... must be coerced by legislation, should fail, (as now ... entered and they refuse to comply. It failed. ... the Commissioners sought to devolve the duty of assessing the value of Township lands, a duty they should have performed themselves, upon other parties not recognized in the Commission, and thus it has happened that the virtual promise of a settlement made to the tenants eight years ago remains to this day only partially fulfilled.

The question has since been simplified by the acquisition of several estates by this Government under the provisions of the Land Purchase Bill, and notably by that of the late Sir Samuel Cunard, consisting of 212,000 acres. These purchases effected, at rates, in no case exceeding five shillings sterling per acre, may be assumed to afford a just criterion of the value of other contiguous Townships, not differing materially in quality of soil, situation or population. If, however, a difference can be shewn to exist, the Council will not hesitate to admit that it should have due weight in estimating the price a proprietor ought to receive for an estate; and as the tenants of those proprietors who have refused to sell their lands are naturally desirous to share the advantages recently acquired by their fellow colonists, the Council, therefore, deems it a duty to abstain from exciting expectations in the people's minds, which may again prove delusive, before the sanction of the Secretary of State has been sought for the introduction of a measure which, resuming the question at the point where the award of the late Royal Commissioners failed to take effect, would provide the means of ascertaining the value of proprietors' estates, and thus set this much vexed grievance at rest forever.

It is most important that a solution of this difficult problem should be arrived at without delay. The interests of this whole community demand it as imperatively as do the tenants themselves; it absorbs the public attention to the exclusion or obstruction of all others. Does the local Legislature look around for a source whence revenue may be derived for internal improvements, or following the dictates of philanthrophy, seek to enlarge the Colonial Lunatic Asylum, or in conformity with the desire expressed by His Grace the Secretary of State, is it proposed to improve the prisons and prison discipline within the Colony, the most natural and certain resource of a new country—a land tax—is found to be anticipated by the proprietors' rent. Most other Colonies, at some period of their history, have possessed a fund derived from the sale of wilderness lands, applicable to emigration or the construction of public works. Prince Edward Island not only has had no land fund, but has been compelled, to the great embarrassment of her finances and the impoverishment of her people, to remit monies which should have been employed for the benefit of her population at home. The progress of a community thus circumstanced, must necessarily be slow; nor is it surprising, that peace, harmony, and contentment, which should be as household words in the thriving settler's home, have here given place to anxiety, discontent, and not unfrequently, to despair.

To treat this question as one between landlord and tenant only, is to take a limited and erroneous view of it. It cannot be supposed that any class of the community regards with indifference, the employment of Her Majesty's Troops to collect rent for proprietors, or to coerce refractory tenants; still less can the expenditure of Colonial resources in building barracks, unnecessary, except in connection with the leasehold tenure, be approved. The annual abstraction of cash for remittance abroad, instead of circulating through the ordinary commercial channels, is another cause of embarrasment affecting all classes, to which may be added the indolence and want of enterprise which the leasehold system often engenders, and which react on the revenue, as well as on the profits of tradesmen and mechanics.

There are certain objections often urged by the interested parties, who oppose a settlement of this question, which it may be worth while to anticipate.

1st. That the amount in question, is insignificant, and cannot materially affect individual or general prosperity.

It should, however, be remembered, that rent in Prince Edward Island, bears no analogy to rent in Britain. Here it is demanded for land covered with forest and without a vestige of improvement. Clearances, fences, buildings, must all be provided by the tenant's labour; live stock and implements must also be obtained from the same source; provision must be made for necessary public works, for the decent ministration of religion, and for those contingencies which await every family. If to all these items of expenditure, Landlord's rent is added, it may be easily understood, that small as the amount seems, it cannot without difficulty be spared. Experience has shewn that the objects above described, are rarely attained; the wilderness is seldom converted into a homestead at any less sacrifice than what may be considered the active period of a lifetime. This sacrifice, settlers in Prince Edward Island have heretofore been called on to make, with no better security than a lease, and that not invariably a long one. Surely it is not an unreasonable desire to obtain the security of Freehold tenure for the spot wherein a man's most valuable—at some time, perhaps, his only possession—his life's is to be invested.

2nd. It is said that the tenant having signed a lease with a full knowledge of its conditions, cannot now repudiate his engagements or demand more favorable terms. If it can be shewn that under the leasehold system, general discontent prevails, that vast amounts of arrears have accrued, and that the interests of this whole community have suffered; then it must follow that some alternative should be sought for and supplied.

No one can peruse the report of the Commissioners already referred to, without being convinced that discontent deeply rooted and widely spread, exists in Prince Edward Island; a partial remedy has been applied since 1862, by the purchase of several Estates, but this rather tends to aggravate the evils complained of by the tenants residing on townships, whose owners refuse to sell their properties.

The Council cannot but regard it as a fact deeply to be deplored, that the interests of 400 families, in different parts of the island, should depend to a considerable extent upon the will of a single individual residing across the Atlantic. And that this large number may be further augmented, when the wilderness lands—the property of the same individual, acquires additional value by the increase of population, the expenditure of appropriations from the general revenue, and the extension of steam navigation.

