

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS.

Mr. Douse spoke nearly as follows: Mr. Chairman, it appears by the remarks of the hon. member respecting illicit trading, that we are carried on. I ask if any thing has been done on that subject. I have understood that there was some illicit trade going on in different parts of the island. If this is the case, I shall be glad to see the report of it. Again, there has been some accounts that goods have been landed at Georgetown. I should like to know if any information has been received on the subject by the Government; and if so, how far we are to be must not cheat the Government. I ask Mr. Coles and Mr. Wightman whether any information has come within their knowledge respecting the matter.

Hon. C. SECRETARY.—The only reason, I believe, that the Government have to call the attention of the House to the matter, has arisen from the honorable member's own district. The Collector called upon me and said that it was impossible for him to get any revenue from that district. It is well known that there has been very little revenue collected there formerly; but there has been a little more last year. But there was a case with reference to an American vessel which was seized here, and with reference to which the laws were found insufficient. The facts of the case are pretty well known to every one here. But, Sir, there is another thing that I may mention. Our Revenue Laws are scattered all over the Statute Book, and it completely puzzles the Collectors to find them.

Mr. Douse.—In reply to the hon. gentleman, I may inform him, that if Governmental business is to be carried on, it is not much illicit trading would be done. But, Sir, I do complain, and I have a right to complain, that the revenue has not been protected. What is the purpose of our Revenue Collectors, if they are to be paid, and are not talking about to protect the revenue. This is not the first time that I have complained on this floor. Whenever in office, I would be the last one to shut my eyes to salings of this kind.

Hon. COL. TREASURER.—I suppose he would wish the Government to appoint such officers as he recommended for Road Commissioners when his party was in power.

But, Sir, there is another thing that I may mention. I am perfectly agreed on that part of the Address; that is, to consolidate the laws.

The paragraph then agreed to.

On the reading of the seventh paragraph, Mr. COOPER remarked.—I believe that hardly any thing has been said on this bill, and the documents are not yet even some of the Bills in regard before the House last year did not receive the Royal Assent; and I think we had better defer the consideration of the subject till we get the documents. I have said nothing for some time, but I have a small amendment, and I therefore move that the clause be struck out, and the following amendment inserted:—

“As the Act of last Session, by which a Tax upon the Import of Proprietary Goods was passed, and the application to Tenants, have not received the Royal Assent, and the reasons assigned by Her Majesty's Government for such disallowance are communicated to us, they shall receive our hearty consideration.”

Mr. LAIRD seconded the motion.

Hon. HAVILAND.—Mr. Chairman, I was under the impression, when this debate first commenced, that this Address was going to pass smoothly; but, now this is no longer the case, and therefore I shall say a few words myself. The hon. member who moved this address stated that never a speech before was so plain in its style, and I think this is the case. I think that most of the hon. members who have made the expression, “we were given us to conceal our ideas.” The hon. gentleman has changed his opinion on this Session. Well may it be said that the men of yesterday are not the men of to-day. For we well remember that one of the advantages of Responsible Government, which he proposed, would be that four-and-twenty members would not have to put their heads together to make the measure up, but would be recommended by the Speech from the Throne; but now he has laid down another rule of government—and the fewer the government assumes the better—just the reverse. I do not mean to say that I have seen the House of Commons as I have seen on the floor of this House. I am at a great disadvantage in giving my views on this Address, not having the statistical part of the Address before me. I stated that there was a great increase in the Post Office revenue; that that was a great many more letters have passed through the Post Office than heretofore. The principal cause assigned for it is the increase of the population of the island, and the people. Now I believe it is owing to the cheapness of postage. As regards the Revenue Laws being patched up, I believe it to be the case. There has been a great deal of patching up on a spirit of the hon. gentleman's dream, as regards the Rent Bill. Some of the members of that Government made a very heavy speech in consequence of the Bill's Government referring to some of the things which we have done, and I shall never have our constitution settled if we are to trust to the Queen's Printer. The hon. member has found great fault with the Imperial Government for refusing his sanction to the Bill and another. I have not the least objection to the Bill with the influence of proprietors for putting a stop to these Bills. Now, I think that they acted properly in doing so. Why, the right of petition is a right which we have in England, and there might be something in argument. The proprietors have either a right, or none, to the land which they possess, and they have a right to petition the Government last year that they had a right. We know it is contrary to the principles of the British Government to impose taxes so heavy, as they do, on the people. I cannot say that I have any subjects should equally have borne the burden. Let every man contribute his quota to the support of the state, and not throw the burden on one part of the people.

