

# THE EXAMINER:

A Weekly Journal of Politics, Literature, and News.

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

Vol. VII.

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Monday, March 3, 1862.

New Series.—No. 8.

## Colonial Parliament.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, February 20th, 1862.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to prepare the draft of an Address of Condolence with her most gracious Majesty on the death of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort.

Ordered, That Hon. Mr. Palmer, Hon. Mr. Johnson, and Hon. Mr. Simpson do compose the said Committee.

The following Committees were appointed:—

Committee to prepare an Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech—Hons. Messrs. Anderson, Johnson and Forgan.

Committee for revising the Journals—Hon. Mr. Palmer and Hon. Mr. Walker.

Committee on expiring laws—Hon. Mr. Simpson and Hon. Mr. Forgan.

Committee for enacting Bills—Hon. Mr. Simpson and Hon. Mr. Gardiner.

Committee to regulate the expenditure of this House during the Session—Hon. Mr. Palmer and Hon. Mr. Hutchinson.

Committee to receive tenders for printing the Journal of this House for the present Session—Hon. Mr. Ramsay and Hon. Mr. Palmer.

Resolved, That Mr. James Ramsay be appointed Reporter to this House for the present Session.

Adjourned until to-morrow at eleven o'clock.

Friday, Feb. 21st, 1862.

Hon. Dr. JOHNSON, from the Committee appointed to prepare an Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech, reported the draft of an Address, which he read in his place.

Ordered, That the said draft Address be committed to a Committee of the whole House on Monday next.

His Honor the PRESIDENT called the attention of the House to the necessity of appointing a Committee to make arrangements for the publication of the Debates of this House for the present Session.

Hon. Mr. PALMER—I understand that there has been some discussion in the other branch of the Legislature, on the score of economy, in regard to the mode of publishing their Debates, and that they have resolved to dispense with one of their Reporters; and intend to give merely a summary of the proceedings. I think, then, that it would be advisable for us to pursue a similar course with regard to the debates of this House, for it is quite impossible for one Reporter, however talented and efficient he may be, to give a full report of the debates, and have them published within a reasonable time, and it is quite absurd to have the debates coming out in the papers three or four months after the Legislature is prorogued. It would be more satisfactory, both to the House and to the public, to have the debates condensed so that they might be published in proper time.

A Message from the House of Assembly by Hon. Col. Gray.

House of Assembly, Feb. 20th, 1862.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to join a Committee of the Legislative Council, to prepare an Address of Condolence with her most gracious Majesty the Queen, on the irrevocable loss which her Majesty and the Nation have sustained in the death of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort.

Ordered, That the Hon. Mr. Gray, the Hon. Mr. Coles, the Hon. Mr. Longworth, the Hon. Mr. Hensley, the Hon. Mr. Pope, and the Hon. Mr. Wightman be a Committee to prepare the said Address.

Ordered, That the said Resolution be communicated by message to the Legislative Council.—John Macneil, C.H.A.

A Message from the House of Assembly by Hon. Mr. Longworth.

House of Assembly, Feb. 21st, 1862.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to keep up a good correspondence between the two branches of the Legislature, and to report their proceedings from time to time, with power to send for papers, papers and records.

Ordered, That the Hon. Mr. Longworth, the Hon. Mr. Yeo, the Hon. Mr. Perry, the Hon. Mr. Coles, the Hon. Mr. Hensley, and Mr. Howat do compose the said Committee.

Ordered, That the said Resolution be communicated by message to the Legislative Council.—John Macneil, C.H.A.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to join the Committee appointed by the House of Assembly to prepare a joint Address of Condolence with Her Majesty the Queen.

Ordered, That the Hon. Mr. Palmer, the Hon. Mr. Johnson, and the Hon. Mr. Walker do compose the said Committee.

Committee of good correspondence—Hon. Mr. Simpson, Hon. Mr. Forgan, and Hon. Mr. Palmer.