By an Act passed in 1864, intitled "An Act to settle differences between landlord and tanant"—all arrears of rent due previously to 1858, on certain townships therein named, were remitted. The advocates of that measure claimed for it the favorable consideration of the public, on the ground that it cancelled arrears amounting to over £33,000 sterling. Assuming this admission to be correct, it affords clear evidence as to the unsatisfactory position of the relations between landlords and their tenants, and of the fictitious value of the proprietor's rent roll. This view of the case may be confirmed by observing the amount of arrears which existed on some of the estates purchased by this Government—a memorandum of which is hereto annexed; a further confirmation is opportunely afforded by the estate of Lord Melville, comprising 11,200 acres. It is shewn by a return recently furnished by his Lordship's order, that with a gross rental of £446 sterling, per annum, arrears have accumulated amounting to £2,600 sterling.

3d. It has been agreed that a wholesale purchase of leasehold and wilderness lands by this Government cannot prove a self-sustaining process, and that the colony would thereby be plunged into a state of hopeless financial embarrassment.

Assuming that some temporary loss would ensue, against it should be set off the saving of all future contingencies connected with the coercion of tenants; the good effects of the stimulus which the prospect of possessing free land would apply to the energies of the people; also, the results of the liberal application of capital and labour to the soil, which have hitherto been withheld or grudgingly applied in insufficient quantity.

Another important object would be gained—the withdrawal of the wilderness lands from the operation of the leasehold system; then the increased value they would acquire by the completion of public works, by steam navigation, promoted at the public expense, and by the rapid increase of population, would become, as it ought always to have been, the property of the people, and not serve to enrich an absentee or even a resident aristocracy!

In conclusion, the Council desire to impress upon his Grace's attention, the fact that the proprietory system which thus paralyzed the energies and oppressed the industry of the people, has no longer any existence across the narrow straits which separates this Island from the Dominion of Canada; also, that before seeking a compulsory settlement of this momentous question, every effort has been exhausted to obtain the desired result by voluntary agreement with the remaining proprietors. Thus the remedy now sought for, is the only alternative left them. The Council, therefore, earnestly desires the sanction of his Grace, the Secretary of State, to a measure of the kind indicated, and thus to obliterate the last traces of the leasehold tenure in British North America.

Without such a measure, the rising generation of this Colony, having the experience of their fathers before their eyes, will not grow up to possess this land to which they clearly have the best natural right. Following the example of their Irish prototypes, they will accept the bitter alternative of expatriation, they will emigrate, as many have already done, to the neighboring Republic, and there devote their youthful energies to enrich a rival nation, thus depriving the colony which has nurtured and educated them of their services in the flower of their age.

The Council has felt it an imperative duty respectfully to urge these considerations on Your Excellency's attention, and now requests that Your Excellency cause this memorial to be forwarded ... Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(COPY.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Downing Street,
No. 13. 2nd March, 1868.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 6, of the 11th ultimo, enclosing a minute of your Executive Council, submitting the grounds on which they seek the approval of Her Majesty's Government, for the introduction into the Legislature of Prince Edward Island, of a measure, compelling proprietors to sell their interests in their estates.

I fully recognize the propriety of the course which the Executive Council have taken, in seeking to obtain the sanction of the Secretary of State, before introducing a measure which would naturally tend to raise in the minds of the people, expectations with which in the result it might be deemed inexpedient to comply.

I make the recognition the more fully, because, after a careful consideration of the whole case, and of the grounds now put forward by the Executive Council, in support of a law for the compulsory sale of the land of those proprietors who were not parties to the Act of 1864; I am not prepared to advise Her Majesty to sanction such a measure.

The views of former Secretaries of State upon this subject, and the grounds upon which such views were based, have been so clearly explained in prior correspondence, that it appears to me unnecessary to do more now than to state, that I find no special reason assigned in the Minute of Council, which, in my opinion would justify, on the grounds of public policy the proposed direct appropriation of private property.

I should be glad to learn from you the extent of land actually purchased by the Government, and how much remain in the hands of the original Grantees or their Representatives, and also, whether any tenants have availed themselves of the provisions of the Act of 1864; and if so, to what extent?

I have, &c., &c., &c.,

[Signed.] BUCKINGHAM & CHANDOS.

Lieut. Governor Dundas, &c., &c., &c.

COLONIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

Tuesday, March 10th.

Afternoon Session continued.

Mr. Prowse.—I did not state that the hon. member was unworthy of a seat in this House.

Mr. P. Sinclair.—The hon member (Mr. Prowse) has stated that the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill relieved the people of all their back rent. I always understood that they were only relieved of their rents up to the year 1858. He cannot be so ignorant as he seems to be. The sum required by this Bill is so large that it would not pay the people to buy the freeholds of their farms. It would be better for them to lend their money on interest, than to purchase their lands at such a price. The step now taken by the Government is the right one.

