The question was then put on the motion to withdraw the petition, which was negatived on the following division, viz:—

Yeas—Hons. Messrs. Coles, Warburton, Kelly, Laird, Messrs. Howat, Walker, Conroy, Howlan, and Sinclair—9.

Nays—Hons. Messrs. Pope, Longworth, Solicitor General, Davies, Kaye, Hensley, McEachen, Messrs. Green, Ramsay, Montgomery, McLennan, Haslam, Yeo, Brecken and Duncan—15.

House in Committee on Pauper Scales—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 practises 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 no objections would be offered to the Bill—which provided that all meeting 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, by 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 tomorrow.

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 1.

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 forms 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 effected 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 effected by the Bill.

Hon. Mr. Longworth 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 consequently 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 leases 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 lessee 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 right to procure mussel mud for manuring purposes, yet it must be remembered that the oyster grounds had 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 bede; he would therefore give it his hearty support.

Mr. Haviland—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 improving 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. Davies 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 bede, 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. Longworth 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 grantee or lessee, in cases where he could show that he had been injuriously effected 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 Ferries, 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 expenditure 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 country.

A debate then ensued touching the several actions and measures of both the Liberal and Conservative Governments, since the purchase of the Worrell 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.

Hons. Messrs. Coles, Whelan, and others, in supporting the Resolution on the contrary, contended that the whole policy of the Government, from the year 1853, had been calculated to create false hopes in the minds of the people—that 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, Hensley, Kelly; Messrs. Sinclair, Howlan, Conroy, Walker—9.

Against it — Hons. Messrs. Pope, Longworth, Solicitor General, Davies, McEachen, Kaye; Messrs Howat, Haslam Duncan, McLennan, Montgomery, Green, Ramsay—13

Progress was then reported and the House adjourned.

A. McNEILL, Reporter.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

(Continued from our last No)

Hon. Mr. Gray: His honor the President says I was chairman of the Committee to prepare the draft address, and that I have now placed myself in a singular position. The explanation is that the idea suggested by the amendment never occurred to me. It was proposed some time ago to compel those districts in which the disturbances took place to bear the expense of suppressing them, but as we did not deem it proper to go that far I think it would be only an act of justice to let the stigma rest upon them as a punishment. And though I was a member of the Committee which prepared the addresses, still I will admit that it is susceptible of improvement. At the same time I hope your honors will understand that I do not go for the amendment in its present shape.

Hon Mr. Henderson: We should always understand what a resolution means before we would support it. I have been silent, not because I felt no interest in the matter, but because I thought it was proper for me, being the junior among your honors in politics, to listen and receive information, rather than to appear familiar with proof. I would consider that there should be no objection to truth in any shape. And if that resolution was strictly confined to facts it would receive more support; but I believe it is not, from what is proverbially known respecting the soldiers going to King's County. Now, as to the next point, whether that disturbance was an organized resistance to the law I am not prepared to say; but if it was a mere ebullition of popular feeling I can only say that it took a very sharp edge when it shot the sheriff's horse or when it shaved his tail. The resolution, in my opinion, goes too far, though I cannot see any objection to distinguishing Queen's County from the others in which there were no disturbances. And I hold that the members from those Counties have a right to be sensitive, but the House has also a right to see that nothing which is not fact should be allowed to supersede the paragraph in the address in answer to His Excellency's Speech. The amendment is not drawn in ambiguous phraseology but in clear English, and as it has been fully shown that it is not fact, and even were I not a member of the Government I would not support it, not because I would throw a stigma which belongs to Queen's, upon either King's or Prince County.

Hon. Mr Walker: A good deal has been said about sending the soldiers to King's County; but when they did go they met with no resistance, and came back much pleased with their excursion. A few special constables took the men afterwards.

Hon. the President: Neither did the troops sent out to Queen's County last year meet with any resistance; but that does not prove that there was no disturbance or obstruction to the execution of the law; and, if we can believe the public prints, we must conclude that there were disturbances in Prince County; for we are told that there were meetings held in Lot 7 and other places, at which resolutions were passed to resist the collection of rent; and if the sheriff had been sent there at that time, he would probably have met with some resistance. They certainly had an organization there, and it was published in their organ, *Ross's Weekly*, though they did not go to such an extent as they did in Queen's County.

