proposed in the amendment, he (Mr. Coles) would promise that it should have his support; for it was a favorite theme of his own; and, he thought, it would be quite possible to shew the Home Government just and sufficient reasons why it should receive the royal allowance. The hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Davies) had said, that the amount of rents annually withdrawn from the Colony, by the proprietors, was equal to the value of our annual exports; but the hon. member, in his calculations on these subjects had, he (Mr. C.) thought, got very far astray. He (Mr. C.) believed, that on proper investigation, it would be found, that our annual exports of barley and oats alone amounted to 61,000*l*; and if from the rents of the absentee proprietors should be deducted the land-tax, the salaries of agents, lawyers' fees and other expenses, he questioned much whether there was remitted to them in all, more than 2000*l* or 3000*l* a year.

Mr. MOONEY. The Hon. Mr. Coles had said, that the additional tax upon the proprietors, proposed by him (Mr. Mooney) would amount to no more than 500*l* or 600*l* a year; but if the hon. leader of the Government would only give himself the trouble of correctly ascertaining the amount, he would find that there were 409,225 acres of land, leased, let by agreement, or verbally, which number of acres, at one halfpenny per acre, would amount to 852*l* 11s. That sum would have defrayed the expense of 17 schools even in the year 1848. But there had been a great quantity of land let, since that period, and more would be leased, before the expiration of the Education Bill. The proprietors of the wilderness lands would, as soon as they possibly could, transfer the burthen of the tax from their own shoulders to those of such poor tenants as might be disposed to take portions of such lands; and, therefore, by degrees, those gentlemen would get clear of the tax altogether. But, Sir, continued the hon. member, I want to grapple with those gentry, by means of a fair, honest measure; and what I wonder at most is the opposition of the hon. the Treasurer to it. This measure is repudiated by him, as altogether impracticable, although a similar measure was supported by him last year. But there was good reason for all that. Was it to deceive me, that it was supported last year? I almost think it was. If so, I have been deceived, but when once deceived, I will watch the deceiver with a lynx-eye for the remaining days of my natural life. The ½d. tax was to defray in part the Civil List, and pay pensions to those least entitled to them. But be that as it may, I have nothing to do with it at present. The question now is, "Shall we establish a system of educatioe by a tax on the land or not?" The different constituencies have prayed for it. Let not their prayer be in vain. I am in favor of Free Education; but, Sir, what is proposed by the Report is no such thing. Where are the funds at our disposal to meet the outlay? We have them not, unless we shall cause those men, of whom I have spoken, to contribute their fair share. I said before, on a former day, let the proceeds of the Fishery Reserves go to the support of general education, and then we might call it a system built upon a firm basis; and I now contend, that until general education shall be principally provided for, by such means as I have pointed out, we shall never have a fund at our disposal for the establishment of any system of education deserving to be styled *free*. The Government seem to stand very much in awe of Earl Grey; but, if Responsible Government be what I believe it to be, there can be no good or sufficient reason why they should be so. I thank the Government for the present system: for, by their individual exertions, as members of the Legislature, steadily sustained by a majority of this House, has the great reformation been effected; a reformation which has conferred upon the people the privilege of choosing both the administration and the Government officials, and of choosing them in such a way as leaves them both responsible to the people, through their Representatives. Let them then do justice and fear nothing; let them propose none but just and equitable measures, and they will have no occasion to be afraid of Downing Street. It is the voice of the people which has placed them in the high position which they now occupy; and, in those positions, the people will sustain them, so long as it shall be evident that the aim of all their measures is the public good; but, should they unfortunately become negligent of the public welfare, or oppose or refuse to sustain equitable and practicable measures, having for their object the promotion of the general good, then might they expect, that they, who had set them up, would seize the first opportunity to take them down. All that I seek by my amendment is a simple measure of common justice from the landlords to the *people*. *Give me the tax upon the proprietors, and I will educate the children of their tenants*; and, in return, their tenants will pay them their rents.

