

# EXAMINER

Weekly Journal of Politics, Literature, and News.

"This is true Liberty, when Freeborn Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free."—Burpides.

Vol. XV. Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Monday, May 15, 1865. New Series.—No. 24.

### Valuable Freehold Property FOR SALE.

By Private Contract, ON DONALDSTON ESTATE, LOT No. 33, containing about Two hundred and Forty Acres of EXCELLENT LAND, bounded on the East by Bedford Bay, on the West by Windsor River, on the North by the Corns Bay Bridge. A large portion of the land is cleared and in a good state of cultivation; remainder covered chiefly with young timber. There are on the premises a good DWELLING HOUSE, 10 ROOMS, 31 ft x 38 ft; a BARN 40 ft x 20 ft and 20 ft. Water, with Cistern, a good WELL of Water, together with several Ponds and Springs, good quality of Swallow Mud, together with Muscle Mud and other Manures, both in the Bay and the River. It will be sold on LOTS to suit intending purchasers, and a portion of it will be adapted for a country Store, a Lumber Kiln, or a Fishing Establishment. Terms Liberal. Possession instant. Apply to the Proprietor in Charlottetown, or to JOHN A. McNEILL, Esq., March 27th, 1865.

### Valuable Building Lots IN CHARLOTTETOWN.

TO be sold by PUBLIC AUCTION, on the premises, on WEDNESDAY, the 31st day of MAY next, at 11 o'clock, in the forenoon, part of TOWN LOTS Nos. 1 and 2, Second Section, property of JOHN BARKELL and JOSEPH FRANCIS BARKELL, of London, Esquires.

This property has an extensive frontage on Dorchester, Front and Sydney Streets, and from its central and eligible position, is at present one of the most desirable for building purposes in the City. The land is to be subdivided into BUILDING LOTS.

TERMS OF SALE.—A deposit of 25 per cent. to be paid down on the day of sale, and the balance to be secured by Mortgage of the premises, payable by four annual instalments of One half the purchase money and the residue in four years from the day of sale, (at the option of the purchaser,) with interest. For particulars as to title, inspection of Plan of the Property, apply to the Hon. JOHN LONGWORTH, Attorney for the vendors.

WILLIAM DODD, Auctioneer, Charlottetown, 17th April, 1865.

### For Sale or to be Let,

AND immediate possession given, THE DWELLING HOUSE, OUT HOUSES, BARN and PREMISES, at present in possession of Capt. W. H. HULL, situated at TOWN LOT 1, containing in all about 100 Acres of Leasehold Land, a large portion of which is in good cultivation. The Dwelling House is commodious and well finished, with a garden, and the out-buildings spacious and well arranged; the grounds well fenced with Cedar, and the situation well sheltered, pleasant, and central for all business purposes.

There is also Stable, Cattle and Out Yard on the premises. For further particulars apply to the Auctioneer at Charlottetown, or to Capt. HULL on the premises.

FALMER & McLEOD, Solicitors, Charlottetown, April 3, 1865.

### Valuable Farm for Sale.

TO be sold by PRIVATE CONTRACT, that eligible LEASEHOLD PROPERTY, on Lot 31, known as "MARSHFIELD," containing 200 Acres, more or less, of excellent Land, of which about 100 Acres are in good cultivation, the remainder for the most part covered with a valuable growth of Firwood, Scouting and Fencing Fallow. The DWELLING HOUSE is a fine one, with Leasings and commodious, and the land in excellent condition.

TERMS and further particulars may be known on application to the Auctioneer on the premises, or to CHARLES PALMER, Esq., P. HATHORNE, Marshfield, Nov. 28, 1860, and the annual rent is 15s. per acre.

### FOR SALE.

THE undersigned offers for sale his FIVE TERRY WATER LOTS, near Prince Street Ferry Wharf, in such portions as may be agreed upon. Also, FIVE BUILDING LOTS in the Town. JOHN MAJOR, Esq., Charlottetown, April 3, 1865.

### Valuable & Desirable Building LOTS FOR SALE.

THE Subscriber offers for sale Two Pleasantly situated WATER LOTS in Georgetown, with Water Privilege to the channel, adjoining the Common and other valuable lots in the Town. Also, several BUILDING LOTS in different parts of Charlottetown. Terms liberal.