Mr. Brecken.—Mr. Chairman, I stated that the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill would relieve the poorer portion of the tenantry on the Cunard Estate. There was £50,000 of arrears of rent remitted. I believe that one half of the number of leaseholders on the Estate never paid rent. Can this be denied? Is there any reason in saying that we should not have a land purchase Bill, on account of the poverty of the tenantry? I have good reason to believe that capital invested in the soil will yeild more than five per cent, and that farming, when properly carried on, will remunerate those who are engaged in it. No Government is warranted in interfering with the commercial interests of a country. If left alone, commerce will take care of itself. More than half the land in this Colony is now held in fee-simple, and we find that the principle of purchasing the proprietory lands, is working well. If the Government obtains the Loan, the proprietors will demand a higher price for their Estates. They will soon raise their prices if they know that the Government have plenty of money to offer them. I do not want to hear any more angry discussion on this subject. The hon. member for Cavendish entertains extreme views on this matter. If the Government are in favor of coercing the proprietors, they have not said so; perhaps it is because they have not yet received instructions from the Imperial Government. The Land Question is beginning to attract the attention of our neighbors. Even the celebrated Statesman, John Bright has condescended to notice the struggles of our people in their efforts to abolish the Leasehold system. If the Irish tenantry enjoyed the same privileges as the tenantry here enjoy, they would be satisfied.

Mr. McNeill.—I did not say anything about the Irish land tenures.

Mr. Brecken.—Why did not the Government say that they intended coercive measures? But no, they wait for the answer of the British Government, before they undertake to remedy the evils of the rent system. Why sit and wait? Why not oppose the proprietors at once? Such political sub-serviency, as we see here, never was before heard of in any Government in this Colony. The hon. member for Cavendish talked about lawyers receiving the wages of iniquity. Does he mean to say that the services of Attorneys are not required? I wish to know how he would find out the criminal, and clear the innocent, without the aid of lawyers? What would become of our courts of justice, if advocates were not allowed to plead in them? If a man's rights are invaded, a lawyer must be found to advocate them.

Mr. G. Sinclair.—I have listened to the long discussion this evening with greater pleasure than I experienced last evening. It must be admitted that the Opposition have entirely failed to offer any amendment to the paragraph under consideration. The principal charge against the Government was a want of spirit. I suppose they mean the want of arbitrary power. Because the Government have not stated what Bills they intend to bring forward, for the approval of the Legislature, they are called cowards. I do not believe in an arbitrary Government. In regard to the Selkirk Estate, they say that the Government ought, at once, to state what they intend to do. The arbitrary manner, in which the Conservatives ruled the Colony, brought them to what they now are. While they held the reins of power, the House of Assembly was a mere sham. They, at once, sanctioned the measures brought forward by their party. I wish to see a subject well discussed before a Bill is brought forward for the sanction of this House. Before employing compulsory legislation, great caution and prudence are required. We should not do anything hastily. We should first apply to the Imperial authorities, to know how far coercive measures may be carried in this matter. I was glad to hear the hon. member (Mr. Henderson) congratulate the Government on their prospect of settling this difficult question. I agree with him on the despatch which was received from the Colonial Minister, stating that those proprietors who refused to come under the terms of the Commission, might be compelled to accede to its terms. There is every reason to believe that the British Government would sanction a Bill to coerce the remaining proprietors who will not accept a fair price for their estates. The Government have tried, in every way, to accomplish the purchase of these lands and have made preparation to pay for them, in the Loan Bill of last Session. It will show the British Government that we are sincere in our desire to purchase the lands of the Colony. The paragraph does not say that we regret that the Loan was not obtained. The Government have worked through all the difficulties of the past year, and no blame whatever could be attached to them for endeavoring to raise a loan. The country will never prosper till it is freed from Landlordism. The whole proprietory system must be completely swept away.

Mr. McNeill.—The hon member for Charlottetown (Mr. Brecken) has asked if it is justifiable for a lawyer to do business for the proprietors. Perhaps my answer will not satisfy him as it may not be given in such rounded periods as are used by him, but I will give it in my own homely way. If there was such a person as a travelling Attorney going about like a Yankee clockmaker and redressing wrongs, it would be justifiable for that individual to do business for them, but for an hon. member who has been brought up in this Colony and who knew that the people did not bring the rent grievance upon themselves, but that it was imposed upon them by the British Government, seems to me inconsistent. There is a sort of sympathy springing up, between the electors of Charlottetown and those in the country districts. The manner, in which the Tenantry were treated by the late Government, opened the eyes of many of the electors of Charlottetown. The question is, why did not those men who were apprehended get a trial? That, at the least, they should have got. If these men had made the least breach of Law, they would have been shot down. I do ... Loan. If these debentures ... (Mr. Brecken) that they ... in that manner.

Mr. Brecken.—Mr. Chairman. There is a strong sympathy between the city and the country. A change has taken place; perhaps it may effect me; but that change was not made by the Liberal cause. Confederation has made it. A Liberal, who was an Anti Confederate, united the two interests together, while the Conservatives split upon the question of Confederation, but I do not think the Government feelvery proud of their supporter. I do not know what to call him—a Liberal or a Conservative. At the election, some persons said to me, Mr. Brecken, he is our family physician and we cannot vote against him.