Hon Mr. Ramsay: It has been said that the Proprietors collected more rent during the past year than they did for four years previous (Atty. Gen.—Hear), and do you suppose that there was none collected in Prince County? Can your honors suppose that the Agents have not been looking after their rents? But we have not heard of any resistance. The people in that County may have held some meetings, and may have got up some agitation, but we cannot condemn them for doing so.

Hon Mr. Dingwell: His honor the President has alluded to meetings in Prince and King's Counties, but the people met for the purpose of coming to an understanding among themselves—not to resist the law. I attended a meeting myself, at which sentiments were uttered, and expressions made use of, which I considered too strong. I showed them that it was their duty and would be for their interest to abide by the law. That was the last meeting I heard of in King's County. In other members of the Legislature had done so I do not think there would have been any necessity for sending for troops. That was the time to have shown the people that it was wrong to resist the law. Therefore, I think it is unfair that people who took advice should be stigmatized as having caused disturbances.

Hon Mr. McLaren: With regard to those disturbances, I believe there was no resistance in King's County to justify the Government in sending for troops; but it is well known that there was an attempt made to set up that organization, the Tenant League, among the people. It is well known that parties were sent through the country by the Central Committee to hold meetings, and in different places they appeared carrying flags. We have only to refer to their organ, *Ross's Weekly* for a confirmation of these statements. Some thought the organization was nearly as extensive in King's as in Queen's County; but I am glad to say that after those parties who were trying to inflame the people's minds had left, they returned to their peaceful avocations. But I do not go for making a distinction. The Island should be taken as a whole. If we make a distinction between Counties, we should make a little distinction between Districts, otherwise we would be doing as much injustice to some districts of Queen's County as we would be doing to King's or Prince County by leaving the paragraph in the address as it is at present. I do not, therefore, see the propriety of making a distinction. His honor the Chairman lives in King's County, and it is natural for him to endeavor to maintain the character of that County, but his honor should remember that he is a representative of Queen's County.

Hon Mr Gray: I rise to explain. I said in supporting the views set forth in the amendment, that the charge of disaffection should be confined to the County in which it was openly shown. I did so from a sense of justice. I represent the County which is blamed for being riotous, though I live in King's County.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: I am far from being desirous to prolong this discussion, and I think sufficient has been said to show that the organization called the Tenant League had an existence in King's and Prince Counties, and it is not at all improbable that if a military force had not been brought hear that there would have been open resistance to the law. They could smell a rat; and when the soldiers were brought here they would not send them a challeng, saying—come on we will resist you.

Hon Mr. Dingwell's proposed amendment was then, by leave, withdrawn; and the Hon Mr. McDonald submitted the following amendment:

"We regret to learn that the general prosperity of the Island has been marred by disturbances which took place in the Colony during the past year; but as those disturbances were confined to certain sections of Queen's County, we would respectfully represent to your Excellency that the inhabitants of King's and Prince Counties have maintained the supremacy of the law, and have not offered any organized resistance to the Civil authorities during the period referred to in your Excellency's address."

