imposed upon their tenantry conditions so oppressive as those contained in that Lease. As respected the unfortunate individuals who accepted leases on such terms, a consideration of their ignorance of the real state of the Colony, of the exigence of their circumstances, and of the impossibility of their doing any thing else, under such circumstances, was quite sufficient to shew and explain, to honorable members, how those mistaken and deceived men had been induced to enter into agreements and engagements, to the terms of which—under more favorable circumstances and with a clearer knowledge of the nature of the undertaking proposed to them—neither they, nor any other men, in their perfect senses, could have been persuaded to submit. It would not, however, be so easy to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion, if hon. members should endeavour to determine the motives and calculations of the parties imposing conditions of so oppressive a character. It could not be said that they did it in ignorance. They must have very well known, that the fulfilment of those conditions, on the part of those on whom they were imposed, would be absolutely impossible; and how they could have looked forward to any other result than that of the tenants, after years of toil, suffering, and privation, being obliged—in consequence of their inability to fulfil the conditions of their leases—to yield up their improvements, in liquidation of their arrears, and go forth into the world as beggars, he was utterly at a loss to imagine. The condition of the Petitioners was such as, he felt assured, could not fail to excite the commiseration of the whole House. When ten or twelve years ago—their pecuniary means perhaps completely exhausted, and with scarcely any thing besides stout hearts and stout bodies to depend upon—they set about clearing small spaces out of the dense forest to make their homes, the difficulties which opposed and beset them were of no ordinary character; but those difficulties, great as they were, appeared almost as nothing, when compared with those which then oppressed them, and the heart-sickenig prospect before them. They had been unable to pay their rents—the fruits of their toil had scarcely been sufficient for their bare subsistence—their sons who had grown up, seeing no prospect of succeeding to the home-steads of their fathers, or of their being, thereon benefited at any future period, either by the labors of their fathers, or that of their own hands, had gone, in search of remunerative employments, to the United States, or elsewhere—and, in their declining years and strength, they were left, gloomily and hopelessly to drag out a miserable existence, under the oppressive sense of heavy obligations which they had not the most distant prospect of ever being able to discharge; and from which they had not even the ability to remove themselves. Still however, they were patient, and willing to do their utmost; and, could their Landlord be induced to mitigate the weight of their burdens, and reasonably to modify the terms of their Leases, they would, prostrated as they were, take fresh courage, and cheerfully endeavour to meet all his fair demands in future. He (the hon. member) was well aware that the House possessed no power authoritatively to deal with the complaints of the Petitioners, and that no legislative action could relieve them from the pressure of their grievous obligations; still that consideration had not, for a moment, disposed him to decline bringing the distressing circumstances of the Petitioners before the House; for, although he knew them to be powerless to redress the grievances cnmplained of, by direct interposition between the Petitioners and their Landlord, he entertained a strong hope that a declaration of condemnatory opinion, on their part, concerning the imposition, upon tenants, of obligations so oppressive and unjust, as those which had just been exposed to them, could not fail to have some salutary influence, and might indirectly, operate for the benefit of those who, wholly unable, by any exertions of their own, to extricate themselves from the difficulties which oppressed and bound them, had appealed to them for sympathy and assistance. The hon. member then concluded by moving that the Resolution be referred to a select Committee to report thereon to the House.