Mr. DAVIES. He agreed with the hon. member who had just sat down, (Mr. Mooney) that with respect to the Bill for the imposition of ½d. an acre on all lands, to the extent of 500 acres, held by one individual, he (Mr. Mooney) and every member of the House who supported the Bill, had been ill used and deceived; and, to that fact, might be traced the origin of the amendment then on the table. The House, or at least the great majority of the House, had expected, that the principle of that Bill would be fully carried into operation: they had had reason given them to believe, that it would be so carried out; and they and the people had sufficient cause of complaint, on account of the manner in which the measure was intercepted and cast aside. Nor was that their only cause of complaint; for, although the Fishery Reserves had been ceded to them, it appeared that the Government was afraid to take possession of them on behalf of the people, when they choose their present Representatives, that the Land Question would, at length, receive due consideration and be fully investigated; and yet there was not a single word uttered concerning the enquiry by any member of the Government; and, if it was at all adverted to, by any hon. member in the House, who wished to act in accordance with his own conscientious convictions concerning the question, and who was honestly anxious to see the reasonable expectations of the people satisfied with regard to it, his observations were hooted and scoffed at, as if they were positively unjustifiable and absurd. If poor men had dared to seize or infringe upon public rights and privileges, in the same manner as the proprietors had done, they would speedily have been brought to a strict and severe account for the wrong; but it was otherwise with the wealthy proprietors, they were allowed to offend with impunity; their protection against the course of justice, in such cases, lay in their having their pockets well lined with gold. If any just measures with reference to these questions had been carried out, or even if the Government had only manifested a disposition to carry out such measures, the amendment upon the table would not have been proposed.

Mr. LAIRD would support the amendment in connection with the Education Bill, unless he should receive some certain assurance, that if it were then withdrawn, it should have the support of the Government in a separate Bill, similar to that of the last Session. If he should receive a guarantee, that it would be carried out in one form or another, he would be satisfied: if not, he would vote against the Report.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. So far as the adoption of the proposed amendment would affect such property as Lot 34, which was all tenanted by individuals regularly paying their rents, he did not think, it could be fairly objected to: the proprietors of such rent-yielding estates ought not to be exempted from bearing a fair share of the public burthens imposed upon other holders or owners of property which was to them a source of profit. But it certainly did seem to him, that it would be very unfair to impose a tax upon the proprietors for every acre which they have leased, whether they derived any benefit from it in the shape of rents or not. If such a tax as that proposed by the hon. member's (Mr. Mooney's) amendment should be imposed, its exaction or payment should be so regulated, that no proprietor would have to pay it, unless for such of his leased lands, as he actually received rents for.

Hon. Mr. POPE. It would really appear, as if some hon. members expected, that in every measure brought forward by the Government, there ought to be found effectual means for the redress of all public grievances. With respect to the subject under consideration, the Government had manifested a sincere intention of deferring to public opinion concerning it. The Report, recommending the introduction of a Bill for the establishment of a system of free education throughout the Colony, to the support in part, by the imposition of a tax of one half-penny an acre on all lands in the Colony, had been approved of by those hon. members who, at the close of the last Session, were appointed to ascertain the general feeling of the people with respect to such a measure, and the House had the assurance of those hon. members, that their recommendation was sanctioned by the majority of the people. Under these circumstances, he had regretted to find the same hon. members, whilst professing themselves friendly to the contemplated measure, had declared their intention to oppose it, unless the Government would pledge themselves to the introduction and support of a certain measure of very doubtful policy. The demand for such a pledge, under such circumstances, was most unreasonable; and he, for one, would not submit to it. Rather than do so, he would be willing, that by a dissolution, a direct appeal should be made, in the matter, to the judgment of the people. For the redress of the alleged grievances of the people, the Government had already done all that they had had time and opportunity to effect; and, he believed, the people were, generally speaking, well convinced that they (the Government) would leave no real public grievance unredressed which they had it in their power to remedy. He could not imagine, that any real friend of the very great and important measure of free education, could seek to hamper it by connecting it with the proposed taxation of delinquent proprietors, nor that it should depend on the Fishery Reserves for its support. He, however, would not consent that the Government should be coerced into the adoption of a measure which they knew must prove fatal to the success of the School Bill. He looked upon the educational scheme as sufficiently difficult of itself, without its being encumbered by any connexion with another of a still more complicated character; and were his own individual views with respect to it to be acted upon, it would, after it had undergone all due consideration by the House, be printed and submitted to the further consideration of the people until next Session; but he would, on no account, consent to mix up with it any measures of coercion, with respect to the proprietors. None but its enemies would seek to make this a party question.