That resolution, said his honor, (Mr. McDonald) conveys my opinion on the subject, and I think it also conveys the intention of his honor who moved the first resolution. I do not see how any gentleman from those Counties can agree to the paragraph in the address. His Excellency says: "The general prosperity of the past year has been marred by the civil disturbances which took place in several parts of this Colony." That statement would convey the idea that the whole Island was in this disturbed state. Now, I cannot concur in that view of the case, for even in some parts of Queen's County there was no organized resistance to the law. And in King's County, I have reason to know that the Civil authorities had no difficulty in serving writs and executions, and the various documents put in their hands by the agents of proprietors or others who had debts to collect. One of your honors has said that meetings were held in King's County, and strong sentiments were uttered, but when they were shown the folly of resisting the law, quietly dispersed; and I have no doubt that, if leading minds in other parts of the country had been governed by the same motives, and they acted as discreetly, there would not have been any disturbances in the Colony. I have had some conversation with a number of those gentlemen, and they deprecate resistance to the law. They also disapproved of the original constitution of the Tenant League. Now, the speakers at the meetings in King's County, as far as I am aware, disapproved of forcible resistance to the payment of rent. They wanted a constitutional agitation of the question for the purpose of getting the land purchased from the proprietors and conveyed to the tenants. Your honors will admit that they were perfectly justified in this course. The first I heard of the Tenant League, or, as it was called at that time, the "Tenant Union," was at Murray Harbor, where the tenants were paying high rent on very inferior land. They formed a Union to endeavor to obtain some redress, and, in carrying out their intentions, they sent a remonstrance to the proprietor, showing the high rent they were paying as compared with other Townships in the Island. The consequence was, that the proprietor made a reduction of about six pence in their rent. This took place, I believe some months before the formation of what is known as the Tenant League, and those tenants then gave up the agitation of the question, as far as I know. Since that time I know the Sheriff has had a number of writs to serve, and I have not heard of any resistance to him. I do not look upon it as resistance to the Sheriff if a man keeps out of the way, or runs away to the woods, or shuts his door and keeps the Sheriff out. Every man's house is his castle, and he is justified in keeping his door shut and keeping officers of the law out unless he has committed a criminal act. I know the Sheriffs have lately served a great number of writs—more, I suppose, within the last two years than for a number of years previously, which shows that there could not have been a very extensive opposition to them. I do not wish to let the people of King's and Prince Counties lie under the imputation of disloyalty which is thrown upon them by the paragraph in His Excellency's speech, but would let it be known that they are ready to support the majesty of the law and the Civil authorities without the aid of soldiers. As to calling in a military force, I cannot judge of the necessity of doing so. The Government being responsible, probably judged that there was a necessity for calling in the military. Judging from the public prints, I could not form a correct opinion, but from the very fact that the disturbance was confined to the tenantry, and not even general among them, I think that there must have been a sufficient number of people, even in this County, who were willing to maintain the supremacy of the law without the employment of the military; but, as the Government were doubtless the best judges of the matter, I do not throw any blame upon them.

Hon. the President: I do not think it throws a stigma upon Prince or King's County any more than it does on Belfast or the first district of Queen's County. If we single out the districts, it would be particularizing a course which we have never adopted in answering His Excellency's speech; therefore, I am not inclined to support the amendment. His honor from the first district of King's County (Mr. Dingwell) spoke as if I were opposed to the tenantry meeting and consulting together, but I am not. At the same time, I am not prepared to support the people in meeting and passing seditious resolutions; no loyal subject would do so.