Mr. Wightman. The condition of the Petitioners was undoubtedly one which could not fail to awaken the kindly and compassionate sympathies of that House. It was one which loudly, indeed, called for redress; yet he was obliged to confess, that he knew of no measure or means, by the adoption of which the House would have it in their power to afford direct relief to the Petitioners as respects to the grievances of which they complained. Most, if all of the Tenants located on Douse's Road, (by which name a certain portion of one of the estates of the Earl of Selkirk in this Island, was known,) had, he believed, no longer a tenure than twenty or twenty-one years; and, of that, about twelve years were, in most cases, expired. He had a pretty intimate knowledge of the condition and circumstances of most of those settlers; and he was satisfied that, generally speaking, they had paid little or no rent: The fact, indeed, was that they could not pay it. They had been given possession of their lands—wilderness lands, it was to be remembered—on terms so disadvantageous, and when their small pecuniary means had been almost wholly exhausted, that it was not so much to be wondered at that they had paid little or no rent, as it was that they had been able (so beset with difficulties of every kind) to earn even the scanty subsistence which had been the only recompence of their industry and perseverance. And what was the prospect which, after twelve years of industry, toil, and suffering, lay before them? Not that they would be allowed to hold and enjoy as their own, the improvements which, in spite of almost unconquerable difficulties, they had made; but that, by the iron hand of the law, at the will of the Proprietor or his Agent, they would be driven forth, from the houses they had built, and the lands which they had cleared and improved—not for their own future comfort, but the proprietor's prospective benefit—a set of houseless, pennyless, exhausted, and enfeebled men, wholly unable to recommence their war with the forest, and with no hope for a morsel of bread, beyond the individual charity of their fellow-men. Such calamity ought not to overtake honest and industrious men; and there was undoubtedly something very far wrong in that state of things, out of which misery so undeserved could naturally arise. How the Legislature could remedy it however, he was truly sorry to say he did not know. So concerned had he been for the situation and difficulties in which those poor men were placed, that, at different times, he had taken opportunities of calling the attention of the Agent, Mr. Douse, to it, in the hope that he would be induced to make some endeavours, on his part, for the alleviation of their grievances. To all his (Mr. W's) representations concerning those unfortunate men, it was due to Mr. Douse to state that he had replied in a very kindly spirit. He said that he was willing to take payment of rent from them in any shape they could offer it to him, in juniper knees, or whatsoever else they could most easily procure, and he would, for every thing they offered, allow them the highest price; but that, if they did not come forward and make reasonable payments of some kind, he would be obliged to have recourse to harsh mearures.

Mr. Davies rose again, and said—It was due to Mr. Douse to state that there existed much good feeling between him and the tenants generally, on the estates under his management, and that they did not look upon him as a harsh and rigorous Agent. With respect to such of the tenantry of the Earl of Selkirk, the truly deplorable circumstances of whom were then before that House, he would take leave to say that, independently of the consideration of those circumstances of almost hopeless slavery and indigence, which all must admit entitled them to the most kindly sympathies of common humanity, they had, he thought, claims of peculiar weight and force upon the favorable consideration of their noble landlord. The fathers and brothers of many of those men had shed their blood and laid down their lives, as Highland soldiers, on the field of battle, for the preservation of the rights and properties of the English Aristocracy; and, surely, even if the dispensing with the observance of the law of doing unto others as we would be done by, could ever be successfully defended, it could not be by a British Peer, with respect to men, whose fathers and brothers had served and protected his interests and those of his Order, at the expense of their blood and lives. How could he, how could any man, to whose bosom gratitude and humanity were not strangers bear to contemplate the condition of abject slavery and misery, to which the sons and brothers of some of the bravest and most faithful of the defenders of the Crown, the aristocracy, and independence of Britain, were here doomed, in the wilderness, without any fault of their own, and solely to feed the cold calculating hopes of gain, on the part of an individual, from whom was due to those very men whom he held in cruel bondage, the exercise of the most grateful and generous liberality! Every feeling of justice, humanity, and gratitude was outraged by such conduct; and the condition of men so bound and enslaved, in a free country, was, if possible, worse than that of positive and acknowledged slavery itself. It was true it might be thoughtlessly, or even unfeelingly, said, by some, that those men, however otherwise oppressed, were not forced to remain in the grievous circumstances in which they had unfortunately been placed; and that they were at perfect liberty to go elsewhere, and try to better their condition. To this remark, whether it might be thoughtlessly or unfeelingly made, his reply would be that it was a false assumption: These men, whose most willing, although feeble, advocate he was, were, by their poverty, most effectually bound down and chained to their miserable condition. By no efforts of their own, could they disengage or emancipate themselves; and, besides, their only hopes of prolonging a wretched existence depended upon their remaining where they were. They were, however wholly at the mercy of their Landlord, or that of his Agent; and, so precarious were their tenure, and dependence upon it as a means for procuring a scanty and wretched subsistence, that they might be turned out of their houses, and ejected from their farms, at almost a moment's warning. Should proceedings so rigorous and cruel be employed against them, he was of opinion, however, that their adoption would provoke resistance: they would not be tamely submitted to. But should they be dealt fairly with, there was not, he believed, one among them who would not willingly do his very utmost to comply with the terms of a new and equitable agreement. To be secured in their improvements, they would, he believed, consent to pay as high a rent as they could possibly afford; and one shilling currency, per acre, per annum, would not, he thought, be objected to by any of them. Although the House certainly could not mitigate the grievances of the Petitioners by legislative enactments; yet he thought, its interference, in some way, was positively demanded; and that such a course might be adopted as would result in some measure of relief to men who, not knowing in what other quarter to look for aid, had, under the dire pressure of their bondage, applied to them for protection.

