

ered, by means of false statements at the Colonial Office, artfully to defeat and entirely frustrate the final passing or enactment thereof, by preventing their obtaining the Royal Allowance; and that the proprietors thus acted from the most sordid motive, namely, that they would by those Laws be compelled to contribute a small sum towards the improvement of the country, by way of a tax on their wilderness Lands.

5. *Resolved* That from the liberal policy of His Majesty's present Ministers, the Inhabitants of this Colony entertain a well grounded expectation of the speedy redress of the many long endured and serious grievances, which they have hitherto so ineffectually complained of.

6. *Resolved* That from the hitherto all prevailing influence of absent Proprietors and their friends at the Colonial Office, and the extreme difficulty which the Colonists have uniformly experienced in making their real and true situation correctly known, and by allowing the statements of interested and ill-informed individuals to prevail, this Colony has been in many important particulars indirectly but virtually deprived of those advantages which ought to result from its possessing a local Legislature, chosen by the Inhabitants, and intimately acquainted with their wants and wishes.

7. *Resolved*, that Courts of Escheat have long been established, and in active operation, in the neighbouring Provinces; and it is the opinion of this Committee, that their beneficial results are best shewn by the general settlement and improvement of those Colonies, and the certainty and mildness of the tenure by which the agriculturists therein hold their Lands.

8. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that the Rents in this Colony for Land, the clearing and bringing into cultivation of which is more than equal to the simple value thereof, range from One Shilling to Five Shillings per acre, and the length of Lease from Forty years upwards; and that the Rents of the whole Island, if settled, even at One Shilling per acre only, would amount to Sixty Thousand Pounds per annum, a sum which, under any circumstances, even the most prosperous, must prove ruinous, if abstracted from it to support absent Proprietors.

9. *Resolved*, as the opinion of this Committee, that in all probability this Island would, by this time, have been fully settled—the Titles of every man secure—its exports much beyond those of the same extent of territory in any of the Northern Colonies, and the consumption of British goods proportionably increased, if the Act of 1803, authorizing an Escheat, had gone into operation, as His Majesty at first facetiously intended that it should.

10. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, with reference to Viscount Godolphin's Despatch of August 1st, 1832, to His

Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, that the intention therein expressed, in the event of any Lands being Escheated in Prince Edward Island, that there would be no remission to the occupying tenants of the conditions on which such portions of the said Lands as were actually occupied are held of the proprietors, would, if carried into effect; place a large proportion of the Inhabitants of this Island on a footing much worse than that of the settlers in the neighbouring Provinces. That the said Tenantry, in general, are a loyal and deserving class of men, and would in the event of the Lands they occupy being escheated, have a strong claim upon the indulgence of Government, from the consideration that it is solely owing to their persevering and industrious habits that the lands in question have arrived at their present value.

11. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that there are still large tracts of land liable to forfeiture in this Island; from which circumstance, longer to delay the establishment of a Court of Escheat, similarly constituted with those in the neighbouring Provinces; can be regarded in no other light than a denial of justice to the Colony, and inevitably tend to retard its settlement, cultivation, and general prosperity; and that were the Lands liable to escheat sold in small tracts to actual settlers, the consequences to the Inhabitants would be lasting and beneficial.

12. *Resolved*, That the establishment of a Court of Escheat in this Colony, so far from unsettling the minds of the inhabitants, would have a direct contrary tendency, as all classes would acquiesce in the justice and expediency of such a measure, totally exempt from any erroneous notion of deriving personal advantages therefrom, otherwise than would accrue to each individual Settler from the general settlement and improvement of the Colony.

13. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, That with one or perhaps two exceptions, none of the proprietors brought Emigrants to the Colony for the purpose of settling their lands, who after being located thereon left the same to settle on other lands, unless where such proprietors refuse to give titles to the Emigrants so brought to the Island, to enable them to improve the same under a certain tenure, agreeably to the assurances made them before embarking for this country; or in cases where the Emigrants could only procure Leases of green wood Lands for the short term of forty years, a tenure which no sane person would for a single moment think of accepting, except under such painful and destitute circumstances as Emigrants are frequently placed in on their arrival in a strange country.

14. *Resolved*, That the House be recommended to present an humble address to His Majesty, setting forth the injuries that have arisen in consequence of the non-fulfilment of the conditions on which the lands in this Colony

were granted by the Crown, and praying that no further indulgence be extended to those individuals possessing or claiming to possess the lands in question; but in order that the settlement and improvement of the country may be no longer retarded, that the requisite and legal steps may be forthwith adopted for effectually re-vesting in His Majesty all Lands liable to forfeiture and escheat within the same.

Ordered, That the question of concurrence be now separately put upon the said Resolutions.

And the first of the said Resolutions being again read:

Mr. H. Macdonald moved, in amendment, that after the word "Resolved," all be expunged, and that the following be inserted.

"That the Resolutions now reported from the Committee of the whole House be not agreed to, as being oppressive and distressing to small proprietors and tenants of lands in this Colony, and as tending to burthen the resources of the Island with the payment of the Civil List, hitherto borne by the parent state; and that as the Tenants are in general unable to pay their rents, to impose a tax that will fall heavily upon them, would be to add to their burthens; and that Resolutions tending to entail upon this Colony the payment of its Civil List, are unjust and impolitic."

And the motion being seconded, the House divided on the question of amendment:

Yeas.

Mr. H. Macdonald and Mr. Nelson—Nays.

Mr. Green, Mr. J. S. Macdonald, Mr. Hyndman, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Pope, Mr. Dalrymple, Mr. Brecken, Mr. Owen, Mr. Cody, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Willock, Mr. A. Macdonald, Mr. Binns.

Resolved, That a Committee of five Members be appointed to prepare an Address to His Majesty, founded upon the said Resolutions.

Ordered, that Mr. Owen, Mr. Brecken, Mr. Pope, Mr. Dalrymple, and Mr. Binns do compose the said Committee.

FOR THE BRITISH AMERICAN.

Mr. Printer,

I have often thought that the use of the types and press is the greatest blessing that human ingenuity ever bestowed upon society. And if we take a retrospective view of bygone years, we shall find that the "mighty lever of the press," (as Sheridan emphatically designated it,) has done more towards the independence and civilization of mankind than all other causes put together.

Now Mr. Printer, let me ask you in the name of common sense, what good has that "mighty engine" ever done for Prince Ed-