

they had too much of it, and became so surcharged with respectability, that it scattered them and broke their party into fragments, and if some of those who were forced away had been drawn into the Liberal ranks, it is because they have found, not too much respectability, but sufficient to enable them to promote the best interests of the country, and to be promoted by the party with which they had connected. The hon. member (Mr. H.) said that during the first four years the Conservatives were in power, they had enacted so many good measures, that there was comparatively very little for them to do afterwards. But where are those great measures? It is true they passed the 15 Years' Purchase Bill—a Bill so nearly obsolete, that I hardly know where to find it. But where are their other measures?

Hon. Mr. McALEY.—That is not in the Speech.  
Hon. Mr. HOWLAND.—There was nothing in the Speech about the Law of Insolvency, and yet the hon. member, the leader of the Opposition, introduced the matter into debate, and when they introduce matters not connected with the subject before the House, they must expect a reply. For eight years the Conservatives did nothing calculated to benefit the country, and the people had to fall back upon the Liberals. The people who put the late party into power nine years ago, had unbounded confidence in them, and gave them a power which the Liberals never had. That party, Sir, exercised the power of voting away large sums of money and contracting large debts, without asking the consent of this House; and in doing so abused and misused their power, and the people turned them out of office. But at the present is a composite party. Well, if we are made up of different parties, and can agree among ourselves, and successfully carry on the business of the country, I say, Sir, it is our duty. It is an evidence of our united desire to do all that we can for the good of the country. But I ask you if you had the same opinion upon any important measure? I think, Sir, that any Government that has had their public acts let alone as well as this one has, need not be afraid of their position. I had been stated that there was no necessity for the Loan, because the country was now in a flourishing state. This, I am sorry to say, is not the case. The country was never in a worse condition than at present, and no hon. members in this House are better aware of this than are the hon. the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Charlottetown. Let any hon. member who has doubts on this point examine the returns from the Commissioners' Courts for the Recovery of Small Debts and they will soon be removed. When the hon. the Leader of the Opposition spoke of the gentleman in France who recommended that commerce should be left to regulate itself, he but repeated an advice worthy the attention of all governments. But our difficulty arose from the fact that the Conservative Government did not let trade alone, and by their meddling, injured the commerce of the country. They asked an overrated amount to bear an additional burden of £30,000. One Bank has been unable to declare a dividend, on account of the amount of protracted paper in their hands. When the late Government bought the Cunard Estate, they, by their arrangements for the payment of it, threw obstacles in the way of the trade of this Colony, that, to a considerable extent, damaged up the channels of our commerce. I do not say that they intended to do so, but still it is none the less true.—When last year I saw a petition before this House praying for a fresh issue of Treasury notes, and the respectable names that were appended to it, I felt that something was wrong, and that if a Loan could be obtained on reasonable terms, that it would benefit the Colony. With respect to the £20,000 which had been demanded for the maintenance of the troops, my hon. and learned friend, the Attorney General, has not taken all the credit to himself in this matter; but I believe we may justly regard this remission as one of the good results of the hon. member's mission to England, and I am quite confident that if the present party had been in power in 1865, the troops would not have been called for. The late Government brought the troops here with their eyes open, as they were aware that when troops were required to quell a local disturbance, payment would be demanded, for Mr. Cardwell, in his despatch to the Administrator of the Government, of the 23rd August, 1865, says: "I have already expressed my opinion that to maintain the supremacy of the Law, is the first duty of the local Government; and I readily admit, that in the present emergency, and in the absence of any regular military force, no other course was open to you than the one you adopted. But Her Majesty's Government must adhere, in this instance, to the principles on which they have elsewhere hitherto acted. And I therefore wish to impress upon you, that civil disturbances should be met by an effective civil force, and that Her Majesty's troops cannot be placed at the disposal of the Colonial Government at the expense of this country, for the purpose of supplying the want of a Colonial Police." Here we see, the Government had been distinctly told, that if they had no effective civil force to put down disturbances, and that if troops were required for that purpose, that Her Majesty's could not be placed at the disposal of the Government of this Island, to supply the duty of a Colonial Police, at the expense of the Home Government. The despatch further says: "Whether the presence of a military force is required for the suppression of riots were different factors of the population, or to aid the civil power in the due execution of the law, the same principle applies, and the expense of the transport of such force from a neighboring Garrison, and also the cost of their maintenance in the Colony in which their presence is required, must be defrayed by that Colony, and cannot become a charge on the Imperial Exchequer." With these plain statements, from the Colonial Minister, they knew when the troops were sent for to quell a local disturbance, that the demand for their pay, cost of transport, and maintenance while in the Colony, would have to be met by this country. And I say, Sir, when they brought them here they done so with their eyes open. They knew that they would be called upon to pay the bill afterwards demanded. I do not see any ground for finding fault with the Government for not introducing the subject of a Bankrupt Law into the Speech; but since the subject has been introduced into this debate, and if the hon. member, the Leader of the Opposition, feels such an interest in this matter, why does he not bring in such a bill himself? Is it because he has always been an enemy to progress that he has not done so before, and waits to do so now? When that hon. member was on the Committee appointed to report on the propriety of bringing in a bill on Decoral Charges, he asked to have the Committee discharged, and to be excused from reporting, and now he sneaks from bringing in a measure on this important question. It was expected that the committee appointed to consider this subject last year, would have been prepared to have reported, and when they have failed to do so, is the Government now to legislate for not mentioning the subject in His Excellency's Speech? If the committee will bring forward a reasonable measure, I shall be happy to give it my support. The want of such a Law has deprived this country of the active services of some of her best commercial men; and I think it is not expecting too much to be looking for such a Bill from an hon. member of twenty-five years standing as a lawyer and a member of this House. With respect to the Loan Bill, and the results of the Attorney General's mission to England, I think it will compare favorably with those of the late Government to Brazil and Canada. It is creditable to the Government that it has worked through the difficulties of the past year so successfully and so well. Can the late Government show any good results from their famous expedition to Brazil? What have we for all the money spent in that delegation? Why nothing, Sir, but some letters from their delegate, which, I admit, were written with considerable ability, but which have not been productive of any benefit to this Island. Not so with the results of the Attorney General's mission to England, for we can point, with pleasure and with pride, to the able and satisfactory manner in which the duties with which he was charged, were performed. The objection said that the Loan Bill would not raise the Royal Allowance. Well, Sir, we wanted to raise this, and also to ascertain if a loan could be obtained in England by this colony.—We have done so, and the result is highly creditable to the Government, and to this country, and what laid before this House, will, I think, be approved of. But, Sir, had the late Government succeeded in their plans, where would be the day? Why into Confederation, and not in the proud position which we now occupy. We might have been in the position that Nova Scotia is now placed in. This is one of the reasons why this Government stands so high in the estimation of the people.—They know that on this important question they have done well.—The hon. member has said that there are no political alliances in this Government. But, Sir,