JOHN LONGWORTH, Charlottetown, 6th March, 1865.

### Dwelling House, Tannery, &c. FOR SALE.

THE subscriber offers for sale, at private contract, the premises at present occupied by him in the Village of SOUTHPORT, containing about 100 Acres of the main street, and extends back 200 feet. There are on the premises a very commodious DWELLING HOUSE, one with a half story high, and another on the first floor, Kitchen and Pantry attached.

## COLONIAL LEGISLATURE.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, March 29.

A message was brought from the House of Assembly by the Hon. Col. Gray with a Bill to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of the Presbyterian Congregation of Woodville and Little Sands, Lots 62 and 64.

Mr. HAYLAND, with a Bill in addition to and in further amendment of the Land Purchase Act.

THE HOUSE then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on a Bill to assist leaseholders in the purchase of the fee-simple of their farms.—Hon. Mr. McDONALD in the Chair.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL: I think there should be more provision in the Bill to prevent any part of the Island from becoming obstructive to the Government in carrying out this measure. If one part of the Island should receive a large share of the benefit expected to be derived from this Bill, they might return members pledged to oppose extending it to other parts. If it were extended to each County, or were so arranged that one County could not take advantage of another, I think it would be a good precaution.

Hon. the PRESIDENT: I have no fear of anything of the kind. The tenants in some Counties have already received more than those in other Counties. Prince County has received much less than the others, but I never heard of the members for any County being pledged in that way. Neither do I think there is a desire on the part of the electors to pledge them in that way. There is a universal desire to do away with the leasehold system. Even if the whole £50,000 were spent in one County, I do not think the people would object to extending the same privilege to other Counties.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON: Your honors, it would seem that such a suggestion, coming from his honor, who is an old politician, should be viewed by a junior person in politics, like myself with deference, and it should induce me to look at the whole subject with caution. The first thought that occurred to me was, that if such should turn out to be the result, it would be a very unnatural one indeed. That the tenants who would have participated more largely in the benefits or assistance which this Bill is intended to confer, would then turn round and pledge their names not to extend the same assistance to others, would be most unreasonable, even though the working of this Bill should cost a little more than it should return to the revenue. Would it be reasonable for the people of Belfast, or those on the Selkirk estate, who obtained their land at such a cheap rate, to turn round and exclaim against being granted a few pence per acre to the other tenants? In a similar position? They should be the last to make such an objection, for it would be most unjust. It will be seen that £50,000 is the most that the Government contemplate having out at any one time; and if the common rate of property which has been extended to us for several years past shall be continued, it is not likely that we shall be able to extend it to all the tenants. I am not aware that any other measure could be introduced that would feel so much interest in it as I do in this Bill. It is quite correct for me to say that I looked forward with no small degree of interest to the introduction of this measure, and I gave it my opinion on the former day. The difference between the former tenants and those who had to pay for their land, was not merely framework without this Bill. I felt myself pledged that such a measure should be brought forward; and I hesitate not to say that, to the extent of my vote and influence, I have not shrank from keeping it before the Government. At the same time, it would be quite correct to remark that neither the Government nor those who are in favor of it, are not in the right of this measure. It was postponed at the last session, first, on account of the large amount of debentures which had to be issued to pay for the Worrall Estate, and secondly, because it was considered that it would be premature to produce it till the other measure, "the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill," was introduced into the House of Assembly. There was a time when I felt called upon to make these remarks, but I should be thought that this Bill was pressed upon the Government, or that it had its origin in certain suggestions made by the leader of the Opposition in the House of Assembly. We know that about the time that a meeting of the Executive Council was approaching, the Leader of the Opposition presented a petition from the inhabitants of Lot 34, praying for an Act of this kind; and there is nothing more acceptable to the Legislature than to find petitions coming in to strengthen the hands of those who are in favor of a measure of this kind; but let it be thought that it was the occasion of this Bill being brought in, I affirm, without hesitation, that it was not. And it is but right to observe that, before I accepted the position which I now hold as a member of the Government, I spoke with warmth on the subject of this Bill, and I met with a hearty response. I consider it my duty to support an advance of two-thirds to the tenants; but as the Government and their supporters, many of whom have had much more experience in political matters than I have had, have not deemed it safe, it would become me to press it, but, as it extends to all the tenants, whether they are under the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill or not, and as it is not intended, any more than the Bill I have just named, to keep up the price of land, but, on the contrary, to bring it down, I hope it will have that effect, and also that it will meet the necessities of the case—that it will lead those who are in a variety of feelings, to a point of view, and have got into an arduous state of mind, to be brought to the laws. No doubt they are judged by the disadvantages of the leasehold system, till their judgment has become warped, though they are men of sound judgment, as a general rule, and they have been led to support the pretensions of some who are not their friends, and an end is put to their judgment, when not supported, or given utterance to such sentiments as they do express. They say, "let us join hand in hand, and let us see what we can do independent of the Government." There is nothing unlawful in that, any more than there would be at a sale of flour, in order to obtain the most for the money, to buy two or three barrels of wheat, and combine together, with three or four others, instead of acting singly, and having, consequently, to pay the retail price in cash down. But, although the people, as a whole, are as loyal as any under the British flag, yet there are a few unruly spirits amongst them who generally take a subject together. In this case, they have combined together to obtain better terms from the proprietors, but they have given expression to sentiments which are decidedly seditious. I am glad that some have written on the subject, and have expressed their intention of supporting the first object, but not the second. I trust that this Bill will have the effect of soothing the irritated feelings of the people, and that they will begin to understand that those who oppose the laws are striking at the very root which bind society together.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL: I am at a loss to know how the Government could have had this measure in view ever since they introduced the "Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill." If they had it in view, why was there not a word said about it in His Excellency's speech at the opening of the session? It surely would have been alluded to if it was in contemplation to introduce it at the present session. His honor who has just spoken wishes to take all the credit of it to the Government, but I can assure him that the first I heard about it was from the leader of the Opposition in the House of Assembly; and why should he not take hold of it and endeavor to carry out his own pet scheme?