The Hon. the SPEAKER. He would support the amendment, provided it were so modified that the tax, whether ½d. an acre, or whatever it might be, should be payable only on lands from which the proprietors were actually deriving revenues. The amount of public revenue which might be derived from it, would not be so inconsiderable as the hon. member, the leader of the Government seemed to suppose: it would amount to £850 a year, at the lowest; which would be a very considerable addition to the sum proposed to be annually set apart for the support of education.

Mr. THORNTON observed, that for a long time previous to the imposition of the tax upon wilderness lands, the greatest cause of complaint against the proprietors was their retarding the advancement of the country, by refusing to lease their lands, or what the complainants pronounced to be equitable terms, and their thereby retarding the advancement of the country. Through perseverance, however, the Representatives of the people, in the end, succeeded in imposing a penal tax upon the wilderness lands of the proprietors, which were, thereby, made a source of public revenue; and, so far, the cause of complaint against such proprietors, as refused to lease their lands on reasonable terms was removed. With respect, however, to such proprietors as, from the first, had been willing to lease, and had actually leased their lands, on fair and liberal conditions, both with respect to the amount of the rents, and the duration of the leases, being mostly for a term of 999 years, it would not be acting fairly to impose an additional tax, and thereby place them on a worse footing than those who had yet declined leasing on similar terms. And neither was it fair to seek to embarrass the measure for general education—a measure which had prospectively received the sanction of the whole House in the last Session—by coupling it with another measure, with respect to which, parties in the House might entertain opinions directly hostile. He did not regard the contemplated educational measure as a party question; and nothing calculated to excite party spirit, wish reference to it, ought to be, or would, he had thought, be brought forward by those who were sincerely favorable to the grand object of it. If those who supported the amendment of the hon. member, (Mr. Mooney,) desired, at the same time, to be accounted friends of the contemplated educational measure, well might the fair and honest supporters of it exclaim, "Save us from our friends."

Hon. Mr. WARBURTON. Whatever justice there might be in compelling the proprietors to pay the tax proposed by the amendment under consideration, there would, in his opinion, be a very great impropriety in connecting its imposition with the Bill for providing free education. So far as the principles and impositions contemplated by the Report went, a Bill framed in accordance therewith, would be a fair and just one. He was, however, decidedly of opinion, that the proprietors ought to contribute towards the support of the free educational system; not only as respected their wilderness lands, on which any tax imposed was merely a penal one; but also as regarded their leased or tenanted lands, from which they derived an immediate income; for the very fact, that they were dependent upon the industry, skill, and probity of their tenants for the regular receipts of their rents, was a direct proof how much it concerned their interests, that the rising generation in Prince Edward Island should receive such an education, as might lay a sure foundation for the successful exercise of their skill and industry, and give that moral tone to their characters which would be the best guarantee of their probity in all their dealings and in all their relations in life. But, whilst he was clearly convinced of all that, he felt it to be his duty to oppose the amendment submitted by the hon. member Mr. Mooney; because he believed, that its adoption would altogether defeat the intentions of the House with respect to the establishment of a system of free education in the Colony. He was too sincere and zealous an advocate for the inestimable boon of good general education, to consent to peril the success of the measure by encumbering it with an imposition which would be sure to draw forth the most determined opposition of the proprietors in a quarter, in which it was only too probable, that it might be successful.