Hon. Mr. Warburton. The manner in which wilderness lands had been leased to the Petitioners, and the terms and conditions imposed upon them, by their leases, were not simply unfair and unreasonable; they were posittvely unjust, oppressive, and cruel. That settlers in this Colony, were so dishonestly dealt with, by any Proprietors, or their Agents, he did not know until lately. He was certainly very well aware that leases were frequently granted, for such short periods as twenty-one years, in the Old Country; but there, where farms at the commencement of such leases, were in a high state of improvement, and where the dwelling-houses, barns, stables, &c. were all in complete repair, there was no greater hardship or injustice, consequent to tenants, upon such a leasing, than to an individual who, for a very short term, should lease a house and garden in thorough repair. The case, however, was widely different with respect to the leasing of lands in a wilderness state, the value of which, as farms, could arise only from an expenditure of labour and capital, in the clearing, in the first instance, and then, subsequently, in the cultivation of the soil. Nothing could be said in defence or in extenuation of such injustice as that complained of by the Petitioners. The taking advantage of a man's ignorance and necessities, to bind him in cruel and hopeless bondage, for the best years of his life, at the expiration of which to take possession of his improvements, and to cast him forth upon the world, destitute and helpless, was a species of kidnapping of the most detestable character. It was well indeed that so unjust and cruel a system had been brought under the notice of the House. It most imperatively demanded their most serious consideration; and good might result from it, although it should elicit nothing, within their own body, beyond their decided reprobation.

Mr. Yeo. He had, in a friendly way, remonstrated with Mr. Douse on the subject of the terms and conditions of the Laws which were complained of by the Petitoners; with the view of proving to him that it would be quite impossible for the tenants to fulfil the obligations to which they were, thereby, bound: but Mr. Douse assured him, that he had had no choice in the matter; that he had merely acted in conformity with his instructions; and that, however hard the conditions of the Leases might be, it had not been in his power to grant any of a less objectionable character. For his (Mr. Yeo's) own part, he thought it disgraceful, both to a Proprietor and an Agent to grant such Leases. There was, however, scarcely a Proprietor in the Island, he believed—indeed he hoped there was not one, who, when petitioned by paying tenants, in times of scarcity, of unusual difficulties, or after failure or destruction of crops, would not willingly make an abasement of their otherwise just demands for rent; but, with respect to the Petitioners who, it was stated, had, from the first, payed little or no rent, it was difficult to see how they could, with any propriety, petition their Landlord for indulgence or remission of his claims. The Petitioners were, no doubt, in a very pitiable condition; but he could not help thinking that they themselves had been very much to blame for it. They voluntarily took upon themselves obligations of which, if they were at all capable of reflection, as he supposed they were, they must have known they could never acquit themselves. The circumstances of these men ought to shew the Government the futility of their scheme for converting leaseholders into freeholders, as it was embodied in the Land-Purchase Bill. If the tenants of the Earl of Selkirk who had taken Leases of wilderness lands for 21 years, with liberty to purchase, at any time within that term, had not been able to pay even their rents; how, he would like to know, could the Government expect that men, purchasing such lands, and agreeing to pay for them, in a similar way, under that Bill, would be able to do so? On Lot 31 some individuals had entered into agreements to purchase wilderness lands in a similar way. They did so in spite of the best and most earnest advice he could give them; and the consequence was that they had not been able to pay any portion of the purchase moneys, or even the rents.