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL: I do not know that this Bill generally receives any obstruction merely because there is a little difference of opinion as to how it originated; but I cannot exactly sit silent and hear the statements which have been made, while I have some knowledge as to how it was introduced. There were gentlemen in this branch of the Legislature who expressed very great disapprobation that this Bill was not introduced last session, and one in particular did so. I myself stated that the principal reason why the Government did not feel justified in introducing it was, that they had just passed a measure calling for an issue of £18,000, to pay off the debentures due for the purchase of the Worrall Estate. At the same time the good policy of passing such a measure was admitted. Now, when the Legislature had met this session, I believe the matter was again mooted within the Government; and I do not hesitate to say that, as far as I recollect, the Government were not unanimous as to the principles on which the Bill should be framed. I believe there was some intimation got out that the measure was going to fall to the ground; then the Leader of the Opposition came out with his proposition; at least I have been told that such was the case. The Government resumed the consideration of the measure when some of their supporters, and I as one of them, pressed this measure upon them. I was glad to hear that there was so much unanimity in supporting this measure, and even if what his honor from Bay Fortune has stated were the case, yet if all were unanimous as to the good policy of the measure, we should view with each other in giving it our cordial support. Therefore I hope there will be no difference of opinion among us respecting the merits of the bill simply because there is a little difference as to whom the credit is due of having originated it. I hope these considerations will be sunk in the prospect of its being a benefit to the tenants.

Hon. the PRESIDENT: I do not think it is his honor's intention to oppose the bill; he merely wishes to convey to the public the idea that it was introduced at the instigation of the Leader of the Opposition. Now, I remember that one of your honors, who is a supporter of the Government, made a long speech here last Session, and found great fault with the Government for not introducing it. And I remember being at a meeting last session when the subject was discussed, and the great objection to introducing it then was the large amount of debentures which were due for the purchase of the Worrall Estate, and which had to be redeemed. I am not going to condemn the purchase of the Worrall Estate. It was the first estate bought by the Government and was to some extent an experiment. If we have lost a little by it we must put up with it. But this measure was mooted when it was decided to bring in the "Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill," and it was never lost sight of. The greatest difficulty was that the Government did not wish to have more on hand than the debentures for the payment of the Worrall Estate would meet with a ready sale, as they did not wish to embarrass the Government. They now find that they have, and therefore they are prepared to enter into this measure. It may be mentioned in the House of Assembly by the Leader of the Opposition, but the Government had it in view fifteen or eighteen months ago. This measure is not exactly based on the "Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill," for it extends to all the tenants on the Island. I am glad to see that we are so unanimous in carrying some measure for the relief of the tenants. If we had been so many years ago it would have been better for us.