His Honor the PRESIDENT read a communication from the President of the Charlottetown Debating Society and Reading Room granting the free use of the said Room to the members of this House during the present session.

His Honor the PRESIDENT also laid on the table a communication from the Colonial Secretary of New Zealand, accompanied with a copy of the statistical returns of that Colony for the year 1860.

Monday, Feb. 24th, 1862.

House in Committee on the Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech. His Honor Mr. Walker in the Chair.

On the fifth clause, in which reference is made to the Award of the Commissioners on the Land Question not being received, the Hon. Mr. Bagnall proposed the following amendment:—

"We must, however, express our regret that the Award has not been received by your Excellency, from his Grace the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

Hon. Mr. SIMPSON. I cannot support the amendment proposed by his Honor Mr. Bagnall, because it appears to me to reflect upon his Excellency for not using his influence to procure a copy of the Award.

Hon. Dr. JOHNSON. I cannot see that the amendment reflects upon his Excellency.

Hon. Mr. BAGNALL. I did not intend, by this amendment, to cast any reflection upon his Excellency, for I think his Excellency regrets as much—probably more than we do—that the Award has not been received.

Hon. Mr. PALMER. I regret very much, Mr. Chairman, that we have not received that document, but I am willing to exercise a little more patience. I have always been of opinion that the sooner the Land Question is brought to a close the better. Whatever way the Award is to be, the sooner it comes to hand the better. It is certainly a matter for regret that such a length of time has elapsed without receiving the Award. But while I regret, I am not at a loss to know why it has not been received. The subject matter of the Award is one to which Her Majesty's Ministers will give the most mature consideration. During my experience in the Legislature, I have observed that when any Act were sent home from the Colonies, involving a consideration of the land tenure, they received very mature deliberation. When the land tax Act was passed in this colony before it received the royal allowance. And when the Act was passed imposing an additional tax on wilderness land, it was two years before it received Her Majesty's assent. And looking upon the character of the Award, and the important legal questions which it will present to the mind of the Colonial Minister, I feel it will not to know why it has not yet received the royal allowance. I believe that it was at a very late period that his Excellency received a communication from the proprietors, stating that they had not received any intimation of the acceptance of the Award at the Colonial Office. And when we look at the important questions which have lately engaged the attention of Her Majesty's Government, it is no wonder that the affairs of this Colony have not received that attention which we might desire. The state of relations between Her Majesty's Government and the United States of America has given Her Majesty's Ministers a good deal to do. Often a Cabinet Council to consider the affairs of the North American

Colonies is not convened till January or February, when the members of the Cabinet return from a tour on the continent; and about that time the death of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort took place, which, no doubt, prevented Her Majesty's Ministers from holding Cabinet Councils. It is not then very surprising that we have not received the Award. It is only, I think, because it is of such importance to the inhabitants of this Colony, that the time appears so long. When the land tax Act was passed, I believe it was seven years before it received the royal assent. I have expressed my regret that the Award has not been received on various occasions, and I again do so now; but when the reasons are fully known, I think our minds will be fully satisfied that the delay was unavoidable.

Hon. the PRESIDENT. The arguments of my hon. and learned friend are good with regard to the sanction of Her Majesty not being given to the Award; but I cannot consider his arguments satisfactory why a copy of the Award has not been received, for they might have sent a copy of the Award and yet have withheld their decision. It certainly does appear that in the peculiar circumstances in which Her Majesty's ministers were placed, that they could not give due consideration to this question; but I do not see why a copy of the Award could not have been sent to this Colony. The circumstances to which my hon. and learned friend has alluded occurred but recently. The death of His Royal Highness took place, if I remember right, about the 15th of December; and the disturbance with the United States is also of recent occurrence; and, therefore, from July till December the Cabinet was not so much occupied. I know that there are very important questions involved in that Award, and that Her Majesty's Minister would not give a hasty decision; but still I think a copy of it might have been sent to this Colony. It does appear that a document of such importance to this Colony should not have been forwarded.