Mr. LAIRD. It was very true, that as the hon. the Colonial Secretary had just observed, the contemplated measure was a good one, so far as it was proposed to carry it; but it did not go far enough. It was, he believed, admitted, on all hands, that the rent-receiving proprietors had a direct interest in the good education of the people, whether they were resident or absentee proprietors; and, that being the case, it was quite clear that they ought to be made to contribute to a system of good general education,—on account of the properties from which they derived certain and very considerable incomes, through the industry and skill of their tenants,—as much certainly, if not more, than these tenants themselves would be bound to contribute by the conditions and covenants of their leases. He would not engage to support the Bill, unless the amendment of the hon. member, Mr. Mooney, should be incorporated with it. It would be unjust to allow the rent-receiving proprietors to escape scot-free with respect to the support of the system in contemplation, by rejecting the amendment; but it would be an honor to the House to adopt it.

Mr. CLARK. He was sorry to say, that he could not altogether approve of the course which some hon. members seemed determined to pursue, with respect to the government educational scheme. Instead of obstructing the progress of the measure, by insisting upon the adoption of an amendment, to which the Government, as they valued the success of the measure, could not consent, because they were persuaded that its adoption would entirely defeat their object; it would, surely, have been fairer and better for those hon. members, as ranking with the ministerial majority in the House, to have plainly intimated to the Government, at the first, that they would oppose their measure, unless it should embrace the imposition of the proprietary tax for which they were then contending; than to bring forward the amendment, and press its adoption, in the way they were doing, at the risk of leaving the Government in the minority, on a question of policy of such magnitude and importance as their scheme for free education. As the question at present stood, he himself would rather that the final decision of the House, with respect to it, should be postponed until the next Session. It was well known that many erroneous ideas concerning its contemplated working, in particular as respected the amount of the tax and the appointments of teachers, as well as some other details, had taken possession of the minds of some of the misinformed portion of the people. Many believed that the Teachers were to be appointed by the Government; and, to such Government patronage, they were decidedly opposed. Many also had been persuaded that, by nothing less than an annual tax of 20s. per 100 acres, could the system be sustained; and such an addition to their burthens, it was their opinion, the people could not at present sustain. As he had before said, he thought it would be best to allow the question to lie over for final determination in the next Session; and, in the meanwhile, to afford the people such information, as would remove from their minds all erroneous impressions concerning it.

[*To be concluded in our next.*]

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The House having been resumed, Mr. MOONEY submitted the following Amendment to the report; and the question having been put thereon, the House divided:

YEAS—Messrs. Mooney, M'Neill, Davies, Laird, and Montgomery—5.

NAYS—Honorables G. Coles, J. Pope, J. Warburton, E. Whelan, and Dr. Jardine; Messrs. Fraser, Wightman, Thornton, Flynn, Clark, Palmer, Haviland, and Yeo—13.

"*Resolved*, That the Report be amended, so as to tax all Lands that may be leased or otherwise let by agreement or verbally; and that the said tax be paid by the Proprietor or Proprietors of such Lands, into the Treasury of this Island, the same to be appropriated for the purposes of General Education,—Saving always and excepting the Tenant to be free from such tax."

The following amendment was then submitted by Mr. MONTGOMERY.

"That it be recommended to the House to add to the amount yearly expended for the purposes of Education, a sum out of the General Revenue, from Two to Three Thousand Pounds, and to raise the present Government Allowance to School Masters,—viz.: £15 and £20,—to £25, and £30; and that to Female Teachers in a rateable proportion, making it conditional on the Inhabitants of each District and Town and Royalty, to raise a like sum by Assessment on Land, or by any other means they may deem suitable to their circumstances; if by the former, the same to be imposed according to the value thereof, by Assessors to be chosen and appointed by the Householders of such Districts and Towns."

AYES—Messrs. Montgomery, Palmer and Yeo—3.

NAYS—Honorables G. Coles, J. Warburton, J. Pope, E. Whelan and Dr. Jardine; Messrs. Fraser, Clark, Flynn, Wightman, Thornton, Haviland, Laird, Mooney, and M'Neill,—14.

The Report, without amendment, was then adopted by the House.