Hon. Mr. GOFF: If this bill become law I believe it will be the means of enabling many of the tenants to obtain free farms, and as long as that is effected I care very little who gets the credit of it. I hope we will pass it in the same spirit as the House of Assembly did, and then both branches of the Legislature will deserve the thanks of the country. I believe there is no opposition to the principle of the bill, and I do not know that we can improve the details of it. Allusion has been made as to how the bill originated. I can remember when the bill was introduced, and the Government were called to town in reference to the delegation to England that this bill was spoken of. It was intended to bring in a bill to authorize the Government to advance a part of the purchase money to the tenants, and many of the supporters of the Government thought it would have been brought in last year, but the reason why it was not has already been explained. The price under the "Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill" was considered high, but they were the only terms the proprietors would consent to. The Legislature could not obtain any greater concessions. I think it is our duty to support this bill.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL: This is one of the most happy bills I ever knew. The only objection is which party is to have the credit of it. I will not differ much with your honors on that point, but at the same time I wish to have our proper position, and I think I am borne out in my statement by his honor the Attorney General. I think the Government were defeated in bringing in the bill when they intended to. As it now stands, I think both parties will have a share of the credit.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON: His honor who has just spoken wishes to have his proper share, and so do I. Any one to look at the debates of this House for last session, will see that his honor on my right (Mr. Beer) made a long speech on the subject of this Bill, and brought forward an array of figures to show the feasibility of this measure, and I said that I concurred with him. And in reference to why it was not alluded to in His Excellency's speech, I can say without any infringement of my obligation,

that it was not on account of the bill not being contemplated. It was not opposition to the principle, but the details of the bill. Some wanted to advance two-thirds of the purchase money to the tenants, while others were not willing to do so; and his honor knows that it is better not to allude to a measure in the speech than afterwards to fail in carrying it through the Legislature. I hope if one side will father it, the other side will join in rocking the cradle, and between the two we will make a handsome boy of it yet.

Hon. Mr. RAMSAY: I think his honor from Bay Fortune (Mr. Dingwell) is aware that the "Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill" had a suspending clause, and it would be premature to pass this Bill till we knew whether the other would become law. As to which party will have the credit of introducing it, I think it will concern the country very little. They will not care who has the credit of it so long as they have the benefit; neither do I think we need care. It is my opinion that it will be a great benefit to the country, though I think his honor to whom I before alluded said that very few would receive any benefit from it.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL: I would be sorry to think his honor desired to put me in a false position, but I was speaking of the "Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill."

Hon. Mr. RAMSAY: Well, I suppose I misunderstood his honor, and I have no desire to place him in a false position. It is my opinion that it will be a benefit to a large portion of the tenantry; and I know the Government had it in view last session, and also this session.

Hon. Mr. ANDERSON: I do not think that ever such an important measure passed through the Legislature with so little opposition. It passed unanimously through the House of Assembly, and I hope it will do the same here.

Hon. the PRESIDENT: I believe there is not a tenant among your honors, and very few in the House of Assembly; therefore the Bill is not passed because the members of the Legislature had any personal interest in it. Freeholders had some interest in the Land Purchase Bill, for it would enable them to procure free land at a reasonable rate if they required it, but it is not so with this Bill.

Hon. Mr. LORR: The only difference is about who is to get the credit of this Bill. One of your honors said it would have been premature to have introduced it last session. His honor the Attorney General, it appears, had it in his mind's eye two years ago, and he advocated it when he was in the Government. Then another member of the Government said, or insinuated, and I almost thought he went too far, that he had been instrumental in getting it brought in. Then his honor from Bay Fortune (Mr. Dingwell) shows that it had been first mooted in the House of Assembly by the Leader of the Opposition. We wish to see who is to carry off the laurels. But I believe it will not be worth a rap to the poor man, and the rich man can take care of himself. It is the poor man we want to benefit by Bills of this kind. I believe, as I said before, it will be like a chip in porridge, neither good nor harm.

