Mr. Rae said, the merits of the case had been fully discussed. The matter had been slowly winning its way for the last fifty years, not indeed at the Colonial Office. There they appeared to be proof against conviction; but even there it would yet force its way. All that had now been advanced against it was mere verbiage, words without matter, sound without sense; and, as such, it would have no weight with the majority of the House.

Mr. Arbuckle considered the loyalists entitled to redress. They had long been vainly urging well founded claims, and many of them had severely suffered. Last year, as a body, they had been put to considerable expense; and, for services real or pretended, in their cause, a certain well know individual, he understood, held Notes from several among them for £5 each.

Mr. Gorman said he would not object to the bringing in of a second bill for the relief of the American loyalists, provided it could be so modified and altered from the last that, on being transmitted home, it should not appear to Her Majesty's advisers to be the very same from which so lately the Royal assent had been withheld.

Mr. Longworth was of opinion that the question had received its quietus; and, for the House to entertain any further measures on the subject, would, he thought, be a mere exciting of vain hopes. But, from a conviction of the loyalty and worth of many of the original sufferers among the American loyalists, whose descendants still maintain the same respectability of character, and justly inherit the claims of their fathers, he felt it his duty to go along with those who still clung to what he considered the forlorn hope of redress.

The question was then put and carried.

Mr. Le Lacheur moved the following Resolution:—

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed, to whom shall be referred the Despatch of the Right Hon. Lord John Russell, of the 17th September last, together with a copy of the Bill passed by this House in its last session, for the settlement of the inhabitants, to report thereon by Bill, Bills or otherwise, pursuant to a Resolution reported from the Committee of the whole House on the state of the Colony—with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Mr. Arbuckle wished to know on what principle it was proposed to bring in the bill. He would not oppose any measure which might be likely to ameliorate the condition of the people; but, till the House had agreed upon the principle, it was folly to talk of the formation of a bill. He was afraid their useless deliberations were only aggravating the disappointment of the people, and rendering the House the object of redicule and contempt.

Mr. Longworth said he would vote against the measure. He would never be a convert to the iniquitous principles, acknowledged in the Escheat Bill of last Session.

Mr. Rae, while advocating his right to a free and independent judgment, set forth the necessity of their arriving at something approaching to a unanimous recognition of the principles which were to govern the formation of the bill.

Mr. Gorman said, the proposal under consideration seemed to be that of shearing the wolf. He had heard a great deal about the rights of the people. But of what use was it, he would ask, to assert rights without the power to enforce them? It was proposed to shear the wolf. But, had the difficulty—the danger been considered? No: nothing had been considered but the right: man has power over all the beasts of the forest, therefore we will shear the wolf.

Mr. Le Lacheur said, that if he thought, as some honourable gentlemen did, he would at once declare the propriety of their immediately returning to their several homes, that, as they felt their inability to do their constituents any good, they might not, by their longer continuing in session, do them any harm. But with those honourable gentlemen he did not think; and, therefore, he held it to be the duty of all who wished for beneficial measures, to remain and persevere. It was their duty still to remonstrate with the Home Government, and to shew them, again and again, the injuries which have been done to the mass of the population of this Colony, and which injuries are, in a manner, perpetuated to the people by the apathy of feeling and remissness of action of Home Administrations.—They often heard of inequitable, envious and grasping views; but he knew well to whom the odium of unjust encroachments and a want of equity was best attached. It would be the duty of the Committee to seek the best information, in whatever quarter it could be obtained, disregardless of party, and to bring in a bill in accordance with justice and equity.

Mr. Clark said he would like the mover to say, in few words, on what principles he wished to have a bill brought in. There had been much discussion on the subject in the Committee of the whole House, but nothing definite had been elicited. No principle being previously recognised, a Committee might be appointed in which no two members thought in common on the subject. Could any satisfactory bill be looked for from a body composed of such conflicting materials? The probability was, that they would bring in no bill at all.