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## MORNING SITTING.

### THURSDAY, Feb. 26th.

### BILL TO PREVENT THE RUNNING AT LARGE OF SWINE AND GEESE.

(*Continued from our last.*)

Mr. THORNTON, in reply to an observation of Mr. Coles, said it was not to be expected that the animals, when turned upon the roads, would know high-ways from by-ways. They might, therefore, take the liberty of paying an unwelcome visit to any part of the Island, unless ten or a dozen boys were set to keep them within metes and bounds. Three or four years ago, the then House of Assembly passed a Bill imposing a fine upon the owner of all pigs found at large without being yoked, to which the Legislative Council wished to add other restrictions, by ringing them, and so it ended in nothing. He (Mr. T.) knew, that in some parts, the contemplated change could not be carried out. It might answer very well where the farms were cleared; but then another obstacle presented itself, how was a selection to be made? and he was aware, that the new settlers in the wilderness would be almost prevented from keeping a pig, either young or old, if the proposed restrictions were carried into a law.

The Hon. the SPEAKER acknowledged the difficulty of Legislating on this question. If a Bill should pass, confined to a few years only, in accordance with the motion of amendment submitted by the hon. the Treasurer, when the law expired, it would have to be remedied; for three out of five of the farmers, even after a trial would not be satisfied with it: Even in the Royalty of Charlottetown, where it had been tried, and where it was said to be approved, difficulties had been found. For instance, if a considerable number of pigs were confined within a fence, a great quantity of water would be required, and probably have to be obtained from a considerable distance, which would be a matter of no trifling moment to many. He (the hon. the Speaker) reminded the House that there was a law on the Statute Book authorising any person finding pigs at large unringed to secure them, and making the owners liable to a fine of two shillings and six-pence for each pig. But this was a very lame one; for it was no easy matter to catch a pig, and if this were done, then the owner might not be known, and much difficulty might be experienced in finding him out. He (the Speaker) should be inclined to have it provided that the seized pig or pigs should be sold; one moiety to go to the party seizing, and the other into the Treasury. He could not go with so sweeping a change as the amendment proposed, in the present state of the Island.

Mr. CLARK would support the motion of amendment. In the arguments made use of against it, he saw no reason to induce him to alter his opinion from what it was previous to the discussion. The benefit derived from beech-nuts, fish picked up along the shore, and so forth, lumped together, was nothing in comparison to the manure that was lost, which more than overbalanced those so called benefits. It seemed to be the opinion of some hon. members, that when pigs are allowed to go upon the shores they do no harm; but he (Mr. C.) had known them to go round water fences, through marshes and rivers, and often up pretty considerable cliffs, whereby they often destroyed crops of grain and potatoes, in order to obtain a change of diet. The statute labor was lost on the roads in many places, from the damage done by the swine running at large. He believed, that if they were prevented from going at large, the community in general would, in a short time, see the great advantages arising from such restriction, and would abandon all opposition to it.

Hon. Mr. POPE had expected to hear more sound argument from the hon. member for Murray Harbor, (Mr. Thornton,) particularly as he had held so much intercourse with the agriculturists, and had filled the high office of secretary to their society in his neighbourhood. He (Mr. P.) would defy the hon. member to point out any one who had tried the experiment of keeping up his pigs, who did not approve of it in all respects. He (Mr. P.) could not, in reality, understand the excuses of hon. members. One said it would be very well to shut up pigs in Charlottetown, Georgetown, or on cleared farms and the like; but the oppositionists do not seem in the least inclined to take any, the least responsibility upon themselves. It would almost seem, Sir, that there were some farmers who were fond of a row with their neighbours; and, that for their sake, all other considerations were to give place. No general measure could be carried out without causing some injury; but, in this case, there would be few indeed who would experience any. Were he (Mr. P.) to attempt to enumerate all the evils attending the running at large of pigs, it would be found an endless task. These evils were long since seen in England and Scotland, and put an end to.