where was the political alliance of the late Government. In 1855 Confederation was a question then brought to their notice by the highest authority. Did they come down with a measure upon the subject, or a declaration of opinion? No! nothing of the kind. They had no confidence in that party who were determined to carry it if they could. They knew also that the Hon. Mr. Whelan was a Confederate, and doubtless thought that his influence would secure a few votes in favour of the measure from this side of the House, and thus by obtaining a vote here and another there, they hoped to succeed in forcing the measure upon this country. But this question, I may state, will not be entertained by any hon. member from the one end of our party to the other.—The hon. the Leader of the Opposition, in referring to Education, made quite a circuit; but, lawyer-like, took care to express no opinion of his own. I am surprised though that he never before made the discovery that he so strongly sympathized with the Catholics.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—I rise, Sir, to a point of order. I will not allow that hon. member to misrepresent me thus. I did not refer to Catholics only, but I spoke of sectarian grants to different sects of Protestants as well as to Roman Catholics.  
Hon. Mr. HOWLAND.—True, that is what I know, but the hon. the Leader of the Opposition knows very well that sectarian grants, in this country, just means a Protestant and a Catholic vote. Why had the hon. member got thought of this when he was in power. It will not do for the hon. member to say, oh! I only spoke of grants to different sects, for none knew better than the hon. member, the Leader of the Opposition, that such returns were always syncretism with a Catholic and a Protestant vote. This is the real state of the case, and I will leave the learned and hon. member to take either horn of the dilemma. He imagined, I suppose, that this would be a sore spot with the present Government.