Hon. Leader of the Government. Were you not the family Lawyer?

Mr. Brecken.—No, I was not. I am sorry that the town was not better represented. I do not enjoy the position of that hon. member. When he canvassed Charlottetown, he was in the Government ranks. He then said, I am a Liberal; I sacrifice all personal interests to serve the country. He fought for the city, as he had a right to do, to obtain a seat in the Executive. Why did not his party do him justice. Is this the change the hon. member (Mr. McNeill) is proud of? Since the Doctor is not here, I will say no more about him. But perhaps Charlottetown is as well represented as Cascumpec. If they had elected my late colleague, as I advised, they would have had a gentleman who understood their interests. I am asked why I do not bring in some new measure. I dare say the Government would like to see my hand busy. My constituents like political consistency and integrity. I ask the hon. member for Cavendish, if it is worthy of him, to stand up here, and say that an advocate is receiving the wages of iniquity. If he states the truth, the proprietors of the land are usurpers. Is he an honest man to sit and look at the state of things which he describes? Would he raise mob tyranny? Did he ever hear what Lord Brougham said? It was this: An attorney should know nothing but the cause of his client.

Mr. McNeill.—He said something else too.

Mr. Brecken.—Mr. Chairman, I must say that the members on the Government side of the House are the most fastidious characters I have ever met. I should like to hear them talk in some of the meetings of their party, to know how polite they are there. Oh, said the hon. member (Mr. McNeill) why did you not go into the country, and hold meetings to advise the people. What was the cry there during the Tenant League excitement? We do not want your Charlottetown politicians. I would advise the Tenant League representatives not to be so fastidious and thin-skinned. We do not want their stump orators. If they cannot argue with their opponents, they bring the rules of etiquette to bear. They would not allow the Opposition the liberties of this House, if they could in any way prevent their enjoyment of them.

Hon. Mr. Howlan.—The hon. member for Charlottetown says that if I could prevent the Opposition from enjoying the liberties of the House, I would be satisfied. I will not allow such a rabid statement to pass without contradiction. I have no ill feeling whatever towards him. It is he who is fastidious. He says that at one time no one was safe within twenty miles of Charlottetown, who did not belong to the Tenant League. I need not take the trouble to deny this as every member of this House knows that it was not the case. It has been stated by the Opposition that I am the Finance minister of the Government, but I deny that it is the case.

Hon. Mr. Haviland.—I never named him the "Finance Minister."

Hon. Mr. Howlan.—Yes, he did. He spoke of me as the "figure man," which I understand to be an allusion to that office. The hon. member for Charlottetown stated that if I had my own way, I would not allow him the liberty of this House. I merely asked for explanations, and stated that the prime object in asking for these money estimates, was to ascertain whether they were correct or not.

Mr. Brecken.—If the hon member will add up the sum now in the vaults of the Banks to the balances in their favor in other parts, he will find the total amount will be £82,000.

Hon, Mr. Howlan.—The hon. member will pardon me, if I correct him. Any one may see that the money now in the Banks, is not available for buying lands from the proprietors. He says that there is no reason why the Loan could not to be obtained here. I fail to see how he makes the money in our Banks, and the Balances in their favor amount to £82,000. I hope the hon. member has plenty of money there. Suppose he had sued a man for £500, does he think that he could invest that money, before he had received it. The money in the Banks belongs to the channels of trade, and cannot be called surplus capital. When money in this Colony, readily brings ten per cent. interest, how can there be surplus capital in plenty.

Hon. Mr. Laird.—I have sat in my seat all day, listening to the speeches of hon. members, and I have learned that one of them may call another anything, as long as he uses the word "political," in connection with his tirade. The hon. member for Charlottetown has passed the Loan Bill in a short time. He says that one part of the community should not be enriched at the expense of another, and that the Loan would have that effect. So it appears, that he has committed political suicide, by purchasing the estates of the proprietors at the public expense. I do not admire his consistency. There has been a great deal said about resisting the payment of rent. The lands of this Colony were at first granted to certain individuals, for some real or supposed services, they had rendered the state. This was the very principle that caused rebellion against the British Government in the United States, where the people were taxed without their consent. It appears to me an act of great injustice, which compels the people of this colony to contribute to the Imperial revenue. If that Government had paid its own debts, our lands would now be freehold, instead of paying an annual sum, which is really a tax. It is not a paltry amount, for one Lot pays its proprietors £20 sterling per year. I maintain that the tenantry here, have more just cause for resisting the laws, than the people of the United States had at the time of the revolution in that country. There is not a nation in the world that would blame us if we did so. The hon. member for Charlottetown, has been accused of receiving the wages of iniquity. I believe he has been receiving the wages of injustice. It is shocking to see hon. members vilifying each other, and I hope to hear no more of such work. Is it surprising that people should sympathize with a man who is compelled to pay an unjust debt?