Mr. WIGHTMAN was not inclined for any alteration at present. He was positive, that to shut up pigs throughout the Island would be injurious to many a poor man, who had not wherewith to support himself. Hon. members should remember, that the generation of long-legged, and long-snouted pigs was daily becoming less; and that the present breed were not likely to commit much depredation.

The question being put on the amendment, it was negatived, 7 only voting for it.

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### FRIDAY, Feb. 27.

#### PROVING OF WILLS.

Mr. FRASER introduced a bill to facilitate the proving of Wills, which was read a first time, and its second reading ordered for tomorrow.

#### BILL TO PREVENT THE RUNNING AT LARGE OF SWINE AND GEESE.

The House in Committee, resumed the consideration of Mr. HAVILAND'S Bill to prevent the running at large of Swine and Geese at all seasons, and Horses at certain seasons. The Bill was agreed to without any amendment.

#### ELECTIVE FRANCHISE.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN'S Bill to extend the Elective Franchise, was about to be resumed in Committee, when

Mr. FRASER rose and said, he understood there were some Despatches, relative to the question, received by the late Governor which it would be advisable to obtain before the Bill was proceeded with; and on motion of the honorable member, the Bill was withdrawn for the present, and Messrs. Fraser, Mooney, and Flynn were appointed a Committee to draft an Address to His Excellency, praying that the said Despatches—if any—be laid before the House.

#### BARRISTERS' BILL.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN, in accordance with notice, introduced a Bill to amend an Act relative to the admission of Barristers and Attorneys to practise in the Courts of Law of this Island: which was read a first time, and its second reading ordered for to-morrow. The honorable member observed, that he was determined to persevere in this measure, although a similar Bill had been twice thrown out in the Legislative Council, and different reasons assigned for its rejection on each occasion.

#### BLOOD HORSE "SALADIN."

Hon. Mr. COLES moved, that the Bill to authorise the exchange of the Blood Horse Saladin, be read a second time. It was accordingly read, and thereupon submitted to a Committee of the whole House—Mr. M'Aulay in the Chair. The honorable member (Mr. Coles) having shown the necessity for the Bill, proceeded to state, that as the stock of the Horse was now grown up, and as an offer for exchange had been made from a neighbouring Colony, it was thought, it would be advantageous to accept it. The Bill passed the Committee, and was ordered to be engrossed.

#### FENCES.

The Bill to regulate Fences was taken up in Committee, agreed to, and ordered to be engrossed.

#### STATUTE LABOR.

The Bill, sent down from the Council, relative to Statute Labor, was agreed to with Amendments.

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#### TEMPERANCE HALL.

Mr. PALMER moved the second reading of the Bill (sent down from the Council) to incorporate the Proprietors of the Building called the Temperance Hall; which having been complied with, it was thereupon submitted to a Committee of the whole House, Mr. WIGHTMAN in the chair.

On the first clause being read, the Hon. Mr. COLES observed that he had always understood, that the Building was intended to be for the use of the Society, terming themselves Sons of Temperance; but, on looking at the names of the shareholders, it seemed that he was mistaken, for he thought no one would say, that Mr. *** or Mr. ***** had any title to that appellation. To him (Mr. C.) it appeared it was more like a speculation concern, and he did not approve of so large a sum as £500 being named in the bill as, by and by, the Shareholders might take it into their heads to erect a new Market House.

Mr. MOONEY would have the Building strictly confined to "the Sons," or it might become a Gin Palace, as some had prognosticated, but which he would be very sorry to see. The Building had been erected by the exertions of the Sons of Temperance, and those who were not so, ought to have nothing to do with it; and, therefore, to ward off such an evil hour, let it not be contaminated by those who are not "Sons."

Mr. PALMER said, that whoever stated such sentiments, if their expression occurred in the Temperance Hall, they would, he doubted not, have cold water thrown upon them. If the building belonged to the Shareholders, not strictly to "the Sons of Temperance," he was willing to admit that it might be applied to other than temperance purposes, if of a moral and religious tendency. The subscription list should be open to all, whatever might be their object, or whatever might be said of temperance or intemperance.