Hon. Mr. McALEY.—I do not intend to offer many remarks. I assure you that I am not afflicted with that loathsome disease called *sectarian leprosy*. But I will ask the hon. member, who has just said down, a question which will speak for itself, and which will be his office. What is the constitutional position of what is called the Governor's Speech, or the Speech from the throne? If he is not able to answer, I shall inform him.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND.—The Speech forewarns that which will take place during the Session.  
Hon. Mr. LAIRD.—That which the hon. member for Tignish (Mr. Howland) has stated is the true principle. Let us remember, Sir, that the late Government did not do so when they purchased the Cunard Estate. By withdrawing all the money from the country, commercial men must suffer. Certainly we did not suffer as much as many anticipated, when the purchase was made. It appears that the hon. member for Charlottetown is offended with the composite Government, and says that no good thing can come from such a Government. No two persons can be found who can agree upon every point. Each individual has his own opinion. I do not fear to say, that no Government ever existed, the members of which could agree upon all points. There were many differences of opinion among its members. A Government, in which there were no differences of opinion, is better qualified to fulfil the wishes of the country. Education is coming in for a considerable share of the remarks of the Opposition. They sneer at the Government, by asking whether a Bill is to be brought in, to enable the people to build two chimneys in a school house where there are only one, and they do not suggest any other way of giving liberty to the people. The hon. member for Georgetown, true to the instincts of his party, says that the Government should come down boldly and defiantly, without fear or favor. The Government have no fear in the matter.

Hon. Mr. DENHAM.—What have the Government come to? Is there not money here in plenty, waiting for investment? All they need to do is to take the best mode of investment for a hundred. The payments of the Cunard Estate have all been met; and other estates may be purchased in the same way, and by the same means. I have been more astonished at the Attorney General's statement than at that of the Finance Minister. There is no proof that they can get a Loan from abroad. Last year they said that the Loan they wanted to England was a restraint upon the Banks, in consequence of the purchase of the Cunard Estate. There was a large amount of money withdrawn from the Banks at that time, but they have now recovered from the pressure. The monetary affairs of this Colony seemed to require a Loan to remove the difficulties that then existed. The late Government, Sir, were not in a position to do so, and we easily got clear of these difficulties. The Opposition need not say that there was then no need of the Loan, but as we have tried over the difficulty, the Government thought it as well to let the Bill lay over for a time. I believe, when it is required, this Colony will obtain a loan as easily as any of the Colonies. The late Government, when they proposed several years ago, had been obtained, we could have bought the Land from the Proprietors, cheaper than at the present time; but the Loan could not then be obtained. Since that time, property has risen and the price of their Land. Some tracts of land were sold low, and others high. The tenantry on the Selkirk Estate, and other lands, were not to be sold for less than the Land Purchase Act required. Last Session was a very short one, and the Land Commissioner's returns from the Estate did not say that there was a very large return. But I believe it was clearly shown at the time of purchasing, that the instalments would more than pay the cost and charges. It was never intended by the Government to demand more than they would pay. The Government is prepared to meet the grievances of the people on a bill in a lowering the opinion of the Crown Land Officers to be made public show that they are prepared to do so. We expect the Opposition to pick a hole in the Address, but they do not do it more mildly than they have done. I believe no serious objections to the paragraph will be offered.

Hon. Mr. McALEY.—As some of the members on this side of the House seem to be very anxious to represent the views of the House, I wish to direct your attention to an ordinary expression which is couched in such obscure words, as completely to hide its meaning. This expression is to be found in this paragraph, and is like a plus and a minus which destroy one another. It should read thus:—"We beg respectfully to request the pleasure your Excellency may be pleased to grant us, to get my sanction in the state it now is." A little further on, we find the following:—"And to assure your Excellency that our assistance, &c." Have we any Government? If we have, are they incompetent to give advice? This paragraph is a memorial of their inability. I do not estimate the Leader of the Government. I have sat with him in friendship, in his own house. I shall let it pass.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—I wish the hon. member (Mr. McALEY) to correct the construction of the sentence.  
Hon. Mr. McALEY.—I do not find fault with the grammar.

Hon. Mr. HENSLY.—I really do not understand what the hon. member means.  
Hon. Mr. McALEY.—Does the hon. gentleman know the parliamentary rules? When a resolution has passed, no member has a right to bring it up again.  
Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The hon. gentleman who has found fault need not be alarmed. I respect him, as he is a good authority in grammar. A person who pays such great attention to the law, will not be negligent in his judgment, and lose the principal idea. As he said the grammatical construction was wrong, I only asked him to put it right. As he is the grammarian of the House, his opinion is authority in all cases, when there is anything wrong. I wish him to put it right.