Hon. Dr. JOHNSON. If a copy of the Award had been received, could His Excellency lay it before this House?

Hon. the PRESIDENT. There could at least be no impropriety in his Grace the Secretary of State for the Colonies intimating that the Award was under consideration. The country has been placed in a state of agitation by the exposition of the Award given by one of the Commissioners—some say that it is untrue, others that it is partial—and I cannot see that there would be any impropriety in setting this agitation at rest by forwarding a copy of the Award to this Island.

(To be continued.)

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Monday, Feb. 24.

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

On motion of Mr. Davies the House went into the order of the day, viz., that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the whole on the Address in answer to the Lieut. Governor's Speech. Mr. Holm in the Chair.

The Chairman read the Address as follows:—

To His Excellency George Dundas, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Island Prince Edward and the Territories thereunto belonging, Chancellor, Vice Admiral, and Ordinary of the same, &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

1. We, Her Majesty's faithful subjects, the House of Assembly of Prince Edward Island, respectfully offer our thanks for the Speech with which your Excellency was pleased to open the present Session.

2. We deeply sympathise with our beloved Queen in the irrevocable loss Her Majesty has sustained by the death of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort,—a loss which we, in common with all Her Majesty's subjects, most sincerely regret.

3. We thank your Excellency for having directed the Public Accounts for the past, and the Estimates for the current year, to be laid before us. It is satisfactory to learn that the latter have been framed with a due regard to economy. Although the disturbed condition of a neighbouring people has occasioned serious embarrassments to the trade of this Colony, we are glad to find that there has been no remarkable decrease in the Revenue of the past year.

4. We regret to be informed that the Expenditure for the same period has exceeded the Revenue. In view of the large sums annually voted for Education—with a due regard to the other branches of the public service—it is difficult to confine the Expenditure within the Receipts.

5. We are pleased to learn that so many of the Acts passed during the last Session have received the Royal allowance; and when the Despatches referred to by your Excellency containing suggestions in reference to those which have not yet received the Royal assent are laid before us, they shall receive our best consideration.

6. When the unhappy differences existing in the United States, which seriously disturb our trade, shall have been adjusted, we trust the Act authorising the issue of Fishery Licences to citizens of that country for vessels built in this Island will be acted upon, and tend to advance the trade of the Colony.

7. It is gratifying to hear that the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the Land Question have completed their laborious task, and forwarded their Report to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

8. We regret to learn that your Excellency has not yet received any communication from His Grace on the subject of your award—a matter in which the people of the Colony feel so deep an interest; but we are pleased to hear that your Excellency is confident that Her Majesty's instructions on this most important question may be expected during the present Session of the Legislature.

9. When the proposal of the Governor General of Canada for the establishment of Reciprocal Free trade among the North American Colonies shall have been submitted to us, it shall receive all the consideration which a subject of such paramount importance demands.

10. We join your Excellency in the hope that our deliberations may, under the Divine blessing, tend to the advancement and prosperity of the people of the Colony.

The first paragraph was agreed to. When the second was read, Mr. Ramsay moved that it be agreed to, and

Hon. Mr. COLES said—I would be sorry to allow such a paragraph to pass without a comment. If words could be found to express our sympathy for Her Majesty more strongly than those contained in the Address, I would be pleased to have them inserted. Though this is a small Colony I believe the people here sympathise as deeply with Her Majesty in her bereavement as those in any other part of her dominions. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of the paragraph.

The motion was agreed to.