Hon. Mr. POPE considered the building to be nothing, but a mercantile speculation. He did not think that that was to be the case when the building was first contemplated. He then understood, that it was to be made serviceable to the public, by being made use of, for rational purposes, but it seemed this did not meet the approbation of certain strait-laced parties; and, what were called innocent amusements in other parts, were not to be so considered here. The building, it must be allowed, is a credit to the country, and it should not be made so exclusive.

Mr. DAVIES had always considered the building to be for the benefit and use of "the Sons of Temperance," and not for public purposes. They possibly had not the whole means, and had applied to those who had, to assist them in its erection.

Mr. PALMER said, he had no particular instructions, beyond the contents of the Bill. The Shareholders, no doubt, knew for what they advanced their money; yet he thought, it was questionable whether the Building could be kept strictly for the sole use of "the Sons of Temperance." He did not believe the capitalists had any idea of speculation, but had simply become shareholders to assist "the Sons" in obtaining what they were so desirous to possess, and to encourage the cause of temperance. He did not doubt that the Building would be at the service of the Public, for any purpose not of an immoral nature.

Hon. Mr. POPE reminded the Committee, that no petition had been presented, calling for Legislative interference in the business. At the same time he wished it to be perfectly understood, that he would not have it to be even supposed, that he was attempting to put any obstacle in the way of "the Sons of Temperance." All he felt sorry for was that it was not to be rendered of more service to the public than the Society seem disposed to make it. On motion, the Chairman reported progress and obtained leave to sit again.

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## AFTERNOON SITTING.

### SATURDAY 28th.

#### SHERIFF'S SALE OF LANDS FOR LAND-TAX.

Mr. THORNTOT asked leave to present a Petition from certain persons complaining of injustice done them, in a sale of lands, on Lot 66, in 1850, by the Sheriff for non-payment of land-tax. The honorable member said, as the Petition was one of a novel nature, with leave of the House, he would read it in his place. This having been agreed to, the honorable member read the petition. The substance of it is, that for some amount of Land-Tax in arrear, the said Sheriff had sold four, thousand four hundred acres of Land in one lot, which the Petitioners considered was contrary to Statute, and was also contrary to the wishes and remonstances of Petitioners. The honorable member observed, he was unprepared to pass any opinion on the complaint of the Petitioners, or to move with respect to the Petition, further than to propose its being laid on the Table. He would then have an opportunity to enquire into merits.—An honorable member having suggested the propriety of appointing a special Committee, to inquire into the matter and report to the House concerning it, Mr. Thornton observed, he had not the slighest objection to such a course, but wished to decline being chairman, because, he was in some measure connected with the management of the property, though he was not so when the transaction occurred; and if he was chairman, and the report of the special Committee should not be as favourable to the views to the views of the Petitioners as they could wish it to be, what was unfavourable to them, might be attributed to his (Mr. Thornton's) interference,—and he would, therefore, suggest that his colleague, Mr. Wightman, be chairman, and he (Mr. Thornton) would be ready to act in conjunction with him as one of the members of the Committee.

The Honorables Messers. Pope and Warburton, and Messrs Wightman, Davies and Mooney offered a few remarks, when a special Committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Wightman, Thornton, Davies, Laird, and the Hon. the Treasurer.

#### PROVING OF WILLS.

Mr. FRASER'S Bill to facilitate the proving of Wills was read a second time, submitted to a Committee of the whole House, reported agreed to, and ordered to be engrossed.

#### BLOOD HORSE "SALADIN."

Hon. Mr. COLES'S Bill to authorise the exchange of the Blood Horse Saladin, was read a third time, and passed.

#### EJECTED TENANTS' COMPENSATION BILL.

Hon. Mr. COLES'S Bill to provide compensation to ejected Tenants for their improvements was, on motion of the honorable member, recommitted, for the purpose of adding a short clause. The Bill was reported agreed to, with an amendment, and ordered to be engrossed.

#### PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS BY FIRE BILL.

Hon. Mr. COLES'S Bill for the better prevention of accidents by fire, and other purposes connected therewith, was read a third time and passed.