Hon. Mr. Warburton. The utter inabilty of men—having no other resources on which to rely, than those of their own manual labour—to fulfil such conditions, was easily accounted for. In their laudable desire to become freeholders, they overrated their own powers of exertion and endurance. At first, actuated by the most praiseworthy motives, and excited by the most lively hopes, they commenced the arduous task of clearing the forest; but when, finding that the very utmost they could effect, by the most unremitting labour and excessive toil, would not enable them to support themselves and pay even the rent of the land, or interest of the purchase money, seeing themselves, as it were, altogether baffled, and finding all their hopes of becoming freeholders completely extinguished, they relaxed in their endeavours, and became, in fact, broken-hearted and spiritless men. He knew well how impossible it was for a man to pay rent for a new farm or wilderness land, from the commencement of his term, by the fruits of his labour thereon; and his mode of leasing wilderness lande was, in general, four years free, four years at four pence, four years at eight pence, and the residue of a term of 999 years at one shilling currency, per annum, per acre. Such terms gave a man due encouragement, and afforded him a reaonable and cheering prospect of success. When rent, for such farms, was demanded from the first, men soon became broken-hearted and spiritless, and took the first opportunity to abandon their hopeless undertakings.

Mr. Macaulay. Calamity, toil, and suffering, were common to the greater portion of the human race, in every, clime and country; and their fate was to contend with difficulties and privations on every side. This fact, however, whilst, on the one hand, from the sons of toil, it demanded unceasing perseverance and indomitable courage; on the other, as forcibly demanded, from the possessors of wealth, a generous sympathy for the sufferings and endurance of those from whose labours their affluence and ease were derived; and in no relation, subsisting between the propertied and the labouring classes, was the propriety and duty of this generous sympathy more obvious, than in that which ought to unite the landed proprietor and his tenant, and render the former, if only for his own sake, the watchful guardian and promoter of the interests of the latter. The duties of that relation, in its most amiable features, should, every where, and under all circumstances, whether of prosperity or adversity, be acknowledged and acted upon, towards honest and industrious tenants, by their landlords; but in no country did circumstances more demand their acknowledgement and fulfilment, than in a newly settled country like Prince Edward Island, where all that awaited a poor settler in the woods, for the first three or four years at least, even although he should have no rent to pay, was a life of squalid poverty. His observation had enabled him to estimate, with some correctness, most of the difficulties which were to be encountered, and a great deal of the misery which was to be endured, by the man who undertook to wage war with the forest, and hew out, for himself, a home and a clearance in the wilderness; and deeply did he regret that Proprietors in general were not as well acquainted, as he himself was, with the nature of those diflculties and the amount of that misery; for, if they were, he felt assured, they would instruct their agents to grant much more indulgent terms in their leases for the future, and direct them at once to cancel those oppressive obligations and conditions, now subsisting, which reason and justice alike condemned. With respet to the condition of the Petitioners and their obligations to their landlord, he, for one, would willingly lend his aid in remonstrating with the Proprietor concerning the oppressive, disheartening, and impracticable obligations and conditions, imposed upon them by their Leases; and in earnestly recommending to him the propriety of cancelling their leases, and granting them others on terms more in accordance with the principles of reason and equity. If not out of order, he would move a Resolution to that efiect, which he had just prepared. The hon. member then read as follows:

"Whereas the labours of the agriculturist of Prince Edward Island, during the last few years, have resulted in disappointed hope, by the decay of the potato crop, and the blasting of wheat by rust and otherwise—the farming community having been forced, by want of means, to look to the Government of this Colony for food, in very many cases—It is therefore necessary that the precariousness of the agricultural yield of the soil be brought to the notice of the owners of the soil, with the view of persuading the land-owners to reduce the yearly rent of their land, so as to induce the cultivators of the soil to further assiduity in promoting their own independence:

Therefore *Resolved*—That this House shall address a Circular to the owners of Township Lands, in Prince Edward Island, urging on said owners of land the justness and necessity of reducing the Rents, or yearly dues on Township Lands, as a measure calculated to promote the common benefit of landlord and tenant."

The hon. member (Mr. Macaulay) then said he would submit that Resolution, in consequence of the Petition which had been presented by the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Davies.)

Hon. the Speaker. He could not put the question thereon. It would be extremely irregular to do so. It would be beneath the dignity of the House to entertain a proposition for such an address.