Mr. Brecken.—Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Tryon (Mr. Laird), has stated that I have committed political suicide; that is, that I have contradicted myself. I have not heard the assertion proved. He wishes to prove that a Loan would be a benefit to all classes in the Colony. How, in the name of common sense, can a loan be beneficial to our commerce, while the proprietors are absentees. The heavy interest on the Loan would be paid by the mechanic as well as by the farmer. If the Attorney General could have negotiated the Loan in England, last summer, we should now be burdened with the interest of it, whether it was required or not. If the proprietors sell, they will get their money in England; it will never reach us. I am accused of vilifying the Tenant Leaguers. I have attached the greater part of the blame to the leaders, who led the people into mischief and ruin. I suppose the hon. member (Mr. Laird) will not deny that they assisted him into his present position. He wishes us to believe that they were a very respectable body of men. The fact was, that the leaders raised a political influence, and the people were deluded by them.

Hon. Attorney General.—Mr. Chairman, there has been a great deal said this evening, and the hon. members have rambled over a great extent of ground. The hon. member who has last spoken, wonders how the Loan could benefit the mercantile community. Suppose that Miss Sulivan and Lord Melville will both sell their estates, would it not distress the community to take the money out of the Banks to pay them? It might cause a crisis in the money market of the Island. Parties who apply to the Banks, would be told that they could not get money there, as the Government had made a large purchase of land. The community would be placed in a very curious position. But if the Government had the means for paying these proprietors without the assistance of the Banks, all these injurious effects would be avoided.

Mr. Brecken.—Why not pay the Proprietors with Government Debentures?

Mr. Howlan.—Suppose she would not take them.

Mr. Brecken.—How was the Cunard Estate paid for? The proprietors would not ask for gold. The lands of the smaller proprietors might be purchased without a loan. If a loan could have been obtained we would have had £50,000 unemployed, and for which we should be paying interest. If the Cunards were not afraid to take large sums in Debentures, it is not likely that Miss Sulivan would have refused to do so. If Lord Melville should be induced to sell his Estate for £4 000, would that require a loan? Suppose that Miss Fanning and Miss Sulivan were willing to sell their lands, would there be a need of a loan? We should be thankful that the state of the money market prevented a loan from being obtained. The Government may thank their stars that money was not so plenty in London as they thought it was. If the Loan had been obtained we should have been so rich that we would not know what to do with our money.

Hon. Mr. Duncan.—The hon. member for Tignish (Mr. Howlan) has made the discovery that I am wrong, and that every thing has came to pass as he predicted. He told us last year that if the Loan was not procured, the country would become bankrupt.

Hon. Mr. Howlan.—No, I did not.

(*Continued on fourth page.*)

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, April 2.

The following bills were read a third time and passed, viz:

Bill to prevent accident by fire

Bill to Incorporate Baptist Church, at Long Creek, Lot 65.

Bill relating to Savings Bank.

Hon. Mr. Davies referred to a petition from William Jardine, of Crown Point, Lot 49, which had been laid on the table, and moved for a Committee to report thereon by bill or otherwise. After some remarks on the nature of the petition from Hon. Atty. General; Hon. Leader of the Opposition and others, the motion was withdrawn, on the ground that the grievance complained of was of a peculiarly personal nature, and could not be entertained by the House.

Mr. Bell presented a petition from Geo. Maggieson, of Lot 5, Prince County, setting forth that in the year 1788, petitioner's father purchased from the late Wm. Haszard, for 75 guineas, 300 acres of land, which was originally loyalist grants, and granted to the said Mr. Haszard, of Bellevue. That in the year 1815, Petitioner's father died, and in 1817 one John Hill laid claim to said land, and served an ejectment on Mrs. Maggieson, to which she paid no attention; and after setting forth certain grievances complained of, prays that he may be reinstated in the lands.

Ordered that the petition be referred to a Committee to examine the same and report thereon. Mr. Bell, Hons. Davies and Howlan, appointed said Committee.

Hon. Atty. General introduced the bill to amend and consolidate the Education Act. Received and read, and, on motion, was ordered to be read a second time on Saturday next.

Hon. Atty. General, in introducing the bill, explained the principal amendments to the Education Law contemplated by the bill. The salaries of teachers, and the mode of paying the same, was not to be changed. The constitution of the Board of Education was to undergo a revision, by adding to its members two examiners, whose special duty it would be to attend to the examination of candidates for the important offices of teachers. Said examiners would be expected to attend regularly at each meeting of the Board, and under its rules and regulations, examine said candidates in the various branches required to qualify them for the different classes of teachers. The Normal School, he said, was not to be abolished, but the clause in the School Act relating thereto, compelling attendance for five months at that Institution, was to be repealed. Candidates, however, making their appearance at the Board and found incompetent, would be called upon to spend a term at the Normal School in order to prepare themselves for a successful examination. He (Hon. Atty. General) then alluded to cases of peculiar hardship, where young men from the sister Colonies having deplomas from first class Institutions, were called upon to spend five months at the Normal School before they could procure licenses as District Teachers. The same argument applied to Students from St. Dunstan's and Prince of Wales Colleges, some of whom, rather than bow to such an humiliatory course, left their native homes, and thereby the land of their birth was deprived of their valuable services as teachers. It was contemplated to engage a Second Teacher at the Normal School to train youth, provided a sufficient number of children would offer at a fee of 40s. a year for each child; when 30 boys would thus attend, a Teacher would be employed, to whom a sum would be paid from the Treasury in addition to the sum thus subscribed by parents. There was no vital change in the present system of learning imparted at schools contemplated by the bill.