Hon. Mr. McALEY.—If he cannot see where it is wrong, he must be taught. All that I have said is good ability, and a good member of society, he seems a little obtuse in this matter. The best writings in the world, were brought forth, before there was a grammar. It is the want of sense in the paragraph, to which I refer.

Hon. Mr. McALEY.—I am surprised that the Government have not given some idea of their policy. A number of the members were not to be satisfied with the expectation that something would be done by the Government, would enable the tenants to become freeholders. I hear that no more efforts are to be made till the loan is secured. Many of the tenantry are laboring under great difficulties,

on account of the present leasehold system. I have the honor to represent people who pay rent; but they are bound to have free land or leave the country. I understand from the Government supporters, that coercive measures are to be introduced. It is unfair for those members of the Government, who promised coercive measures, to let these promises remain a dead letter. The Hon. Mr. LAIRD has told us that the Conservators interfered with the trade of the Colony, when they purchased the Cunard Estate. Did the Merchants depend on the Treasury to carry on their business? I certainly approve of any law which will improve the condition of the tenantry, by making them freeholders.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON.—The allusion to the tenantry, in this paragraph, must not be allowed to pass without remark. If the tactics of some politicians are without success, they do not mean to give up. The Government do not mean to give up. I must give the House to understand that I am not another picturing now. A tenant whom I met, asked me how it was that Miss Sullivan was unaccompanied to Lot 16. How was it that she was allowed to go, with no one but her private attendants? She examined some of the soil, and said, that people who were settled on such land, looked to the Government for their protection. It was understood that the present Government when put in power, would do what the Conservators had failed to do. It was natural that the people should express their disappointment that no one accompanied Miss Sullivan. Another ask what is the use of talking to us about buying our land, when we have not ten shillings in our pockets to pay for it. The Government does nothing in the way of giving the people free land; they are quite dead upon the subject. It is no wonder that the people feel that they are a foot ball for all parties. I heard the Leader of the Government say, that if this Loan had been obtained in older times, the Land Question would have been settled, and the talents of our statesmen employed in developing the resources of the island. Does the hon. member believe that? I do not believe it. Instead of having the Land Question settled, we are told that the negotiations now going on with the Imperial Government, may accomplish that object. A statement made by the hon. member for Tignish, must not be allowed to pass unnoted. He says, that when the late Government loaned to Halifax for the purchase of the land, they would be required to pay all expenses; not only the expense of transportation, but their daily pay. The hon. member affirmed that he could prove this to be the case, from the despatches between the late Government and the Colonial Minister. This statement is unimpeachable. Why then, the despatch between the Colonial Minister, and the despatch between the late Government, was so ambiguously couched, that they could not tell what it meant; whether it was the *pay of the troops* or the *expenses of their transportation*. Under the circumstances, they had to risk this, and direct their attention to the maintenance of law and order, in the Colony. The hon. member, the Leader of the Government, says, that the late Government would have done several things, which the present Government will do. They promised that more should be done towards a settlement of the Land Question, than had been done by the Conservators; but when they had served their own ends, the tenantry were forgotten. I shall not enter any further into the subject.

Hon. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—The Tenant League, I believe, originated in the district of which the hon. member for Murray Harbor is a representative. If it arose from the dissatisfaction of the people, it is a good thing, and the disapproval of the people, is the non-fulfillment of the promises of the late Government. It was one of those unfortunate schemes that went a little too far. It is considered, that if the people had been better advised by their representatives, all trouble would have been prevented, and the troops would not have been required. A more judicious determination of the present Government would have prevented the unhappy disturbances which afterwards arose. The Conservators party got into power by making rash promises to the people, and by raising a great deal of religious excitement. What did they do, when they had the government in their hands? They have certainly purchased some Estates; but I have no doubt that the people are not satisfied with the result. If the first proposed loan had been obtained, the land in the Island might now be freehold. The proprietors would then have been glad to sell their lands, and the Government could have purchased them at a low price. At the late elections, the people were sick and tired of the Conservator Government, which had crippled the Education Act, and disappointed their expectations. In carrying out the late Government's policy, the Government would have prevented the unhappy disturbances which afterwards arose. The Conservators party got into power by making rash promises to the people, and by raising a great deal of religious excitement. What did they do, when they had the government in their hands? They have certainly purchased some Estates; but I have no doubt that the people are not satisfied with the result. If the first proposed loan had been obtained, the land in the Island might now be freehold. 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