Hon. Mr. Warburton. The mode of proceeding proposed by the hon. member who presented the Petition (Mr. Davies) appeared to him to be the only one which the House could adopt with propriety.

Hon. Mr. Coles. The best course for themselves which tenants, circumstanced as the Petitioners were, could pursue, was, he thought, to remove their stock and every thing else they could possibly take away from their farms, and try some other place where more desirable terms could be obtained. Men who settled upon wilderness lands, as they had done, on short leases, with liberty to purchase, would almost invariably, be worse off towards the end of their term, than they had been at the beginning of it. After grubbing and hoeing for a number of years; and just as they had, perhaps, acquired a horse, a plough, and harrows, the amount of their arrears and the rapidly approaching termination of their term, gave them the alarm, and becoming disheartened, their energies forsook them, and suddenly paralyzed as it were, they abandoned hope and enterprise together. One of his reasons for bringing forward the Land-Purchase Bill, was his desire to afford tenants, so unfortunately circumstanced, an opportunity of escaping from the thraldom and misery of their condition. To afford relief to them, under the pressure of such obligations as were imposed upon them, by their leases, was impossible. The only means left them, by which to escape from the difficulties of their situation and the pressing weight of their obligations, was to abandon their farms as speedily as possible, taking everything with them, of any value whatever, which they had it in their power to carry away: and he would advise them not to leave behind them, for the benefit of the proprietor, even so much as a blade of grass, if they could avoid doing so. Individuals who had taken farms, on short leases and at high rents, within nine or ten miles of the Town, had done so in the expectation that their nearness to the market in Charlottetown, and their being able always to obtain the best price at it, for their produce, would counterbalance the disadvantages of a short lease and a high rent; but, he believed, the calculations on which they had acted had been very erroneous. It was far better, he was persuaded, to hold a farm, on a long lease, at a moderate rent, although at a distance of forty or fifty miles from Charlottetown; and individuals so circumstanced had now quite as good opportunities of disposing of their produce of every kind, on advantageous terms, in their own immediate neighbourhoods, as they who, for that purpose, regularly attended the markets in Charlottetown. In fact, he was persuaded that the advantages, enjoyed by farmers at a distance from Charlottetown, were, generally speaking, even independently of the consideration of their long leases and lower rents, greater than those of farmers within a short distance of Charlottetown; for they were not tempted and induced, as others were, to leave their farms and ride to Town, every market day, with whatever little produce they might have to dispose of, at an expense equal to the value of their own labour and that of their horses, for a day, on their farms. He had, in several instances, given advice in conformity with those views, which, he was persuaded, were correct. With respect to the course which it would be advisable for the House to pursue with reference to the Petition then under consideration, he was of opinion that it would be derogatory to the House to address the proprietors on behalf of the Petitioners. It would be much better, he thought, to appoint a Committee to take the Petition into consideration; and a Report from that Committee, setting forth the grievances of the Petitioners, if approved by the House, might, perhaps, cause the Proprietors and their Agents to reflect, with feelings of regret, upon the terms and conditions imposed by them, upon such lessees as the Petitioners. It might cause them to reflect that they had held out objects, as inducements to those poor people, which were not attainable. It might cause them to look, with shame, upon the trap into which they had caused those helpless men to fall; and prepare them to take into their favourable consideration, a well-prepared and reasonable Petition to themselves, from tenants, so unfortunately circumstanced as those whose Petition was then under the consideration of the House. As to the inference drawn, by the hon. member from Port Hill, (Mr. Yeo) from the fact of those petitioners' not having been able to pay their rents, and applied to such poor individuals as might become purchasers of small tracts of land under the operation of the Land Purchase Bill, who, that hon. member had declared, would no more be able to fulfil the conditions of their purchase, than they had been who had taken short leases, with liberty to purchase, from the Agent of the Earl of Selkirk, he (the hon. Mr. Coles) thought the deduction was altogether drawn from false premises. The position of the contrasted parties was, by no means, similar. The poor man purchasing a small tract of unimproved land, under the Land-Purchase Bill, might, and would no doubt, with his axe and his hoe, have many and great difficulties to encounter, and much suffering and privations to endure for the first four or five years of his undertaking; but, at the end of that period, his improvements would be his own, and it would be no difficult thing for him to borrow a little money thereon, if he required it, to meet his engagements on account of his purchase—as for instance, suppose his improvments to be worth £20, it would not be difficult for him to borrow £10, on such security, to enable him to pay off his last instalment and perfect his freehold. With a tenant circumstanced as the Petitioners were, the case was quite different: having been unable to pay his rent, his interest in his improvements became less and less towards the termination of his short lease, and as it was quite evident that his prospects of success were irretrievably gone, and all the improvements which he had been able to effect would be for the sole benefit of the landlord, it was not likely, that so, hopelessly circumstanced, he could look for any assistance in the shape of a pecuniary loan.