The assessment clauses of the Act would be rendered more explicit in order to prevent troubles and disputes arising from misconception thereof among Teachers and Trustees. The Act itself would be so consolidated as to reduce its present number of pages to one half. The bill contemplated the appointment of three Visitors of Schools, one for each County. There was a clause to exempt Ministers of religion and Professors of Colleges from the payment of school assessment. It was, on motion, ordered that the Bill be read a second time on Saturday.

Hon Col. Secretary—A number of petitions which had been laid before His Excellency the Lieut. Governor in Council, praying aid for paupers. Ordered that said petibe referred to the members for the several Districts.

Hon. Col. Secretary presented to the House extra Supplementary estimates for the current year, as follows:

Special Grants for bridges and Wharves,	£250	0	0
Towards erecting a Light House at Crapaud Harbor,	10	0	0
To Commissioners for revising Laws from 1862	60	0	0

A sum sufficient for taking the census.

Dr. Jenkins introduced a bill to amend the Militia law. On presenting the bill Dr. Jenkins explained its principal features. The object of the bill he (Dr. Jenkins) said was to increase the efficiency of the Militia force, and at the same time relieve the people from some of the inconveniences to which they were subjected, under the law as it now stood, by calling out, in time of peace, one half only of the people, and allowing anyone unwilling to serve, to provide a substitute, who should undergo a medical examination. The Militia to be called out five days and drilled four hours a day; under the present law they were liable to be called out ten days, and drilled one and a half hour per day, by which men lost the whole day, for they were unfit after drill to perform work the rest of the day. If men drilled four hours a day for five days, they would perform 15 instead of 20 hours, as at present, and at the time not loose as much time as under the present system. The efficiency of the Militia force would thus be increased, and men unwilling and unfit to serve, by being allowed the privilege of a substitute, the country would have in their places men capable of doing their work, and under proper discipline, one half the force would thus become more effective, and be capable of performing more efficient service than the whole Militia force of the Island as at present.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition took exception to the bill, on the ground that its principles had already been before the House this Session in the bill presented by Mr. Howat, and also because it contemplated the infliction of fines and penalties, and should therfore have originated in Committee of the whole House. After some further remarks from hon. members on the subject, the Speaker declined receiving the motion to read the bill a second time, on the ground that its introduction was contrary to Parliamentary practice

On motion of Mr. P. Sinclair, the House went into Committee on the Temperance Petion. Mr. Arsnault in the Chair.

After a long debate on the general question of Temperance, and the best method to be adopted for the suppression of the various evils resulting from the traffic in Spirituous Liquors, Resolutions to the following effect were severally submitted and adopted, viz:—

That no Government office nor Court House be kept in any house licensed by law to sell Spirituous Liquors.

That the Certificate for a Tavern or Store Pint License be obtained by two of the nearest four Magistrates calling a public meeting of the inhabitants, giving two weeks notice thereof, and upon a majority of said meeting agreeing to have a public house or a store licensed to sell by the pint, the applicant shall have a certificate for said license.

The following committee was then on motion appointed to bring in a bill in accordance with said Resolutions, viz:

Messrs. Peter Sinclair, Bell, F. Brecken

House adjourned.

Friday, April 3.

Mr. Prowse asked the Government what action, if any, would be taken on Petitions relating to the establishment of a Post Office on Township 63.

Hon Leader of the Government in reply observed that the subject of additional Post Offices would receive due consideration. The Post Master General would report on the subject to the Government.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition gave notice of his intention to ask the Government for any correspondence between his Lordship the R. C. Bishop of Charlottetown, relating to the subject of Education, and the Government.

The bill to amend the Summerside Bank was committed to a Committee of the whole House and reported agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Kelly presented a petition from divers inhabitants of Townships Nos. 36, 37 and 48 praying for an amendment to the Small Debt Act, and to remove the Small Debt Court from Alex Hayden's Point to Fletcher's Corner, Fort Agustus, Petition was received, read, and referred to the following Committee to report thereon, viz:—Hon. Mr. Kelly, Mr. Reilly, Mr. McNeill.

Ordered that the petition of Thomas Mowbray and others, of Egmont Bay and vicinity on a similar subject be referred to the above Committee.

House in Committe on Ways and Means. Mr. G. Sinclair in the chair.