Hon. Mr. RAMSAY: His honor says it will be no benefit to the poor man; but I know a proprietor who has offered his land at ten shillings an acre, and the tenants, though they consider it a reasonable price, are not able to purchase. Will this bill, by authorizing the Government to advance one-half the price to the tenants, be no benefit to them?

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL: It is utterly impossible for the Legislature of this country, or any other country, to put the "poor man" on an equality with the rich man. No Legislature can do it. It is out of the question to suppose that we can introduce a measure which will be an equal benefit to the poorest class and the well-off farmers. I would not have risen again, for it is not my practice to speak often on any subject, but I cannot avoid doing so when his honor, on my left (Mr. Lorr) has risen so often to complain of the want of legislation for the poor man. I think the time has arrived when he should devise something for the benefit of the poor man. I would like him to come out with his famous scheme, which he has kept bottled up so long, and I would listen to him with great pleasure if he would bring in some measure to give the "poor man" a free farm. Even though the session is drawing to a close, yet I would not mind prolonging it two or three days more, for I confess that I have always had a curiosity to see his honor come forward with some measure to serve the poor man, but I have always been disappointed. It is not too late yet, and I would be very glad to see him draw out of his pocket an amendment to the present Bill.

Hon. Mr. LORR: I am very much obliged to his honor the Attorney General for this nice bit of catbitching; but I think his honor will compare well with me in that respect. Can he put his hand on any law in the statute book to show that he has brought in any measure to benefit the poor man in this Colony? If he can do so, I will be glad to know that he is a faithful legislator, but I have yet to learn that he can do so. I think his honor and myself stand about on the same footing as regards bringing in measures to benefit the poor man; but I know that if ever so good a measure were introduced by me, certain gentlemen would be the first to oppose it; if it interfered with the rights or privileges of the proprietors.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL: I beg leave to disclaim being put upon the same footing with his honor. It is very true that one bill cannot be brought in by every member; but if his honor will turn up the records, I think he will find that I have had to do with almost every practical benefit to the tenantry since I had a seat in the Legislature. The "One-ninth Bill" was brought in by myself when I was at the head of the Government, and I believe, I had sufficient influence to crush it, if I desired to do so. Any land bill which has been passed by the present party has had my support, and I question if the present Bill would have gone so easily through the Legislature if it were not for myself. His honor is too apt to follow the example of my maligners in the newspapers, who take up a cry against me to serve a purpose; but if he will revert to facts—if he will examine the history of the measures which have resulted in any practical good—he will find my name in support of more of them than his. I have no desire to publish

my good deeds, but when I am thus assailed I must defend myself.

Hon. Mr. BEER: It has been said that the poor man will not derive any benefit from this bill, but I think the poorer classes will derive great benefit from it. They may not receive much benefit from it in the first place, and I believe there is no man in the Legislature who can devise a measure which will be an immediate benefit to them, but ultimately they will receive great assistance from it, for the well-to-do farmers will purchase their farms, and then the proprietors will sell the remainder of their estates to the Government. There is no member in the Legislature who has more strenuously advocated this measure than myself, and I am confident that it will be a great benefit to the tenants generally.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON: It is a fact worth noticing that at the time the Despatch arrived announcing the confirmation of the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill by Her Majesty, a large number of writs were in process of preparation, and nearly finished for back rents, both before and since 1858, in the expectation that the Bill I have named would not become law, but they had then to be thrown aside as waste paper. That saved the people from having those writs served upon them.

The House was then resumed and progress reported.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

THURSDAY, March 30.

Hon. Mr. McLAREN, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, laid before the House the Report of the Visitor of Schools for the Eastern Section of the Island for the past year. Also, the quarterly reports of the Visitor of Schools for the Western Section of the Island for the year 1864-5.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Beer, a Bill to amend the Act to incorporate the Union Bank was read the third time and passed.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. McDonald, a Bill relating to Wills, Legacies, and Executors, and for the settlement and distribution of the estates of intestates, was read a third time and passed.

A Bill to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of the Presbyterian Congregation of Woodville and Little Sands, Lots 62 and 64, and a Bill in addition to, and further amendment of, the Land Purchase Act, were severally read a second time, committed, and reported agreed to without any amendment.

### USURY BILL.

A Bill to repeal the Laws now in force establishing and regulating the rates of interest and to make some provisions on the same subject, was then read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.—Hon. Mr. Beer in the Chair.