The third paragraph was then read.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—Before the question is put on this paragraph—which is perhaps the most important in the whole Address—I wish to make a few remarks. In the first place, I would observe that there is much consideration, though in the whole Address which calls for much consideration, though the matter to which each refers has an important bearing on the interests of the people of this Island. But there are other subjects which I think ought to have had a place in His Excellency's Speech. It is true that this is a small Colony, and that there are not so many matters here which call for legislative action as in the other Provinces; still several subjects which may be expected to come before us, have been unnoticed in the Speech. There is, Mr. Chairman, the matter of the great International Exhibition, in reference to which His Excellency is silent. Now, this subject was brought before this House, by a despatch from His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, on the 6th of March last. This despatch, however, was passed over unnoticed by the majority last Session; and here, now, the Government which are supposed to prepare His Excellency's Speech, have made no mention of the Exhibition, though it is generally understood that they have spent some £400 or £500 in regard to it without the consent of this House. I am somewhat sur-

prised at this omission on the part of the Government. Then, again, there is nothing in the Speech on the principal resource of this Island—agriculture; there is not a word to show whether the different societies for the encouragement of this branch of industry are prospering or not. Again, the Volunteer force is unnoticed; no information is afforded as to its efficiency or increase, notwithstanding the grant which was given last Session to encourage the movement. This silence, too, is the more remarkable, when so near a time in which it was thought highly probable that an outbreak of hostilities with the neighboring States might render it necessary to call this force into active service. Nor is there any reference in His Excellency's Speech to a question respecting which I believe the Government are feeling some embarrassment. I allude to Education. Even the new College of Prince of Wales, which has cost the Colony no inconsiderable amount, is unmentioned. Now, Sir, in my opinion Education, which is such a heavy annual expense to the Colony, should not have been passed over in this manner. The paragraph under consideration says that the Estimates for the current year have been framed with a due regard to economy. This I am happy to hear, because, Sir, at the rate matters have been going on in the last year, if continued, the Colony will soon be bankrupt. If the expenditure every year is to exceed the revenue by some £10,000, it should be provided for by an increase of taxation. Though we have not the public accounts before us, it is generally believed that the debt of the Colony has been increased last year by about £10,000. Now, Sir, as it is hinted in the Address that this excess of expenditure over the receipts is caused by the large sums voted for Education, the Government should have been satisfied that there was some way of meeting the expense of Education when they added to that expense. They may say that the step which they took was necessary to raise the standing of teachers. But they should have first ascertained whether the country was not satisfied with the teachers as they were, and whether it was justifiable to spend some £3000 for the alleged purpose of raising the standard of education. This, with the increase of schools, has added much to the expenses of the Colony. It was understood, when the present system was introduced, that 200 schools, with an average attendance in each of 30 scholars, would be sufficient for the wants of the Island. But what was done by the opposite party in 1854? They lowered the average attendance from 30 down to 20, and added £5 to the salary of teachers. Lowering the average, immediately caused an agitation to change the boundaries of districts, and increased the number of schools by some 60, which added about £3000 more to the expenses of the system. This, with the addition to the teachers' salaries brought the amount up to about £5000 above what was originally intended. True, the teachers complained that their salaries were too low, and I suppose to gain their support at election time, the increase was made; but by putting them to the extra expense and trouble of re-passing the Board of Education, the Government did not much rise in their favor. If, however, the teachers were clamorous for an increase of pay, the farmers were silent on the point. These, whose wishes should have been consulted, did not greatly care whether the teachers' salaries were increased or not; but had they been required to bear the burden of the increase by an additional assessment on land, they would soon have declared their sentiments. Now either through the inefficiency of the School Visiter, or some other reason, the average of some schools, I am credibly informed, is only about 10 scholars. If this be the case, paying