Hon. Atty. General presented several Resolutions on the subject, and said that it was not contemplated to make any material change in the bill of last year. He read extracts from letters received from gentlemen in New Brunswick touching the necessity of affording facilities to parties from the Provinces who were disposed to establish manufactories on the Island, and with that view were desirous to learn what action the Legislature would take to encourage the introduction free of duty, of machinery and other articles required to carry on such factories. He then alluded to the prospects of an influx of manufactures to the Colony as the result of the high Tariff imposed by the Dominion Government. He, Hon. Atty. General, then submitted a Resolution having for its object the granting of drawbacks to parties importing machinery and other articles for manufacturing purposes. He also submitted a Resolution touching the necessity of a more stringent mode for collecting duty on goods received from steamers.

The Chairman then reported said Resolutions, and obtained leave to sit again.

The debate on the City Bill was again resumed. Mr. McLellan in the Chair.

The clause relating to increased taxation, amended by the adoption of the proviso submitted thereto by the hon. Atty. General, to the effect that the increased rate of assessment should be expended in permanent improvements, was agreed to.

The clause relating to the extension of criminal jurisdiction elicited a long debate. The principal point in debate was the principle of inflicting punishment by imposing fines instead of imprisonment.

It was contended by Hon Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Atty. General, and others, that the principle of inflicting fines, as a punishment, for crime was wrong, and should not be recognised in the bill under consideration. The more effectual principle for the prevention of crime being that of imprisonment. Parties addicted to crime regarded fines, which, in many cases, they could pay out of the proceeds of their illgotten gaines, as a trifling punishment compared to that of being thrown into prison and there to be made to atone for their crimes.

Mr. Brecken contended that in the absence of a Workhouse or Reformatory the principle of allowing the Court the discretionary power of inflicting punishment, either by fine or imprisonment, was absolutely necessary. It was a great hardship to cause young offenders to be thrown into the same prison, and made to associate with old and vile criminals, whose society would tend to strengthen rather than eradicate the propensities for evil in the minds of such youthful offenders. He (Mr. Brecken) urged the propriety of leaving the exercise of discretionary power in the hands of the City authorities, who would inflict the punishment in the manner and to the extent called for by the nature of the offence.

Several hon. members on both sides took part in the discussion which followed at the close of which the clause under consideration was thrownout of the bill.

The chairman then reported the bill, as amended, agreed to.

House adjourned.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, April 13, 1868.

TO THE FRIENDS AND PATRONS OF THE "EXAMINER."

The Subscriber having purchased the copyright and property of the "Examiner" newspaper, and all interest therein since the 1st of January last, in coming forward to make his humble bow before its kind supporters, and the public in general, and to solicit a continuation of their favors, feels bound to state, candidly, the principles by which he shall be governed in conducting that journal.

The same line of Liberal politics, which has hitherto characterized the "Examiner," shall be scrupulously pursued, except in the matter of Confederation with Canada, which shall be most strenuously opposed. No blind zeal for party shall prevent an honest, out-spoken expression of opinion on public men and public measures, in which he shall endeavor to do equal justice to all parties, his motto being "*The greatest liberty, welfare and happiness of our fellow-colonists.* And, although he cannot promise you, in editorial matter, the same brilliant, poetical flow of language which so distinguished the writings of his predecessor, the late much lamented Hon. Edward Whelan, yet he trusts, that with the assistance which he shall be able to engage, the new series of the "Examiner" will be fully equal, if not superior, to any of its contemporaries. Always deeming "honesty the best policy," he most respectfully asks of you a fair trial.

WALTER C. GRANT.

We fear that the coming summer will be a season of great suffering and misery to many poor people in the rural districts of this Island. There is now a great scarcity of fodder in many districts. The farmers, unwilling to see their cattle starve, are, we hear, feeding them with the grain and potatoes required for the sustenance of their families and for seed. The price of all kinds of farm produce is already very high, but we expect to see it higher still before the planting season is over. A friend of ours tells us that he has received a letter from the country, in which he is informed that in the rich and flourishing settlement of Bedeque, hay is £12 a ton, and straw, £4. The prices quoted are high beyond precedent, and indicate a dreadful state of things in the newer and less wealthy settlements. When a farmer is obliged to give four shillings for one hundred weight of straw, and eight or more shillings for the same small quantity of hay, to keep his stock from dying of starvation, we know no man more to be pitied. His little farm is his sole means of subsistence. If his cattle die and his seed corn be consumed, his children will want both bread and milk in the ensuing summer, and he and they will feel the effects of the present hard season for many long years to come. We hope that our well to-do farmers—those of them who have enough for themselves and to spare—will have some consideration for their necessitous neighbours. We do not ask them to distribute their surplus g[rain] among those who stand so m[uch in need of] them, gratuitously—for, than[k God, in this] country no healthy man need [...] the word is commonly und[erstood ...] neighbour—but we merely plead [with them not] to take advantage of the nece[ssities of the] needy, to wring hard terms from th[em, but to be] content with a moderate price for [what they have] to sell, when he who wishes to bu[y ... the] tiller of the soil, who *must* have seed [for] the ground and fodder to keep his li[ve stock] alive, or be compelled to endure the suffering both of mind and body. The rules of trade do not apply in seasons [like the] present. The increased demand for [pro]duce is not a healthy one. Those who p[urchase] do not expect to gain anything by the action. Nothing but the most me[lancholy] necessity brings them into the market, a[nd this] very necessity sadly lessens their ability [to meet] their engagements. We know farmers [who] have acted with noble generosity under [similar] circumstances. They scorned to make [a profit] out of those who were pining for the nece[ssaries] of life—to add to the troubles of those who were already in grievous affliction. The[y sold] what they could spare, and some of the[m more] than they could well spare, in small [lots, at] ordinary prices to the poorest applica[nts. Other] men in comfortable circumstances the[y refused] to sell, telling them that *they* could [not] buy from those who exacted the highe[st mar]ket price. These large-hearted men hav[e] thriven—they have been blessed in their [fields] and in their store, and if they have not in [every] case met with a grateful return from whom they then relieved, they have the satisfaction, which no one can take fro[m them,] of having acted as became good citize[ns and] good Christians. There were, we are s[orry to] add, many who acted very differently, whose love of gain silenced the prompt[ings of] humanity, and rendered them deaf [to the] teachings of Christianity. We will n[ot take it upon] ourselves to say what we think of them [—they] *have had* their reward—and much good [may it] do them.