Hon. the PRESIDENT: This bill was before us last session, and was not agreed to, and it is now for your honors to say whether your minds have changed, and whether you are prepared to support it.

Hon. Mr. McLAREN: I think there is a very strong objection to repealing the usury laws at the present time. It is well known to your honors that under the "Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill," and the Tenant Loan Bill, which has just been passed, it will be necessary for the tenants to borrow some money to pay for their farms. This Bill would allow the money lenders to ask any rate of interest they may think proper, and I would, therefore, leave the usury laws as they are at present. I move that the President take the Chair.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: Before that motion is put, I would remark that the principle which this Bill is intended to carry out, is recognized in the old country, and I believe in almost all other countries. I do not see why persons should be restricted in hiring money any more than in dealing in any other article of commerce. I have known cases wherein the present Usury Laws have operated very injuriously; and one case in particular came under my knowledge of a person who had a good piece of land, and came to town to borrow some money upon it. The gentleman to whom he applied said he had money to lend, but he could not charge more than six per cent. under a mortgage, while on some other securities he could charge a higher rate, and if he could get some person to join him in a note, he would let him have it at eight per cent.; but the person was not acquainted in town, so he had to return home and give twenty per cent. to a person in his own neighborhood, and I believe he gave a mortgage, too, though, of course, the mortgage would not be legal. Now, I believe that if this Bill had been in force, he would have got money at eight per cent. Therefore, I am disposed to support the Bill, and allow persons to borrow money at whatever rate they choose to pay for it. I do not know any sound reason why a person should be restricted in lending money any more than in dealing in other commodities. I, therefore, move an amendment that the clause read be agreed to.

Hon. Attorney General seconded the amendment.

The question on the amendment was put and lost, and the original motion, that the President take the chair, was agreed to. The Committee rose without reporting, and the Bill was lost.

Hon. Mr. Giff obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the session.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

FRIDAY, March 31.

A Bill in addition to, and further amendment of, the Land Purchase Act, a Bill to assist leaseholders in the purchase of the fee-simple of their farms, a Bill to incorporate the Minister and Trustees of the Presbyterian Church of the Congregation of Woodville and Little Sands, Lots 62 and 64, and a Bill for raising a revenue, were severally read a third time and passed.

On motion of the Hon. Attorney General, a Bill for the appointment of Clerks to the Justices of the Peace, and to regulate proceedings had before them, was read a second time, committed, and reported agreed to without any amendment.

A message was brought from the House of Assembly by the Hon. Solicitor General, with a Bill to amend the law and for the better advancement of justice. Also, a Bill to amend the Act for the regulation of the inspection of pickled fish.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. McLAREN, a Bill to amend the militia laws was read a second time and committed.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL: I am satisfied to call out the militia to show their loyalty to their Sovereign, but I would not like to see the people called away from their proper avocations at an unreasonable time.

Hon. Mr. LORR: I am willing to go back to the old law, for I think the time has arrived when the Companies should be put in working order; but I would not like to see them called out and kept as they are in Nova Scotia, running about the fields for four or five days without any arms in their hands. I might mention other places, too, where time is wasted in the same way, and I think it is an injury to the people and tends to demoralize them.

House resumed and progress reported.

### FISHERY INSPECTION BILL.

Hon. Mr. Beer moved that a Bill in addition to the Act to regulate the inspection of pickled fish be now read a second time.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: In seconding that motion, I would merely observe that I understand that the reason that Bill was introduced in amendment of the Bill which we passed a few days ago is, that a number of American fishermen intend to land their fish here and send them home in the steamers, and under the Bill which we have passed this session, their fish would be liable to inspection. They do not wish to be detained there for that purpose, and this Bill is for the purpose of allowing such fish caught in foreign bottoms to be imported without inspection.

Bill read and committed.—Hon. Mr. Beer in the Chair.

Hon. the PRESIDENT: If those Americans come here and hire vessels or boats belonging to the Island to fish for them, their fish would come under the inspection Act, but I think they should be allowed the privilege of exporting them without inspection. I know those Americans are in the habit of buying fish from the inhabitants, and if they are subject to inspection, it may be an injury to those who catch fish round the coast in boats, they will not purchase fish if they are liable to inspection.