a teacher a full salary to instruct such a small number, is a waste of the public money. However this may be, the Government should have provided some means to meet the extra expenditure which they have incurred, and not be continuing to run the country in debt. The balance against the Colony now must be between £70,000 and £80,000. The debt has increased year by year under the present Government, notwithstanding they have not expended much on many public works. But it may be said by the members of the Government that they have undertaken larger works. This is questionable. The late Government husbanded the funds of the Colony in other respects, and built several large bridges, which cost from £900 to £1100, and the whole amount voted for the road service was then from £5000 to £9000 a year. On account of this and the purchase of two estates, the country was somewhat in debt when the late Government went out of power, but only to the amount of £39,900. The debt, however, would not have increased under the late Government had it not been for the failure in the crops the last year or two they were in power, which caused a deficiency in the revenue of nearly £10,000, about the amount which the debt exceeded what it was when the Liberals came into office. Now it is evident, from the increase in the debt for the last few years, that there is mismanagement somewhere. There has been no failure in the crops to cause any material decrease in the receipts. True, the Government have tried to raise a revenue in the best way they could; but if they have failed in their financial arrangements they have to look to themselves for this; it could not be expected that they would receive aid from the Opposition. In respect to one matter, however, I would offer a remark, and that is regarding the collection of the revenue. The late Government, to obtain properly qualified persons, frequently appointed men belonging to the opposite party for Preventive Officers; but the present Administration, when they came into power, turned all out of office who were opposed to them, and the consequence has been that through the inefficiency of the officers at several ports, the duties have not been all collected. I hear a posse of men dressed up very finely have been seen around Prince of Wales wharf during the past summer, under the direction of the Custom House officer at that port, who, it is said has grown a very fine field of turnips. The boat's crew, it appears, were not always over plenty of work in boarding vessels, and were sometimes seen with their fine coats off, employed in this officer's field of turnips. This I have heard, but I am not certain as to its correctness. The Government may say that they have expended a large amount on Government House, and also on Prince of Wales' College, which I suppose we shall see when the accounts are laid before us. It was all very well to spend these sums; but the Government should have seen that they had something to meet them. They have laid out considerable sums to make a cedar under Government House, which I cannot say was much required. I, at least, have yet to learn that it has made the house more comfortable—the argument employed in favor of the outlay. With respect to the sum expended on Prince of Wales' College, I cannot see that the Government was warranted in the alteration which it effected in that institution. The old Academy served a very good purpose, and, with a few repairs on the building, I think the country might have worked along with it very well for a few years. The Government, after expending money as they have done, should not come here in a whining manner and introduce matters into the Address to which no allusion was made in His Excellency's speech. I suppose, Sir, that they thought if these subjects were not adverted to in the speech, the Opposition would have nothing with which to find fault. It is all very well to spend sums like that laid out on the International Exhibition, without the authority of this House, and thus run the country in debt some £5000 or £6000 a year. This is a course pursued in none of the other colonies; and if the Government intend to continue acting in this manner, expending as they please, they may as well dispense with this House altogether, for what is the use of keeping us here? The Address before you, Sir, goes on to say:—"In view of the large sums annually voted for Education—with a due regard to the other branches of the public service—it is difficult to confine the expenditure within the receipts." Now, I do not consider that it was proper to drag Education into the Address, which should be but an echo of the speech. Had his Excellency alluded to the expense of Education, there would have been some excuse for this part of the answer. I shall move an amendment to this and the following paragraphs—as they are connected—but it will be short. These paragraphs, I think, might have been better worded. (Laughter.) Besides, the increased expenditure should not be attributed to Education. They cannot lay the blame on the late Government, for we provided means to meet what we expended on that branch of the public service. The amendment which I desire to move is the following:—