Mr. Le Lacheur observed, he thought it was understood a bill was to be brought in on the principle of remuneration.

Mr. D. Macdonald said, when the House was in Committee on the state of the Colony, two Resolutions were submitted on the subject, which differed materially, and the Resolution then adopted was to refer the Despatch, and the Bill passed by the House last Session for the settlement of the inhabitants, to a Select Committee, to report thereon by Bill, Bills, or otherwise. Their Report would be submitted to the House, and committed to a Committee of the whole, when the principles of the intended bill might be sufficiently discussed.

Mr. Palmer said, it now became the mover to lay down and define the principles on which it was meant to proceed. He (the mover) ought to have come forward with something like a definite measure. All was to be obtained by mature deliberation, and yet the more the Committee deliberated, the worse they got: it all ended in a bottle of smoke! The end arrived at was that which ought to have been the beginning. The Committee were to be without a Chart, and might consequently be occupied with the consideration of what ought to be the principles of the Bill, God knows how long! And if the people were looking to them with as much anxiety as they were represented to be doing, for such a measure for their relief, so long too were they to be kept upon the rack of suspense. If the principle of compromise was to be recognised, why did they not proceed to embody it? If such was to be the principle, it ought to be set forth as a pledge that something was about to be done.

Mr. Rae said they had recognised a principle; they were at variance only about amount. He trusted information would be sought, without respect to difference of opinion, wherever it could be obtained. The Bill which they might bring in, he hoped, would be shorter than that of last session. If it were too lengthy it might end in giving us nothing at all. A short Bill was much more likely to be attended to than a long one. He believed Secretaries of State and other officers of Government were quite as fond of their ease as other folks, and would have no great predilection for any thing of jaw-breaking length.

The Hon. J. S. Macdonald said, the House was in the same dilemma in which they had been in the Committee. He said he believed himself to be as truly anxious for the adoption of some just and equitable measure for redress of grievances, as any other member of the House; but, for his part, he could not see that any feasible scheme had yet been, or was about to be devised. It was absurd to offer to purchase the lands from the proprietors without something like an assurance that the proprietors would part with their lands. To pass a Bill with such views and to such effect, would be fruitless labour. The best way of allaying excitement, he said, in his opinion, was to allow those who were said to be the promoters of it, to go the full length of their tether.—Several of the tenants, he said, he knew, were, by their Leases, bound to pay an annual rent of 1s. 6d. or 2s. per acre; and he also knew this was a rent which they could not possibly pay from the simple fruits of their labour. For the relief of such of the oppressed tenantry he would gladly proceed to any justifiable lengths; but the only equitable relief which, in his opinion, ought to be sought, was a cancellation of rents in arrear, and a reduction of rents for the future.

Mr. Arbuckle said there were two great objections to the plan of remuneration. The first was, the money could not be raised; and the second was that even if the money could be raised, the proprietors could not be compelled to sell their lands against their inclination. But one good there was arising from the proposal—it was a tacit acknowledgment of the rights of the proprietors; and it effectually served to withdraw from the eyes of the people the veil of cobwebs which agitators had too successfully thrown over them. The veil, he concluded, was now removed, he hoped never again to be replaced.

Mr. Macintosh observed that if either cobweb or veil was removed, it was only from the honourable member for Belfast's own eyes. As for the people they had never been hood-winked; they had seen, and still saw, clearly enough.