Hon. Attorney General: If I am to understand this motion as simply an amendment to the paragraph in the address, I would simply suggest that it could be made more effective, and probably less objectionable to members of this House, by substituting the words "Queen's County" for "Colony." But I apprehend that the amendment is brought forward with a view to supersede the whole paragraph. If so, I must give it my opposition. The paragraph, as it stands, conveys my views on the subject; and taking the facts of the case into consideration, I do not think we can come to any other conclusion than that contained in the address. I would deem it necessary to say a few words upon the necessity for importing a military force, to which reference has been made by several of your honors. I regret that the necessity should have arisen for a military force to enforce the laws of the country. It will certainly have a bad effect, in the estimation of our neighbours, upon the reputation of the Colony. But it is impossible for us to shut our eyes to the fact that a league existed for purposes evidently illegal. It may be said that they only wished to enforce their peculiar views by moral means, and thus to obtain, what they conceived to be, the rights of the tenantry. But we can only judge of their motives by their acts; and if we look at their acts and declarations, I do not think we can limit their intention to carrying out their views by constitutional means. They had resisted the lawful authorities of the Island when those authorities went forth, sworn to carry the laws into effect. And, indeed, blood was shed in one instance, and nearly shed in other instances; some received very serious bodily harm. Therefore, as those persons assembled in large numbers, with formidable threats and menaces, the country was alarmed and agitated, and the civil authorities were found insufficient to carry the laws into effect. I regret that the people of this Colony should have taken such an impudicious, and unwise and unconstitutional means of what they considered their rights. I do not find fault with men for combining to carry their views in a political or constitutional manner. I would be sorry to see any community deprived of that privilege. But if, in any British Colony, there was a necessity for such means as the people resorted to, there was certainly none in this Island, for the people themselves are the seat of power—the power emanates from themselves. There is no part of the British dominions where the people have so much power in their own hands as they have in this Colony, for we have universal suffrage; so that the power which places us here—the power which elects the House of Assembly—the power which appoints every official in the Colony, and I would almost include the Lieutenant Governor himself, emanates from the people; for no Governor could hold his seat against the wishes of the people constitutionally expressed. There is no such power, so widely extended, in any British Colony, nor even in Great Britian itself. In this Colony there is nothing to prevent any measure which is constitutional from being carried. But to attempt to carry a measure by unconstitutional means, is to defeat their own object. Therefore, the tenant league took a very unwise course, because, by the power which they might have availed themselves of, if properly used, they could doubtless have obtained whatever any reasonable man could expect—men who were at all willing to yield to the constitutional principles by which the Colony is governed. And though that body may have embraced a large number of respectable persons, yet I am certain that they were very much misled and deceived by those who undertook to conduct the business for them. It is evident that their leaders, instead of having any well devised or digested scheme, were without anything of the kind. Their only plan was to withhold the payment of rent, and consequently, when the day of trial came, they failed. Now, they thus gave cause to the Government to introduce the troops, which has called forth the observations of some of your honors. The consequence is, that they have done a very material injury to the Colony by casting a stain upon the character of its inhabitants in the estimation of our neighbors, and which was much worse than we really deserved. And even in Great Britain, this Island was considered as the Ireland of the North American Colonies. I do not regret the introduction of the troops, though I regret that they were introduced for such a purpose; and I also regret that the tenants have defeated their own ends, for the proprietors now rejoice at their overt acts; for I know that some of the proprietors who discountenanced some of the statesmen of the Island, are now ready to approve and pat them on the back. And though the expense of bringing the troops here and providing for their accommodation appears large, because it is extraordinary, yet I feel assured that the money expended by them in this Colony will be ample remuneration for the expenditure. Now, I think that less could not well be said than what is expressed in the paragraph before your honors; and I must only express my regret that the conduct of those men has been such as to call for the assistance of the troops to enforce the laws, for I look upon the injury done to the character of the people as a much more serious affair than the addition to public expenditure which has been called for by their introduction. I hope and trust, and I think there are indications that those people have amended their ways, and I also hope that they will find out they are the seat of constitutional power, and that there are means within their reach by which they may advance their interests without violating the laws of the Colony. I am not disposed to provoke anything like an uncomfortable discussion on this, or any other paragraph in the address. The whole seems to have arisen from what appears to some of your honors to include the whole Island in the disturbances alluded to, but it is morally correct as it is, though perhaps it might have been a little more definite as to the localities where those disturbances arose. Had the motion been confined to that, I do not think I should have risen to trouble your honors with these remarks.

House resumed and progress reported.
Adjourned till four o'clock p m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

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

Hon. Mr. Dingwell: We complain that the terms of the paragraph are too general—that the whole Island is involved in a small affair. That amendment confines it to particular parts of the Colony. If your honors is inclined to throw blame on the country you have it in your power to do so, and you have power, by supporting the amendment, to throw it where it should be. There is no reflection upon the Government in the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Beer: Very few persons abroad will read the paragraph in the address, and those who do will, most likely, read his honor's speech as well.

The question was then put on the amendment and the committee divided:—

Contents—Hon. Messrs. McDonald, Dingwell, and Walker—3.
Non-Contents—Hon. Messrs. Atty. Gen., President, Henderson, Beer, McLaren, Ramsay, and Anderson—7.

Hon. Mr. McLaren: It is very true that there was no disturbance or resistance to the law in King's County, but it is well known that the Tenant League organization had an existence there: the people themselves will admit that it had. The paragraph alludes to disturbances in several parts of the Colony, and not only so, but to organizations which caused the disturbances, and can any of your honors say that King's County was free from those organizations?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: It is a fact that there was an attempt made by the League, when Mr. Montgomery was negociating with the Government for the sale of his estate, to interpose their peculiar services between them; and there was a counteraction on the part of the people, who said that the League had done enough as obstructives.

Hon. Mr. Dingwell: Do your honors wish to say that any body of tenants who should combine to ask the proprietors to concede certain rights would be acting unconstitutionally? I have had it from a proprietor's own lips that he had all but concluded terms with the people for the sale of his estate, and it was shown, before the troops came here, that the resolutions of the tenant league were too strong; consequently the people in the Eastern part of King's County abandoned the association.