Hon. Mr. LORR: If you do that, you will interfere with the Act which we have already passed this session.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL: I take the same view of it as his honor the President. If foreigners are liable to have the fish which they purchase inspected, the price of the inspection will come off the fishermen.

Hon. Mr. ANDERSON: I would not only allow all fish caught by foreigners to be exported without inspection, but also those which foreigners might purchase here.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL: To do so, might be a disadvantage to our own capitalists who have embarked in the business. Suppose two persons have engaged in the business, side by side, the one a foreigner, the other a British subject, and suppose the foreigner is allowed to export his fish without inspection, and the British subject is not, would not the former have an advantage over the latter?

Hon. the PRESIDENT: Suppose two vessels came into the harbor with fish, the one an American, the other a British vessel, and suppose they were both going to send their fish to Boston by the steamer, the American would have his cargo discharged and perhaps be out on the fishing ground and half loaded again while the other was having his fish inspected.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: I would afford every encouragement to those American fishermen to make this Island their depot, for I believe it would be a great benefit to the people, and with that view, I would have no objection to this Act, though it does away in a great measure with the benefits which parties engaged in the fisheries in this Island would derive from the Act which we passed a few days ago. But if we adopt the suggestion of his honor the President, I am afraid we would be giving foreigners an advantage over British subjects who might be engaged in the business, and I would rather repeal the other Act altogether than do that.

House resumed.—Bill reported agreed to without any amendment.

Adjourned till four o'clock, p. m.

AFTERNOON.

Hon. Mr. McLAREN, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, laid before the House the School Visitor's Report for the Western Section of the Island for the past year.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL: It is very late to be presenting the School Visitor's Report. It is expected that the Legislature will be prorogued on Monday next, and here is the School Visitor's Report only coming in on Friday afternoon. I believe the Report is correct in saying that there is a general dissatisfaction in the country with regard to the present School Act, and I regret that the Legislature has not taken it up this session in order to remedy the evil complained of. Large sums of money are spent in useless Delegations, while the poor school masters are scrippled in their salaries. I suppose the Act cannot be amended this session, but I hope it will be taken up at as early a day as possible.

Hon. Mr. BEER: I did hope that the Government would amend the School Act this session, and pay the full amount of the teacher's salary from the treasury. I think the state of the finances would justify them in doing so. There is great difficulty, I know, in collecting a portion of the teacher's salary from the districts, and the masters often suffer. I would willingly have supported a Bill this session to pay the whole salary from the public funds, and I hope another session will not be allowed to pass without something of that kind being done. Several petitions have been presented, suggesting an additional half-penny an acre tax upon land, to enable that to be done. I do not like an additional taxation, but still, I think the Government would be justified in granting the prayer of those petitions. There is a considerable balance of revenue over expenditure during the last two years, and even if the balance were on the other side, I would not object to it.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: These Reports may contain something of importance, and I think they should be printed in the Appendix to the Journals. It is such a late period in the Session that members of the House cannot make themselves acquainted with the value of information they may contain. The great complaint two or three years ago was, that one visitor could not perform the work and make out his report in time to be presented to the Legislature at an early part of the Session, but now we find that the reports are not presented on day earlier, though there are two visitors to do the work which was formerly done by one. I agree with

what his honor who has just spoken has said with regard to the payment of the teachers, and I regret that the Government did not introduce a measure this Session to relieve the people of the burden of making up a part of their salary. I have been anxious to be at the examination of the schools at Georgetown and around that neighborhood, but owing to some cause, I never yet heard of a school being visited till the visitor had left the island, and therefore, in a position to speak about those schools with the precision which I would otherwise do.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL: I was not in at the commencement of this discussion, but just caught his honor's remark about his anxiety to be present at the examination of the schools. I did not think it would be a good policy for the School Visitor, whoever he may be, to give intimation when he intended to visit a school. The best way to find out the true state of the schools, is for the Visitor to take them by surprise—just to pop in when he is not expected. If he should have given intimation when he intended to visit a school, preparation would be made for him, and thus one of the principal objects of his visit might be frustrated.