Mr. Le Lacheur was of opinion that, to be consistent, they who were opposed to him and his friends, should themselves propose a plan. If the importunity of the people were continued, justice would be done. Though their judges might be unrighteous, incessant importunity would weary them into a compliance with the demands of justice. Were he to abandon the principles which he had openly avowed and uncompromisingly advocated; were he to advise the people to cease from agitation, and to consent to tell them that, in the pursuit of what they had been taught to believe were their undoubted rights, they had been pursuing nothing but a vain shadow; were he to do so, he would be committing an act of sacrilege against his conscience. As to the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown, he appeared to him (Mr. Le Lacheur) to be, on the question before them, "sans taste, sans eyes, sans every thing;" he might be alive to every thing else, but to that he was absolutely dead. To the interests of the proprietors, indeed, he (the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown) was peculiarly alive; to any private reasons which there might be for his activity he (Mr. Le Lacheur) would not advert. (Order, order!) Well, the fact was, that according to the honorable and learned member for Charlottetown, the proprietors were to be supported at all events. The hon. member, his colleague, for Belfast, had said the eyes of the people had been veiled with cobwebs; but let him (his colleague) consult his constituents; they would tell him no cob-webs had been upon their eyes; they would tell him they saw and felt the reality of their wrongs; they would tell him they knew their complaints and demands to be just; they would tell him their weakness, their feebleness, on account of which they were driven to the wall, was no proof that right and reason, and justice, were not on their side. But he (Mr. Arbuckle) knows—he must know—that he speaks not the sentiments of his bleeding constituents. Let him (Mr. Arbuckle) see some of them, at this inclement season of the year, toiling barefooted over ice and snow; let him see them in their rags, shivering and cowering over their fires by night, for want of a covering beneath which to stretch their weary and exhausted frames; let him see them in such condition, and let him ask them if they thought their labour entitled them to no better lot; let him ask them to what they attributed their misery and deprivations; they would tell him that all—all was owing to the grasping rapacity of their landlords. It was said the reception of the Delegate at the Colonial Office had opened the eyes of the people to the delusions which had been practised upon them; but he would tell his honorable colleague that, had the Delegate, for his assertion of, and exertions in favour of, the rights of the people of this Colony, been even brought to the whipping post in London, there were, among the Electors of Belfast, many whose confidence in the integrity and abilities of that Delegate would have remained firm and unshaken.

Mr. Arbuckle explained that when he said the people had had a veil thrown over their eyes, he alluded to the measures by which they had been deceived, and cheated of their hopes; he certainly did not mean that there had been no grievances of which to complain. With the member for Queen's County (the Hon. J. S. Macdonald), he, however, thought that relief would be best afforded to the tenantry by a reduction of rent and a remission of arrears. For relief beyond these reasonable bounds it was worse than delusion to teach the people to look.

The question was then put and carried, and a Committee appointed.

Mr. Thomson moved, that it be an instruction to the Committee just appointed, that they bring in a Bill on the principle of remuneration to the proprietors for their rights in the soil. A bill, he said, brought in on the principles recommended and advocated by him, would not, as some honourable members said it would, amount to an acknowledgment of the claims of the proprietors; it would be but a mere yielding to the blunders of Government. Other honourable members object that the home government will never consent to advance £200,000 for the purchase of the lands, even should the proprietors be found willing to dispose of their interests therein for that sum, because the government would have no sufficient security for the repayment of the money advanced. But the land, he maintained, would itself be a sufficient security, independent of a guarantee on the Revenue of the Colony. He wished he had the land; he would not be long in getting £200,000 advanced upon it.

Mr. Clark was not opposed to Mr. Thomson's view of the question; but in place of tying down the Committee by instructions, why not add the honourable member to the Committee, when they would receive the full benefit of his suggestions. He (Mr. Clark) would therefore move that Mr. Thomson be added to the Committee.

Mr. Arbuckle observed that the proposed addition to the Committee would be a very proper one; as Mr. Rae and Mr. Thomson would thereby have an opportunity of reconciling their conflicting views.

Mr. Thomson said, it would be arbitrary and absurd to compel him to be a member of a Committee to the appointment of which he was opposed.