Hon. Mr Henderson: His honor who has just sat down may have intended his remarks to be clear and distinct, but I think this construction has a tendency to confound things that differ. The question is not the extent to which the league existed in Prince and King's Counties, but whether or not it had an existence at all. And the very fact that they attempted to interpose between Mr. Montgomery and the Government shows that they existed, and had not given over their tactics at that time—that they had not abandoned their design of enforcing their views, not by constitutional means, but by their peculiar dogmas.

Hon. Mr. Walker: I would just ask your honors if a League existed from the East Point to the North Cape, and did not violate the laws, would there be any necessity for Troops? I do not care how many organizations exist as long as they do not violate the laws of the Colony, and if the people of Queen's County had not offered resistance to the laws, the Government would have no excuse for sending for Troops.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: We have not yet disposed of the question whether or not the organization referred to had or had not an existance in either of those Counties. For my part I intend to reserve to myself the privilege of going over the whole subject at a future time. I, in the mean time, wish only to make a few remarks so that your honors may give a clear verdict on the subject.

Hon. Mr Dingwell: I am at a loss to understand the distinction which his honor is wishing to draw. Does his honor mean that tenants who associate together have not a right to offer terms to their proprietors without having the odium of being in a state of rebellion attached to them?

Hon. the President: His honor from the first district of King's County (Mr Dingwell) has repeatedly said, and has endeavored to make it appear, that members of this House wish to deprive the people of this Colony of the privilege of meeting in a constitutional manner to consult together and devise means to advance their own interests; but will his honor stand up here and say that the resolutions of the Tenant League are constitutional? I am sure that nothing has emanated from any member of this House which could be construed into the expression of a desire to prevent the people from meeting, in a constitutional manner, to devise means for the redress of grievances; and it is quite improper for any gentleman to make such insinuations. I do not see the propriety of discussing the question further, as the amendment has been lost.

Hon. Mr Ramsay: I did not endeavor to show that the Tenant League organization had no existence in Prince County, but what I stated was, that there was no resistance to the law.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Then I would ask your honors if the League had an existence in Queen's County, and if it filled Ross's Weekly with resolutions, would that justify the Government in sending for Troops?

(To be continued.)

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, May 14, 1866.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

R. M. S. *China*, from Liverpool 28th, Queenstown 29th April, arrived at Halifax at 4½ o'clock on Monday morning. The news by this Mail is both important and interesting.

Mr. Lefevre, M. P., for Reading, is to be the new Lord of the Admiralty.

Fresh cases of the cattle plague, reported for the week ending April 21st, are 2,582 against 2,823 the preceding week.

The Barracouta, 6, paddle sloop, has sailed from Portsmouth for North America, with the gunboats Cherub and Minstrel in company.

The British iron-clad frigate Northumberland is afloat at last. After many attempts the launch was accomplished on the afternoon of the 17th April, in the presence of a numerous and brilliant company.

Her Majesty is about to place a memorial window to her father, the Duke of Kent, in the parish church of Sidmouth, the town where his Royal Highness died.

A seaman, who just arrived at Bristol from Rotterdam, via London, has died of Asiatic cholera.

The *Constitutionnel* of the 27th asserts on an authority that Italy is not making any warlike preparations; and, further, that the Emperor Napoleon desires to maintain peace in all quarters, and to secure its blessings to Europe. It is believed, however, that Italy will address a formal remonstrance against the armaments of Austria.

The Queen does not intend to visit Germany this season. After the return of the Court to Windsor, on the 4th of May, Her Majesty will reside at the Castle until the 18th or 19th of that month, and then leave for Scotland. After a residence in Scotland of three weeks, the Queen will return to Windsor, where Her Majesty will remain until, after the wedding of the Princess Helena, in July. At present it is not decided whether the Princess will go to Osborne or on the continent after her marriage.

THE REFORM BILL.