"We thank your Excellency for having directed the public accounts for the past year and the Estimates for the current year to be laid before us. When the latter will be submitted to us, we will be pleased to find that due economy has been observed in so regulating the Expenditure as to meet the resources of the Colony.

"Although the disturbed condition of a neighboring people has occasioned some embarrassment to our foreign trade, it will afford us pleasure to observe that there has been no remarkable decrease in the revenue of the past year; but we regret to be informed that the expenditure for the same period has exceeded the revenue."

Hon. the SPEAKER.—There is one statement made by the hon. member, in reference to the boat's crew at Malpeque, which I wish to correct. These men were not, as he said, under the direction of the Collector of Excise at that port. The boat's crew were employed to collect Light and Anchorage dues, and not to look after Custom House duties. The Revenue Officer, therefore, had nothing to do with those men to whom the hon. member referred.

Hon. Col. GRAY.—I am somewhat surprised at the hon. member, the Leader of the Opposition, for Mr. Chairman, of all the attempts to raise a discussion which I have ever witnessed, his this morning has most signally failed. The whole front of his argument was that the present Government have run the country into debt, and the late Administration kept it out of such a difficulty. (?) I shall, in the first place, answer his objections to the paucity of matter in His Excellency's Speech; the International Exhibition, Prince of Wales College, Agriculture, &c., &c., he says were unnoticed. Now, suppose that Her Majesty the Queen were to advert at the opening of Parliament to all the great events transpiring in the kingdom, her speech would be of such a length as to take her weeks to read it. It is unreasonable to think that His Excellency's speech should allude to all the operations that may be in progress in the country. Now, to the other charge that the present Government have run the country into debt, while the late Government ran it out of debt.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—I did not say that the late Government ran the country out of debt; I said they only increased the debt about £10,000, and that this was owing to a failure in the crops.

Hon. Col. GRAY.—Of all the subjects respecting which the hon. member should visit the Government, certainly that of Education is the most surprising. He has charged the present Government with having increased the expenses of Education £6000.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—I did not say the present Government; I said the present Government and their supporters in 1854.

Hon. Col. GRAY.—The expense of Education, when the present Government took the reins of power, was £14,000, and now it is only about £17,000; so I have swept away half of his amount. The system of Education introduced by the hon. member and his party was one of the greatest schemes for deceiving the people ever devised. The assessment for its support only amounted to about £4000; and they gave the people to understand that this sum would cover the expenses of the system.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—I did not tell the people this; I said the system would cost some £8000 or £10,000 more than the amount raised by assessment.

Hon. Col. GRAY.—I did not affirm that he said so; what I said was that he gave the people to understand this. I have already stated that when the present Government came into power the annual expense of Education was £14,000, and the amount raised for its support by assessment was not £4000; and its present cost is about £17,000. All this was brought upon the country by the system introduced under the late Government. The hon. member says the present Government increased the salaries of teachers to gain their support in keeping themselves in power; and afterwards tells us that they punished these same teachers by requiring them to undergo a new examination before the Board of Education. (?) How ungrateful the members of the Government must have been! Evidently it is the large sums required for the support of the present system of Education which have caused an increase of the public debt. It is well known not to be on account of large salaries given to public officers. The civil list of this Island is such as should make us ashamed. The Colonial Treasurer, for example, receives only £250, and the Colonial Secretary very little more. The Government is continually receiving applications for higher remuneration for services performed, which have to be refused, simply on the score of economy. The hon. member has referred to a certain boat's crew, with fine coats, which they occasionally threw off to work in a field of turnips. I cannot see what this has to do with the paragraph under consideration. If I, as an officer in the Militia, choose to dress myself in a fine coat, and shortly afterwards throw it off, and put on a homespun one, with much greater comfort, to go and cultivate turnips, what difference does it make to any person? It was decided in this House last Session, that persons were to be employed to collect light dues, and that they should wear a suitable dress; and if they did occasionally lay aside their coats to weed turnips, this only shows that they were careful, and that the pay of the Government was not sufficient to support them without having recourse to other employments. Sir, I should have supposed that the proper time to discuss the operations of this boat's crew, would be when the expenditure in reference thereto is laid before the House; then will be the time to consider whether the action taken by this House last session on this matter has or has not met the expectations of hon. members. It perhaps will be seen that the boat's crew have not collected a sufficient sum to remunerate them; but even if so, why charge the Government in the case, since they were employed by the direction of this House, and I see hon. members present on the opposite side who supported the measure. I was also surprised to hear the hon. Leader of the Opposition object to the expenses incurred in improving Government House. If hon. members complain of the expense of keeping up that house why do they not grapple with the difficulty, and petition the British Government to do away with it, and dispense with the services of a Governor in this Colony. But, as I said last year, the salary of the Lieut. Governor, amounting to £2000, is paid by the Home Government, amounting to the understanding that the Colony should provide a suitable house for his residence. I do not care what party is in power, that house must be a matter of expense; even though it be the third party, which, we are informed, is to be got up by an hon. member for King's County. It seems strange that the hon. Leader of the Opposition should twit us respecting the sum expended on Government House, when in 1856 he and his friends voted the sum of £1800, thereon, and instead of that amount spent the Colony has not expended a cent more. The hon. member says he did not see that the present Government have not expended near that amount last year. All I know is that successive Lieut. Governors complained of the want of such a convenient house. When the present Government came into power, I once remarked to the hon. Leader of the Opposition that since they had so lately expended £1800 on Government House, it would require no more outlay for some time. But House, it would require no more outlay for some time. What was my astonishment when I ascertained shortly after that it was still in need of repairs. In the summer following the farm house, which was of brick, tumbled down.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—Who built it?