Mr. Yeo. The system of granting short leases, he held to be unjust and oppressive, as it respected Tenants: and unwise and self-defeating, as it respected Proprietors. When he was appointed Agent for Sir George Seymour, he was determined not to give short leases; and, Sir George cordially approving of his views, authorised him to extend the tenure to 999 years. He (Mr Yeo) thought the policy of granting leases of 21 years, was a very unjust and indefensible one, in whatever light it might be viewed. It gave tenants no fair encouragement: they could not prosper under such a system; and, at the same time, it defeated the intentions of landlords themselves, with respect to the promotion of their own interests.

Mr. Macaulay. He was of opinion that, however favorably, in some cases, the Land Purchase Bill might work for the relief of the Tenantry, it would not, as the hon, the Leader of the Government seemed to think it would, be the means of effecting a change for the better in the condition of such tenants as the Petitioners. They had already had enough of battling with the forest. They were now too much dispirited and enfeebled for waging war with the forest again.

Hon. Mr. Thornton. In the absence of Mr. Douse, he felt it to be his duty, in justice to that gentleman, to offer some explanations in his behalf. In 1850 he (Hon Mr. Thornton) understood from him that he was authorised to cancel all the 21 years leases which had been granted to any tenants on Earl Selkirk's estates in this Island; and to give them, in lieu thereof, long leases, at rents he (Hon. Mr. Thornton) thought of one shilling currency, per acre, per annum, or on similar terms with the rest of the Property, at the same time making such arrangements for the arrears as circumstances might suggest. His offer was not, however, (Mr. Douse informed him) accepted by the Tenantry—not one of them met him when notified to come to an arrangement for a new lease; and he (Mr. Douse) understood they would not unless the Rent should be reduced to six pence per acre, or some equally low Rent as compared with their present Rent, and the arrears to be cancelled. The cause of these short leases was the agitation of the escheat question some years ago; and the consequence was, with respect to the futuie management of the Earl Selkirk's Estate, in this Island, that the agent (Mr. Douse) received instructions to grant no leases but short ones—such as those the terms and conditions of which were complained of by the Petitioners. He (Hon. Mr. T.) had only again to observe that he made this statement from memory, and in justice to a member of the House who was not in his place to explain his conduct as the agent of the property referred to.

Mr. Mooney. The first time he saw Mr. Douse and had any conversation with him, was, it would seem, soon after he (Mr. Douse) had received instructions, from his principal in England, to grant no more long leases. They met on St. Peter's Road, on Tracadie's land, and the conversation, on that account perhaps, was commenced by some enquiries, on the part of Mr. Douse, concerning Tracadie's character as a landlord. He asked me, continued the hon. member, if Tracadie was not accounted a bad landlord. I replied that he and Mr. Douse were said to be the two worst in the Island. Mr. Douse then told me that I might blame the agitation of escheat for the short leases; that the Agents in the Colony had been instructed to devise some means to stop the progress of escheat agitation; for, otherwise, the Proprietors apprehended they would lose their lands: and, said he, we thought the only way by which we could accomplish that object was to give short leases. Now, sir, it was His *sable* Majesty who guided the pen of every landlord or agent who signed a lease of only twenty-one years' duration, in Prince Edward Island. When the Ejected Tenants, Compensation Bill was brought forward, I harboured the opinion that it would intefere with those iniquitous short leases, and that, at their expiration, some compensation would be awarded, to the heart-broken tenants, for their improvements. But grieved am I to say that no provision has been made, by any enactment, for the protection of the down-trodden slave; and since it is the case that the Government is not willing, or, in other