The division on the Government Reform Bill took place at an early hour on the morning of Saturday, the 28th ult. 313 members voted for Lord Grosvenor's amendment, and 318 against it, and for the Bill. It was 3½ a. m. when Mr. Gladstone sat down, having spoken just over two hours, and the division was then taken in a scene of unparalleled excitement. The House was densely crowded. No spot from which the Speaker could be heard putting the question was unoccupied, and when the voices were called, the responses, ayes and noes, might have been heard far beyond the precincts of the House. The division lasted twenty minutes, and when Mr. Brand, the Government teller, took the paper which contained the numbers in his hand, the Ministerialists loudly cheered him, but their cheers were speedily drowned by the loud and repeated applause of the opposition. When the noes were known the cheers were re-echoed by the members seated in the galleries, and the strangers rose in a body, despite all rule and order.

Willmer & Smith of the 28th says:—Everything must come to an end, and the protracted debate on the Reform Bill terminated this morning, at half-past three o'clock, by a majority of *five* in favour of the Government. The Reform Debate last night was opened by Lord Cranbourne, one of the most vituperative speakers on the Conservative side in the House of commons, who made a furious onslaught on Mr. Gladstone for his Liverpool speeches, accusing him of "eating dirt," and other equally polite charges; but strange to say, was very complimentary to Mr. Bright. Lord Cranbourne is the reputed author of the article in the *Quarterly Review*, Mr. Gladstone's criticism on which was so facetious on the first night of the debate after the recess.—The spirit in which the Tory leaders are now assailing the distinguished leaders of the House, is very similar to the way in which they treated, ultimately killed, poor Canning, another genius of the first class, forty years ago. Lord Cranbourne was followed by various speakers of less note, and shortly after ten o'clock Mr. Disraeli rose to reply. At this time a scene of intense interest was manifested; the galleries were filled by peers and ambassadors, and the House crowded by the commons of England. Mr. Disraeli's speech was brought to a conclusion at one o'clock, and he was followed by Mr. Gladstone, who, in his winding up of the debate early this morning, had the opportunity of retorting on his venomous critics, which he did nobly, and in a way that no living orator could equal. The London *Times* of yesterday praises to the sky Mr. Lowe's speech of the previous night, which was a *rechauffe* of the speaker's leading articles in the columns of that journal, but omitted all reference to the answer of Mr. Childers, who showed from the member for Calne's own speeches, both in Australia and in England, that he formerly advocated with equal vehemence every political dogma which he now repudiated. Will the smallness of the majority compel a resignation of the Government or a dissolution?

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

The *Times*, remarking on the result of the Reform debate, says:—The House was asked to require distrust with confidence; it was asked to sanction the plans of a Ministry while they were still unrevealed. The vote of this morning was the answer to these unreasonable demands. All the desire of the House of Commons to preserve the Ministry, all the loyalty to a party of members who voted for a measure they disapproved of rather than oppose their leaders, would not screen the Government from what is in fact a vote of censure on the line of conduct they adopted. When the present House was elected, it was calculated that the working Liberal majority was upwards of 60, and the first time that the existence of the Government was assailed within three months of the assembling of Parliament. The Government is nominally victorious by a majority of five. The *Times* next turns to the question—What must be the object of a victory which is everything, but in name, a defeat. Whatever else may happen, no administration, it says, will henceforth hope to persuade the House of Commons to consider a proposal of reform without laying the whole of their scheme before it, whether those who persisted in forcing their reluctant followers, and, if report be true, their reluctant colleagues. No plan so disrespectful to Parliament, and so full of danger to themselves, can survive the vote of this morning. It may be that they will accept the rebuff; it may be that they will expiate their error in retirement. Something must depend on their own self-respect, something on the temper of the House of Commons, something on the spirit of their colleagues who have hitherto been so culpably obsequious.

The *Herald* says it is obvious that the Bill is lost, but whether the Government will abide by its pledges and fall with its Bill, we are to learn on Monday.

The *Post* says a majority such as this cannot be regarded as substantial, and there can be no doubt that although the Ministry have gained a nominal victory, they have in truth sustained a fatal defeat. Nothing remains for them but to resign.

The *Star* thinks a ministerial majority of no more than five votes bodes ill for the early and tranquil settlement of the reform question. We must look forward to new delays, fresh difficulties, and prolonged intervals of complication and confusion.

SAFETY OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON'S PASSENGERS.