Though we are firm believers in s[elf-help] and self-reliance—in people getting ove[r their] difficulties by their own exertions, even [at the] expense of great labour and some suff[ering—] yet, if the distress among the people [is so] general and so pressing as we have been [led to] believe it is, we cannot help thinking th[at the] Legislature ought to interfere for [their] relief. We have heard it suggested [that if] one thousand pounds were distributed in loans, through each of the three counti[es, the] effect would be very materially to less[en the] present and prospective evils consequent [upon] a scarcity of seed grain among the p[oorer] class of farmers. We hope that this s[ugges]tion will be acted upon before the House [rises.] If the machinery necessary to effect the [dis]tribution would not be too complicated, [or] its working too expensive, we think it w[ould] be much better that the grain itself were lo[aned] to the people instead of money. The ad[van]tages of this plan are, we think, evident. [The] Government, buying large quantities, wou[ld be] able to get the grain on so much better t[erms] than would the individual farmer. Beside[s, in] some localities, seed grain cannot be ha[d for] money, and thus he would be put to a [con]siderable expense both of time and of m[oney] before he could procure even the small q[uan]tity which he could afford to purchase. [The] improvident and the dissipated would have [a] temptation to divert the corn from its inte[nded] use than the money. We are decidedly [of] opinion that the corn should be placed in [the] hands of those who require it, strictly a[s a] loan. They should be given distinctly to [un]derstand that the Government will rig[idly] exact the payment for it, at as early a day [as] possible. No class in this community n[eeds] permanent state aid to enable them to li[ve,] and when that aid is extended in exceptio[nal] cases like the present its recipient should [be] made to feel that the state comes to the assistance in the character of a judicious frie[nd] rather than that of an unreflecting alms-give[r.] That no demoralization shall follow the dist[ri]bution of relief, it is absolutely necessary th[at] the self-respect of those who are to receive [it] should be carefully preserved. We are qui[te] sure that the great bulk of those who nee[d] help will agree with us in this, many [a] man who would thankfully accept a lo[an] from the Government would suffer th[e] direst extremity before he could bri[ng] himself to apply to it as a pauper. Fo[r] those who would sponge upon the Go[v]ernment or on private indivduals, rather tha[n] exert themselves to gain an honest livilihood we have no consideration; the more strictl[y] they are dealt with the better for themselves.

The Acadian French inhabitants of Egmont Bay have set our small farmers an example of self-help and co-operative effort which they would do well to follow. Having been convinced by long and painful experience of the many disadvantages of being obliged to purchase seed grain in the spring when their pockets were empty and their credit by no means good, they looked about them for some means to remedy the evil. By some chance or other, they lighted on a scheme which not only proved a cure for that particular evil, but one which if properly applied will—if we are not very much mistaken—very materially lessen the many disadvantages under which those very amiable people have so long laboured. Immediately after harvest, we presume, a number of them formed themselves into a society to provide themselves and others with seed grain. Each member contributed to the general stock four bushels of oats. By this means a store of grain was laid by to be sold or loaned to those who should need seed corn in the spring, and to those only. Payment was taken in oats in the fall. As many of the contributors would be under no necessity to draw on the general fund, there was from the first, a considerable quantity of seed grain to distribute among those who required it each spring, upon easy terms, both as to price and time. This society has been in existence five years, and is now composed of fifty members, each contributing forty bushels of oats, so that in the granary of the Egmont Bay Provident Society, there are to-day 2000 bushels of oats to be shared among the needy farmers of the neighborhood, when the season for sowing arrives. This industry does infinite credit to the intelligence and the independence of the Acadians of Egmont Bay. If such societies were established all over the Island there would be no necessity for the Government to come to the assistance of the farming population of the Island even in the scarcest years.

We find that people in other parts of the country wish to follow the good example of the Egmont Bay French people. Mr. Arsenault has during the present Session brought in a Bill to incorporate socities of this description. The provisions of the Bill are exceedingly simple. We strongly advise our friends in the

TIGHT BINDING