#### TEMPERANCE HALL.

Mr. PALMER moved that the House go into Committee to resume the consideration of the Bill sent down from the Council, to Incorporate the shareholders in the building called the Temperance Hall.

Mr. FRASER objected to the further progress of the Bill then, considering, that like others of a similar nature, it ought to be referred to the Committee on Private Bills to be reported on,—and moved to that effect.

Mr. PALMER reminded the honorable member, that his proposition came too late; it should have been made, before the second reading. The honorable member's objection was over-ruled by the hon. Speaker, who said, a motion to refer it to the Private Bill Committee, was in order, and could be put. The motion was then formally put and agreed to.

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## MORNING SITTING.

### MONDAY, March 1, 1852.

### SUMMARY.

#### TITLES TO LANDS.

Mr. MOONEY, moved for leave to introduce a Bill, pursuant to notice, to compel Proprietors of Land to record their titles. The Bill was read a first time, and its second reading ordered for tomorrow.

#### COMPENSATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO EJECTED TENANTS.

Hon. Mr. COLES'S Bill to secure compensation for improvement to ejected Tenants, was read a third time.

Mr. MOONEY moved, that the clause relative to appeal be struck out.

Yeas—Messrs. Mooney and Davies—2.

Nays—Messrs. Wightman, Montgomery, Fraser, M'Neill, Thornton, M'Aulay, Beaton and Laird; and Honbles. Messrs. Coles, Jardine, Warburton, and Pope—12.

Bill passed.

#### BILL TO PREVENT THE RUNNING AT LARGE OF GEESE AND SWINE, &c.

On motion of Mr. M'Aulay, this Bill was read a third time and passed.

#### HOUSE IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Hon. Mr. COLES, on the subject of the Post-Office coming under consideration, said, it had been usual, under previous regulations, to defray certain charges connected with this department of the public service, through the instrumentality of the Post Master, who handed into the Treasury, the balance. It would be an improvement on this system, in his opinion, with respect to all offices in which money is received, on account of the public, to cause the gross amounts to be paid into the Treasury, and to provide for all charges and expenses of such Offices.

#### GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

Hon. Mr. COLES explained to the Committee, the reason why the expenditure in repairing Government House, had exceeded the anticipated amount. It was, he said, in consequence of finding the foundation decayed; but that, and the building had been attended to, and were now in a substantial state of repair.

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### TUESDAY 2.

## MORNING SITTING.

#### PETITION OF DOCTOR M'KEOWN.

Mr. HAVILAND, from the Committee on Doctor M'Keown's Petition, reported as follows:

"Your Committee appointed to report on the Petition and other documents referred to them, relative to the claim of Doctor MKeown of Georgetown, for remuneration for professional services rendered to one Hugh Letters, during the autumn of 1851—Had to report to report, That they have examined into the allegations set forth in the said Petition, and have come to the conclusion, that the said allegations are true, and that the said Dr. M'Keown is justly entitled to the sum of £10 12 6 Halifax currency, for Medical services, board, lodging and disbursements. But, inasmuch as it appears, that the said Hugh Letters, is a native of Herring Cove, in the Province of Nova Scotia, your Committee cannot recommend that the Petitioner's claim should be paid by this Colony; but suggest, that application be made by the Executive Government of this Island, to the Government of Nova Scotia, in support of Petitioner's demand.

(Signed) THOMAS HEATH HAVILAND,
JAMES WARBURTON,
EDWARD THORNTON.

#### TITLES TO LANDS.

On motion of Mr. MOONEY, the Bill to compel Landlords to record their Titles, was read a second time. The same honorable member then moved, that the House go into Committee thereon.

Mr. PALMER opposed the motion, as did other honorable members, because the Bill, being a transcript of one to which the Royal allowance had been refused, it was not likely that His Excellency would go against his instructions by giving assent to it, in its present shape.

Mr. MOONEY complied with the opinion of the House, by allowing the Bill to stand over for the present.