Rochesterpoint, April 27.—The steamer Proprietes, from Boston on the 30th ult., arrived off Rochesterpoint this afternoon. She reports that the City of Washington's purser, passengers, and mails were transferred to her on the 17th inst., about 300 miles west of Cape Clear. The City of Washington was found rudderless, with her fan broken. An attempt to tow her was ineffectual, and almost disarranged the machinery of the Propontes. The captain and crew of the City of Washington are still on board the vessel, and will sail her here.

THE GERMAN QUESTION.

Vienna, April 27.—The Austrian reply to the Prussian note of the 21st inst., was despatched to Berlin yesterday. Austria declares her readiness to take the initiative in demobilizing her troops, but the armaments in Italy compel her to take measures for the protection of her frontier, and especially of her extended coast line. The *Abendpost* of this evening declares that the Austrian Government has definitively determined upon adopting energetic military measures in Venetia. From the 1st of May trains for the conveyance of troops will, it is stated, run daily on the Southern Railway. Orders have been issued for the stoppage of the direct ordinary traffic to Italy on this line. Count Karolyi, the Austrian minister at Berlin, is said to have been instructed to request explanations from the Prussian Government respecting certain alleged arrangements between Prussia and Italy.

PARIS, SATURDAY MORNING.

The *Constitutionnel*, of this morning, contains an inspired article. It reaffirms that Italy has not armed, but that Austria has taken numerous precautions in Venetia.

It does not believe in the Prusso-Italian treaty, but considers it a matter of little importance whether such a treaty exists or not; for if war were to break out in Germany, Italy would easily be led to attack Austria.

As war between Austria and Prussia appears now to be averted, it asks why Austria should still maintain her military preparations in Venetia.

Italy having displayed remarkable moderation and prudence, Austria ought to re-establish her military *statu quo ante*. That would give confidence in the maintenance of peace.

The *Debats* is apprehensive of war.

COMMERCIAL.

LONDON, SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

There is a fair demand for discount, owing to payments falling due to-day, but easily in the week the rates are expected to be rather easier. Selected bills are taken at 5⅞ per cent.

The report of the Liverpool Cotton Market shows sales to the extent of about 6000 or 7000 bales.

At the Stock Exchange the terms are about 5 per cent. for short loans.

The funds are heavy, and there is not much business. The expected resignation of the Ministry and the foreign news have exercised some influence. Consols for Accounts are 86¾ to ⅞.

No movement of moment in Foreign Stocks or Railway Shares. Quotations a shade flatter than last night.

PROROGATION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The fourth and the last Session of the Parliament of this Island was prorogued on Friday afternoon last. His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, on coming to the Colonial Building, was received by a Guard of Honor of the 4th Regt. The attendance of visitors in the Council Chamber was unusually small. The following is the Speech with which His Excellency bade adieu to the gentlemen who have been engaged in the arduous task of legislation from the 9th of April until the 11th of May:—

Mr. President and Honourable 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.

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 shewn 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 Honourable 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.

THE LEGISLATION OF LAST SESSION.

The following is a list of the Acts passed during the late Session. It will be seen that they are chiefly local and private Bills, which a Municipal Council of half a dozen persons might have passed just as well as a costly Parliament consisting of forty-three members. The Revenue and Appropriation Bills—which are, for the most part, copies of former Acts—are certainly very important things, without which the public affairs could not be conducted. Take these out of the list, and take also the Bill to amend and extend the operations of the Land Purchase Bill, and then we think that the legislation of the late Session, so far as it concerns the general public, will not be found to be such as should call for much boasting on the part of those who are at the head of affairs. Passing a considerable number of Bills—(private incorporation ones)—may show that there has been a certain amount of work done by the Legislature, but the public will nevertheless estimate the value of a Parliamentary Session rather by the quality than the quantity of its measures. Reserving, until time and space will permit, further remarks on some of the Bills of the late Session, we now exhibit the list of Bills to enable the reader to understand what, in the usual hackneyed phrase, "has been done for the benefit of the country" during the late Session:—

An Act for Raising a Revenue.
An Act for transferring the Funds raised by the Sale of the old Military Barracks.
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 Lights while in the harbor at night time.
An Act to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of the Presbyterian Congregation of Cascumpec.
An Act to amend the Act of incorporation of the Minister and Elders of St. John