Hon. Col. GRAY.—Well, I suppose the hon. member or his party did not build it, nor did they build Government House; but certainly whoever it was, the building does no credit to their architectural skill. The farm house lay in a mass of debris all summer; and so much had the whole affair cost a short time previously that the Government were ashamed to ask anything on the following session for repairs. But when the Prince of Wales was expected, I, in company with the hon. member for New Glasgow, who were sent to examine the building, found it in a wretched condition; and consequently patching up had to be resorted to. Last spring the stable appeared as if about to follow suit, with the farm house; and His Excellency stated to us that his horses were in danger. Last summer a good wooden stable was built, with a capacious hay loft and other conveniences, at a cost of about £200. Great care has been taken by the members

of the Government, and particularly by the leader in the other end of the building and myself, that no money should be unnecessarily expended on the premises, and that the work performed should be of a substantial description. My opinion is that the public will not hear of Government House again for the next ten years, except on account of incidental expenses. Had these repairs not been made, no doubt His Excellency would have represented to the Home Government that the house was unfit to be tenanted, and the result might have been a refusal to support a Governor any longer in this Colony. With the knowledge which I now possess of Government House, and the perishable material of which it is constructed, I am not surprised that the late Government expended £1800 in 1856 without effecting much improvement on the building. I acquit the hon. member of that expense, for I believe he could scarcely have spent less; all that I contend is, that what the present Government have expended has been laid out to greater advantage. I think it will be well hereafter for both parties in the Legislature to let Government House alone. I am inclined, though I should go into opposition to-morrow, never to say another word in objection to the expenses of that building. There is no denying that the finances of the Colony are not in a very flourishing state; but in my opinion there will be very little improvement until the Government is allowed the right to initiate all money votes. It is almost impossible to keep the expenditure within the receipts, while this hon. member is permitted to move a resolution granting £100 for a steamboat, and that hon. member £200 for a dredging machine.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—The hon. member for Belfast has scarcely done me justice. I did not complain of the expense incurred in repairing Government House; I only mentioned that the Government before they expended so much should have provided the means. After the last election the expenses of Government House were prominently brought forward; and I have been informed that the hon. member then stated that as the new Governor was a Scotchman, and would not be an extravagant man, £50 a-year would be sufficient to keep up the house. The late Government had to provide for various expenses in connection with it. They purchased a piece of land, and had to build a new coach-house. The hon. Speaker has stated that the boat's crew at Malpeque were not under the direction of the Collector of Excise for that port. If they were not they ought to have been; and, if this is the manner in which they were appointed, I consider the Government has been very remiss in its duty. I did not seek the information respecting these men; one of the supporters of the present Administration communicated with me on the subject. The hon. member for Belfast says that it was the late Government which caused the present debt, by setting on foot the present system of Education. The £6000 which the system costs now more than it did under the late Administration is the result of the alterations made in the Act by the present party in power. I never for a moment thought, or led the country to believe that the amount raised by land assessment would be sufficient to meet the expenses of the system. It was always understood that the greater part was to be taken out of the general revenue. The increased expenditure for Education is, however, chargeable upon the present Government. They may say that they have been endeavouring to perfect the system; but I have yet to learn that it gives more satisfaction than it did before they amended the Act. The School Visiter, it is known, is an inefficient officer. Complaints against him are made by parties on both sides of politics.