Hon. C. SECRETARY.—I have a few words to say on this Bill. True, the hon. member for Charlottetown voted against it. Sir, the proprietors, I think, are very well re-

presented in this Colony; and it is not true that they were the only persons called on to support those troops. The balance would have been paid out of the Treasury of the island. I do not think I can contend that the proprietors of the island have been taxed quite as much as the proprietors. It is true that a few proprietors that have some wilderness land may have to pay towards the support of education. The hon. member of the island says that the proprietors are taxed for articles of consumption for which the proprietors are not taxed. They petitioned against it, and also against the Bill. He is right. He is right. The proprietors for Charlottetown need not complain. If they were taxed for education, there are ways by which they might get rid of their lands; but there appears to be a dogged determination of the Government to purchase the best portion of their lands for less than the Government would give. Then they say, “Oh, we have offered it to the Government,” and then complain that it will not purchase. I think they might have been accepted; but I believe there is a combination among some parties to get our lands at a lower price than the Government. Now, the hon. member, Mr. Cooper has moved an amendment to this clause, and I think it is a singular one. He seeks information. That gentleman has given information himself. Why, Sir, I think he ought to be the last to come forward and object to that paragraph; and there is one thing, when we have a bill in our hands, and we are bringing it before the House on the subject, and here we are bringing in the consideration of the matter. I certainly think we will have to take another course.

Mr. COOPER.—Mr. Chairman, I think it is unfair to treat the amendment in this way. I take the view that Mr. Cooper does. How can we go into the consideration of that paragraph when we know nothing about it?

Mr. LAIRD.—I would ask the hon. member if he has put his name to any of these petitions.

Mr. CLARK.—Mr. Chairman, I would make some remarks in reply to those of Mr. Haviland respecting the statistical part of the Address. Mr. WHELAN has given us the documents, that his statements are correct. The decrease on liquor alone, imported into Charlottetown, is nearly £250,000. There has been a decrease in the value of the imports of two per cent. articles, as cordage, &c., causing a deficiency of £400; but there has been a decrease in the value of the exports of two per cent. articles, and also an increase from the United States on the value of the merchandise. In corroboration of what I say, Mr. WHELAN, I give these figures. Respecting the Reciprocity Treaty, I have nothing to say.

Hon. MR. PALMER.—Mr. Chairman, I cannot but remark on the inconsistencies of hon. members in speaking on this subject. When Mr. LAIRD first brought the matter before the House, he said that Free Trade was the best course before us. Now, it would have been the boast of that hon. member a few years ago that Free Trade would be an advantage to us. I am sorry that I do not know what has decreased; but if I lost look piece on one article it was gained on others. With respect to what fell from Mr. CLARK, we have a passage in His Excellency's Speech respecting the Reciprocity Treaty, which will be found in the Revenue. Now, Mr. Clark gives us to understand that there has been a falling off in the importation of liquor, and that there has been a falling off in the exportation of liquor smuggled into the country last year. I would merely conclude by saying that I hope the hon. and learned member, Mr. Cooper, will not find fault with us if he find me supporting him. I do not know what curious matter may have been sent out in the documents, but I think, for regularity's sake, we ought not to pass any opinion on them at present. I am sorry that I do not know what the hon. member has in mind in saying that we are going to work in a very unparliamentary manner; if we decide on them before we have heard them.

Mr. COOPER.—Mr. Chairman, I will not pronounce any opinion respecting Her Majesty's decision on these Bills, but respecting secret influence, I do not know that there is any ground for saying that there is.

Mr. DOUSE.—Mr. Chairman, there is one remark which I would make respecting what Mr. Coles said about purchasing lands, at less than the Government. Now, I have not the least objection to that. Mr. Coles has made no resolutions to us, and has published statements in his paper concerning my purchases; but if he says I have combined with some of the proprietors against the Government, I can say I have not.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY.—I say the documents that Mr. Douse has placed in the Registrar's office, show what I have said. It is less than the Government was authorized to give by the Land Purchase Bill.

Hon. MR. WHELAN.—Mr. Douse has made reference to me, and said that he noticed in the documents that I had purchased a portion of Lord Selkirk's estate for £48,300 per acre.

Mr. COOPER.—I do not believe I called at the building, and offered Lord Selkirk for sale to the Government; I mentioned it to Mr. Swaney, who answered that they had no money to pay for it. I do not deny that I may have mentioned my reply to the hon. member in the House, when that Bill for fixing the Rent Bill passed the Legislature; if I had, I would certainly have voted against such a measure.

Mr. McLEOD.—I believe it is hard to say who are the proprietors, and who are not; and as the truth was known, there are no proprietors; and if the Titles were tried, as they ought to be, there would be no more found. I think he has said that we are not to be taken into consideration as the matter. Every one of the Proprietors, that know the nature of the business, is eager to get clear of his land as soon as possible.

Mr. Yeo.—I have been interested in land for some time, and I am sure it will be very much against the Government in years to come; and the people will have harder times than they have had in the past. I have heard that the people are to be sold for their land. In some lands they have even paid a penalty for their land. It will be tedious to the country, if Government purchases these lands.