Hon. Mr. RAMSAY: It has been said that there is dissatisfaction with the present School Act, but I never heard any in the part of the country where I reside. When the Bill was passed the people were satisfied with it. They saw that the former School Act was running the Colony in debt, and, therefore, they were willing to pay a portion of the teachers' salaries themselves. I think the Imperial authorities will increase taxation. I would like to see free education established, if it could be done, without any additional taxes; but though the revenue is increasing, I do not think we are yet in a position to pay the whole of the teachers' salaries from the public funds.

Hon. Mr. BEER moved, seconded by the Hon. Mr. DINGWELL, that the Reports be printed in the Appendix to the Journals, which was agreed to.

On motion of the Hon. Atty. Gen., a Bill for the better advancement of justice was read a second time, committed and reported agreed to.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

(Continued from Examiner of the 24th April.)

LAND QUESTION.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, March 20.

Mr. BECKLEY.—Mr. Chairman, I was struck by a remark of the hon. and gallant member for Belfast. He seemed to think that if this Colony were only into Confederation, we would be all right. Now, I am disposed to differ with him regarding the case to which he alluded; I believe that where the rights of property are affected the number of inhabitants who may have the Colony does not influence the Home authorities. No doubt the proprietor who is represented as not having assented to the provisions of the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill might hold only a few hundred acres, but the principle was the same; and I believe that the same policy would be pursued at the Colonial Office, whether a Union of all the Provinces were consummated, or whether Vancouver Island and British Columbia. We should be cautious how we introduce the small end of the wedge on this Confederation question; but I do not blame the hon. member for advocating his views on the subject, as I believe he is sincere. He referred to the famous Land Company, and there was any person more popular in the Colony than the hon. and gallant Colonel when he first introduced his resolutions on this subject? and was there any person who had not confidence in the gentlemen who were appointed to adjudicate on the question? Almost every man who had a grievance, or whose great-grandfather had a grievance, came before the Committee. When the Report of the Commissioners appeared, it was not so satisfactory as was expected; but how could the hon. member who introduced the resolutions on the subject, or how could the Government of the Colony, be held responsible in the matter? Those gentlemen alone are responsible for the mistake which has been committed, and not the Imperial Government. I admit that the Bill is not sufficiently explanatory, but this is no fault of ours. It, however, imposes terms on the tenant; he may purchase or not as he pleases; but it binds the proprietor to sell at a certain rate, and it has the means of sweeping away about £50,000 of arrears of rent. The remission of arrears alone I consider was a great boon; and I believe that before many years are past the most of the tenants on the consenting proprietors' estates will have become freeholders, and the auctioneer will have to be called to sell the odd corners of these estates. I wish that the tenant system was done away with in this Colony, and nothing can be said against those who are endeavoring to get the best terms they can from the proprietors; but I hold that it is simply folly for them to publish in the newspapers that they will resist the law. The history of the three-cornered notes respecting which so much has been said, ought to teach us that nothing like resistance will be allowed. Notwithstanding the foolish statement in one of the Duke of Newcastle's despatches, I believe that the authorities will be expected to take action on the despatch received by the hon. leader of the Opposition when in power, commonly termed the "bloody despatch"—which declared that if Her Majesty's laws were not respected, troops should be called from the neighboring States to enforce them. A few temporary advantages may be gained by resistance, but law and order must ultimately triumph. What took place at East Point a few years ago? The tenants there allowed their rents to go into arrears, efforts were made to collect them, resistance was offered, and the tenants at last had to give way. So it will be with the Tenant Union, the promoters of which I take to be political schemers, who are endeavoring to ride into power, and when this is attained their tenant supporters may look out for themselves.

Mr. HOWLAND.—I am surprised, Mr. Chairman, at some of the statements which have been put forward in the course of this discussion. When the Government first took credit to themselves for the extinction of £50,000 of arrears of rent, they ignore the experience of the country which shows that all has been collected which could by any means be extracted from the tenantry. It has been said that the Government are not responsible for the feelings on the subject of the Land Question; but I hold that the Government, in sending a delegation to seek the confirmation of an Award admitted by themselves to have been illegal, pursued a policy, the natural effect of which was to excite expectations which we have been sadly disappointed. The people waited patiently and quietly for the promised settlement of this land question, and it was not until they found that they had nothing to hope from Government, that we heard of such an organization as the Tenant League. With reference to the Bill passed last Session, generally designated as the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, it will not have the effect of