Mr. Rae observed, the honourable member for Georgetown (Mr. Thomson) said he objected to his (Mr. T's.) being appointed a member of the Committee because they had received no instructions from the House; but the truth was, that he objected because they were not to act under his instructions. He (Mr. Rae), though his suggestions had not been adopted, had yielded to the wishes of the House in submitting to his being nominated on the Committee; and he hoped Mr. Thomson would put up with the mortification of a like appointment. Though in some respects opposed to the sentiments of other members of the Committee, still he might assist them in their labours; nay, he might even yet succeed in winning over honourable gentlemen to his opinions, or, perhaps, be made a proselyte to theirs. He (Mr. Rae,) however, thought it would look better not to insist on the compliance of the honourable gentleman; besides, they ought to remember the adage that "forced prayers were no devotion."

After some further observations, Mr. Thomson was finally added to the Committee.

The Bill to prevent the running at large of Sheep and Goats in Charlottetown, was read a second time, committed, and passed to be engrossed.

The Hon. John Brecken, acting Colonial Treasurer, was admitted within the bar, and presented the Public Accounts for the past year.

Thursday, February 13.

The Bill to continue for a limited period the several Acts providing for the summary trial of Common Assaults and Batteries; and also an Act to regulate the manner of proceeding upon contested Elections of members to sit in the General Assembly, was read the third time.

Mr. Rae proposed to amend the Bill, by leaving out all that relates to the Act for regulating the manner of proceeding upon contested Elections of members to serve in the General Assembly, and that the latter be brought in in a separate bill. His object in separating into two bills the Acts for the continuance of which the bill just then read had been framed, was to have an opportunity of amending the latter Act for regulating the manner of proceeding upon contested Elections of members to serve in the General Assembly. The direct tendency of that Act, as it at present stood, was to operate against the freedom of Election. According to that Act, a factious, malicious, unprincipled candidate, if wealthy himself, or supported by certain wealthy influence, might effectually intimidate or drive from the field the popular candidate, who, in true respectability of character, in integrity, in talents, in all but his poverty, was well qualified to support a contest for the suffrages of the people, and, if returned, effectually to serve them, and promote their best interests in the General Assembly. At present, any candidate, nay, any friend of any candidate, at a contested Election, might object to any vote or votes given to an opposing candidate, and cause the Returning Officer to mark every such vote with the word "objected;" thus, perhaps, two hundred votes, and these good votes, given in favour of a poor man, might all be objected to by a wealthy or a wealth-backed candidate, and a scrutiny thereon demanded, which, if entered into, although every one of the votes objected to might be found good, and the return of the candidate in whose favour they had been given be thereby secured, yet the expenses thrown upon him by the scrutiny might to himself prove altogether ruinous. The clause, he said, to which he objected was so unfortunately worded, was so vaguely drawn up, that if any person, either candidate or elector, object to one, ten, or any number of votes, either before or after those giving such votes shall have taken the oaths required by law, the Sheriff is bound to mark such vote or votes "objected," and if the objector persist in his objections, the Sheriff must, at the close of the Election, institute a scrutiny, must summon such witnesses as may appear necessary; and, should all the votes be found undeniable, still the candidate in whose favour they may have been given, must pay the expenses of proving them so to be. Now, he said, the object of the present motion was, in case the votes should be proved good, the expence of proving them so to be, should fall on the person objecting to them.

Mr. Palmer admitted, that, as the Act then stood, it bore on its face a presumption of hardship upon the candidate who, in the event of a scrutiny, although such votes as had been given in his favour, marked "objected," and scrutinized, might be proved good, would, notwithstanding, have to bear a part of the expense consequent upon the scrutiny; yet there appeared to him one objection which weighed very strongly against the proposed amendment—an advantage which it would give the more wealthy candidate, and which he might use as a manœuvre, with great effect, against the poor one. The former, he said, might, if he were so inclined, bring to the Poll a number of individuals possessing no qualifications, but sufficient to give a majority, and pass them off as voters; while the poor competitor, a stranger to those persons, would not hazard the risk of marking them "objected," fearing that, in contesting their votes, he would be mulcted in costs. The proposed amendment, in his opinion, went to promote a very impolitic measure. Its object was, to establish a new system of scrutiny in the Election Laws, which he was not aware any other Colony or Country had adopted. Personal inconvenience had been much complained of; but he thought the consideration of personal loss, to so slight an amount, and in so few instances as need here be apprehended, should yield to that of the public convenience.