Mr. McLEOD.—I would like to ask, what, &c., for the Rent. I have heard that the people are to be sold for their land. In some lands they have even paid a penalty for their land. It will be tedious to the country, if Government purchases these lands.

Hon. MR. PALMER.—I would like to ask, what, &c., for the Rent. I have heard that the people are to be sold for their land. In some lands they have even paid a penalty for their land. It will be tedious to the country, if Government purchases these lands.

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Hon. MR. PALMER.—I would like to ask, what, &c., for the Rent. I have heard that the people are to be sold for their land. In some lands they have even paid a penalty for their land. It will be tedious to the country, if Government purchases these lands.

So it passed in the negative.

On motion that the eighth paragraph do pass:—

Mr. LAIRD.—I do not wish to agree with that paragraph; and therefore move the following amendment:—

“As it is most desirable that the Tenantry who reclaimed the Land under the Statute, and who have been treated on equitable terms, we shall be happy to receive any information from your Excellency to show that the settlement of a portion of the Tenantry, under the Statute, has been carried out, and has given them general satisfaction.”

Hon. MR. PALMER moved, as an amendment to the said proposed amendment, to insert, immediately before the word “and,” in the fourth line thereof, the words “just and.” And the hon. member then asked the question put thereon, it was agreed by the House.

Hon. MR. WHELAN.—I presume that, in consideration of the support which he gave the former resolution he expects support now; and in the necessity of this amendment, which is an answer to the Speech of the Governor. The Governor says if a larger amount of money had been at the disposal of the Government, there would have been a greater number of reconditioned, and new propositions altogether, which is an answer to all of it.

Mr. COOPER.—All that is implied in the Governor's Speech, he says, “I am happy to inform you that the transactions respecting the reclaimed Lands, which will, in due course, be submitted to you, have, in my opinion, fully justified the expectations formed of the effects to be derived from the Land Purchase Bill in the desired conversion of Leaseholders into independent freeholders, and advantages which are only limited by the small amount that that measure at the disposal of the Government.”

Why, the amendment is a good answer to it.

Hon. MR. WHELAN.—Mr. Chairman, it is not a singular thing that I have seen in the House, and I am sure that there is no objection to it. I think all come here free, and can stand up and express themselves as they choose. It is the duty of the Government to give people what they desire to leave one party, and to give with the other.

Hon. MR. WHELAN.—Mr. McLeod evidently misrepresents that paragraph. It does not contemplate any additional sum, but only that a greater appropriation had been made for the public good, that a greater advantage would have been the result.

Hon. MR. PALMER.—This is another question respecting which I do not wish to compromise myself. I suppose the return will come down in due time, and which will set forth the opinions of this House, for or against that measure; and I was reserving myself until that time. I find there is a great deal of feeling on the subject, and I am sure that it has now passed, and I see a great prospect, and I think they are made less every day, as it may increase in the Public Lands. I think the passage is introduced as a feeler for this House. The people have been given to understand, from time to time, and year to year, that their lands would be bettered from the heavy Leaseholder tenure, to Freehold, and that they would be able to enjoy the same, and to enjoy himself. Now I think this measure has not turned out as these promises to the Tenantry of the Island. I do not realize myself by expressing an opinion, and the matter is specially given to the Tenantry, and I am sure that it is not good or sound policy that eleven twelfths of the Island should be taxed for a benefit, real or imaginary, to the whole of the Island, and that the Government should pay any amendment on that part of the Speech, I do not wish to go into any improvement on the amendment; but I shall give my support to it.

Hon. MR. PALMER.—This is a great deal of flattery for the Tenantry. Now, I suppose the hon. member has been reading the calculations in the *Advertiser*, which tried to show that the purchase of the land would be a tax for the benefit of the owners on the World Estate; but if the Government were taxed a little, it would be for their own benefit. Why, since the purchase of the World Estate, the price of land has fallen from 100 per acre, to some cases.

Mr. DOUSE.—Name those.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY.—Will that gentleman sell at the same price as the Government? But, Sir, the hon. member for Charlottetown has said that he has seen the documents. The 60,000 acres which remain un-sold, would more than pay the amount which the Government will be in debt by the purchase of the land. The Proprietors gave the way they are doing, through obtaining the land, and they are doing it. I think the whole Government will give their support to never more measures against them, then they have set out. The whole of the land is now in the hands of the Government, and I am surprised that my hon. colleague would propose it. I would wish to know, if my colleagues would give up the way. Perhaps a few, who have their eyes filled with a notion of Ecclesiastical, may be disposed to give their support to the Tenantry of this Estate, are getting their eyes opened. The amendment will, I presume, meet with the same fate as the other. I am sure that we shall be able to get the objectionable in that part of the Address. I would wish to know, my colleague, why he would wish to make a division in the camp of the Liberals, would he expect the Government