With respect to the Prince of Wales College, I believe the present Professor of that institution is as competent a person for the situation as could be found; but, Sir, when he came to this Colony, he did not expect that he was to perform the duties of a common teacher. In fact, notwithstanding all the expense of the establishment, it is very little more efficient than the old Academy. The expense of the Normal School has also been increased by the appointment of an assistant master; but that additional outlay has resulted in any practical benefit yet remains to be seen.

Mr. HOWAT.—The hon. leader of the Opposition has stated that the requisite average attendance in the schools was lowered by the present Government, and thereby they have increased the expense of Education. Now, Sir, as I supported this alteration in the Act, I feel called upon to reply. When I came to this House, I heard frequent complaints that the average attendance of 30 was too high; and I received different applications from my constituents to use my influence to have the average lowered, or some of the schools would have to be closed—and some were actually closed by the then Visiter of Schools, Mr. Irving, on Lot 19, for the want of the average attendance—and the districts enlarged, a change which would subject many children to the inconvenience of travelling a long distance to school. To obviate this I supported the amendment to lower the average. The hon. member advocated that two or three districts should be run into one; now, permit me to say that such a proposition would not go down with the people, and as I reside in the country I ought to know something of their opinion.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—I did not say that two districts ought to be run into one.

Mr. HOWAT.—I have given the fair inference of his statement. He said that 10 was the average in most of the schools throughout the Island, and that 30 was sufficiently low. As 10 goes into 30 three times, I think that this tends to prove that he advocated two or three schools should be run into one.

I shall ever oppose such a proposition, as I believe the people would rather bear the extra expense than submit to such a measure. The hon. member says we should increase the taxation, if means be wanting to support Education. This is a subject for the country to decide; and we shall leave this matter until the proper time arrives, when the people may determine whether the assessment shall be increased or the system done away with altogether.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH.—I regret that I was not present when the hon. leader of the Opposition made his opening remarks. It appears, however, from what I can learn, that he has censured the Government for not advertising to certain subjects in his Excellency's speech, such as the International Exhibition, the Volunteer force, and Education. Had they introduced all these topics as well as of the time of this House; this we know from subjects at great length. The topics alluded to by the hon. member will come under consideration when the documents in reference thereto are laid before us; and I cannot conceive that it is necessary they should be twice discussed. With respect to the Great Exhibition, and the importance of having the products and industry of this Colony properly represented on the occasion, it is my opinion that there is not an intelligent man in the Island who would not support the Government in the action which they have taken on the question. As to agriculture, it is too common a subject to be introduced into the Governor's speech. The people of this Island are well acquainted with the capabilities of the soil and the resources of the country; where then the necessity of advertising to such matters. It was also unnecessary to allude to the Volunteer force, as the public are already fully informed in regard to its movements. Nor in connection with this force did the Government think it necessary to advert to the probability of war with the neighbouring republic. This is more a matter of imperial than Colonial policy. This Island is a very small part of Her Majesty's dominions, and whatever course the Home Government may decide on pursuing, we must follow out to the best of our ability. I will now turn to the paragraph under consideration. The hon. leader of the Opposition complains of the expenditure of the present Government, and says that to find an excuse for it, matters should not be introduced into the Address to which no reference was made in the Speech. This House, as the representatives of the people certainly possess the right to advert to any subject they may consider necessary. I do not say that new matter should be introduced; nor has it been done in this case. The subject of education, mentioned in the Address, has a direct bearing upon the expenditure of the Colony, adverted to in the paragraph of His Excellency's speech under consideration. Why should the hon. member complain of the mention made of education in the Address? Is he now ashamed of the system

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