Mr. Le Lacheur confessed he had not fully comprehended the nature of the objection which had been made by the learned member for Charlottetown to the motion then under consideration. To him (Mr. Le Lacheur,) it appeared that the honourable and learned gentleman's arguments went rather to support than to negative the motion. The House was well aware of the existence of a family compact in this Colony, which had always operated to the prejudice of the interests of the working classes; and the interest of that family compact, and all the influence they possessed over those under them or dependent upon them, at Elections, were always opposed to the free choice of the people; and, as the Act for regulating the manner of proceeding upon contested Elections now stood, it was an instrument of oppression to the people in general, from the power or opportunity it gave to certain individuals to frighten, harass, and, it might be, in some instances, to subject the men of their (the people's) choice to ruinous expenses. If a person opposing a poor though popular candidate, could not prevent that candidate's receiving a majority of votes, he might, by objecting to his (the popular candidate's) votes, and threatening him with the expenses of a scrutiny, so intimidate him as to cause him to abandon the contest altogether, and resign the field to the unpopular and obnoxious candidate. The opposition to, and the remarks upon the proposed amendment, made by the honourable and learned member for Charlottetown, subjected him, in his (Mr. Le Lacheur's) opinion to this censure—that by a multitude of words without knowledge he darkened counsel.

Mr. Thomson said, he had no objection to the motion, provided the voters objected to should take the oath, and the person objecting should still demand a scrutiny.

Mr. Macintosh said, the object of the motion was to remedy a great evil, an evil of which he had been an eye witness. He had been witness to frivolous objections to good votes being made, when the person making them, he believed, knew the votes objected to to be good. The motive, doubtless, was to frighten the popular candidate, hoping that rather than subject himself to the expenses which would devolve upon him in consequence of a scrutiny, he would give up the contest.

Mr. Rae said he concurred in the accurate justice of the observation made by the honourable member for Georgetown, and would so express his motion as to comprehend the provision he recommended. It was particularly necessary to guard against individuals having power to bring a heavy and unnecessary expence on a candidate, as such tools might be found and used, in a great measure, to destroy the freedom of Election.

The motion was then put, and carried, on the following division: Yeas—Messrs. Rae, Clark, Forbes, Montgomery, D. Macdonald, Fraser, J. S. Macdonald, Hudson, Dalziel, Le Lacheur, Beck, Macneill, Macintosh, Macfarlane, Longworth, 15. Nays—Messrs. Arbuckle, Palmer, Gorman, Thomson, 4. So it was carried in the affirmative; and the Bill was amended at the Table accordingly.

Mr Clark, from the Committee to whom was referred His Excellency's Message, and the papers accompanying the same, relative to the non-operation of the Georgetown Assessment Act of last year, reported a Bill to explain and amend the said Act.

Mr. Thomson moved, that the Bill to regulate the floating of Logs, Scantling, Deals, &c. through the Water Gates of Dams, be now read a second time.

Mrt Dalziel moved, by way of amendment, that the said Bill be read a second time this day three months.

The amendment was negatived by a majority of one, nine voting for it and ten against it.

After some discussion, it was ordered, that the bill be read a second time on Tuesday.

Friday, February 14.

The Bill to amend the Georgetown Assessment Act was read a second time, and committed to a Committee of the whole House. After spending nearly the whole of the day in Committee, the Chairman reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

The Hawkers' and Pedlars' Bill was read a third time and passed—Yeas, 12—Nays, Messrs. Clark, Fraser, J. Dingwell, Gorman.

Saturday, February 15.

The House in Committee on the Bill to amend the Georgetown Assessment Act. The amendments introduced were, that from henceforth it shall be the duty of the senior Justice of the Peace then in Georgetown to give the notice required by the Act for calling the annual meet-