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MR. BRACKEN.—Mr. Speaker, I am sorry so much time has been taken up in the discussion of this Bill, but as it has been represented as a one-sided measure, I may state that I do not regard it as such, and am just as anxious to see a good measure as any hon. member in this hon. House, and unless hon. members can show better reasons than any which have been stated for opposing this Bill, I think they should not express so much opposition to it. It should be remembered that this is not a bankrupt law, neither is it a measure by which any man can be brought into court unless by his own consent. The Bill only goes so far and will not affect any man who does not wish to avail himself of its provisions. We lawyers have some experience in these matters, and I generally find that few men in business wish to go into court unless from some unavoidable necessity, and to such it will be found this Bill will grant relief. I think it can do no harm and is tolerably well drawn up, but does not, I expect, come up to the expectations of some who have been looking for it with interest, for whilst it may relieve them of debts contracted here, it will not do those who have been entered into abroad, and it is these which are pressing the most heavily upon some men. If the Government decide upon having a commissioner, I am satisfied; but it will be borne in mind that in the court proposed to be established under this Act there will be no jury, and therefore the responsibilities of the commissioner will be such as will require a man with abilities equal to those of a Judge in the Supreme Court.

HON. MR. DAVIES.—Mr. Speaker, the want of a law of this kind has caused some of our best men to leave the country, and when we hear in mind that one out of every ten who go into business as a general rule fail, it is but just to them and the community to provide some way by which they may go into business again, for all will admit that such men are the life of the community, and if any of them can, by their books show that honesty and integrity characterized their proceedings before a court appointed for such purposes, it would be a benefit to the country and to such persons to have a court having such jurisdiction, and in all cases where it had been satisfactorily shown that they had given up all their efforts to grant them a discharge, and such are the provisions of this Bill. It does not make provision to offer protection to any who it can be shown have made over their property in an underhand or improper manner. This Bill in any way you view it cannot leave any man in a worse position than it may find him.

HON. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—The Judges in the Supreme Court, I understand, are not in favor of this measure, as it will be adding more to their labor, if they should have to preside in such cases as may come up under it. They think, as I am informed, that they are very well for judges who wish to have leisure to enjoy themselves for half the year, to complete when a slight additional duty is spoken of as about to be imposed upon them. For my part I do not believe in that kind of a way of discharging public duty. I do not consider that they should mark out just so much work for themselves and no more. I consider when a judge is appointed he should undertake to discharge every duty which legitimately ought to be undertaken by him, and those which this Bill will impose I regard as some of those which one or both of our judges should give attention to; nor would these duties be very burdensome, for this Bill provides that a clerk shall be appointed to attend to the ordinary business which will create, which will render those of the judge comparatively easy; and, therefore, I believe one of our judges could very well find time to preside over the court and thus render the appointment unnecessary. If this cannot be done then I would prefer appointing a third judge; and, indeed I think the time has come when this should be done even independently of the considerations which a Bill of this nature might introduce to our notice. When there are but two judges on the bench, and one of them should happen to differ from the other in his opinion, the case before them would fall to the ground, and in such an emergency a commissioner appointed under this Act would be of no service. I would therefore prefer appointing a third judge as soon as I know, too, that many complaints are made by people who come to do business with the judges in this town, who very often find them away on a shooting excursion, a visit to the other provinces, or otherwise engaged in fishing or some other private amusement, while those who come to do business with them have to return without having attended to them, which is often a great loss as well as a disappointment to men who have come in from distant parts of the country. At least I know I have heard many such complaints. It is better therefore to appoint a third judge than a commissioner, as he could attend to the duties this Act will impose, and also take his seat on the bench in the Supreme Court. As regards the principles of the Bill, I think they are such as will enable honest men to deal fairly with those to whom they may be indebted. It is quite different from a Bankruptcy Bill in many particulars, and will, I think, in the meantime, meet the views of our honorable members. In this country people do not pay their bills as punctually as they do in the old country, for there a man must be prepared to be punctual, which in the present state of the country cannot yet be so well enforced. I am not of the opinion that this Bill will place any man in a worse position than if there was no such law. If we should pass this Bill making it imperative for the judges to sit under it, and they should refuse to do so, petitions on the subject could then be addressed to the Hon. Government on the subject. It does appear to me strange that it is to carry out the provisions of a Bill of this nature, the Colony must be put to the expense of appointing a commissioner to attend to duties which might be performed by the judges in our Supreme Court. It will be well enough, perhaps, to pass the Bill after which on some future occasion we may discuss the question, and consider whether the Colony is prepared for the appointment of a third judge. On a previous occasion petitions were before the Legislature making such a request, and it is improbable that any more petitions may have to give attention to this matter.

HON. MR. LAIRD.—Mr. Speaker, judging from the tone of the debate, it would appear that a new office is about to be made, the duties of which none can discharge but a gentleman of the legal profession. Now suppose that we do appoint a judge, and, after a few years, he should also take it into his head to refuse to act only under certain duties which he might mark out, and say he had too much work to perform, then what next? Why if the arguments used this evening are sound, then we would have to appoint another, and add new judges to the list as the opinions of such salaried officers might happen to dictate. In so far as I understand the measure, I am in favor of the principle of the Bill, for I think it would enable some clever men to get on their feet again, but I believe the judges of our Supreme Court should regard it as their duty to attend to the duties this Bill would impose; if, however, it will be found necessary to appoint a person to attend to these duties, I would prefer appointing a third judge, rather than a commissioner, assigning to him specially the discharge of those duties which this Bill will create, while at other times he should also take his seat with the other judges in the Supreme Court; but as this Bill appears to be one got up to meet the wants of a certain class more than those of the community at large, it appears to me to be wrong to tax the Colony so high for the management of a court, the fees arising from which would probably amount to fifty pounds a year. The hon. and learned member for the City said it would be wrong to make suitors pay fees, but I consider that in cases which would come up for consideration, under an Act of this nature, the parties interested should be made to pay expenses, although I agree with the hon. Attorney General that it would be better to pay such an officer by salary rather than by fees.

HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Mr. Speaker, I move that the clause be amended by striking out the words "judge" and inserting that of a "commissioner."

HON. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—I rise, Sir, to second the motion of the hon. Attorney General.

HON. MR. LAIRD.—Before I can support such a motion I would like the hon. Attorney General to state how the commissioner is to be paid?

HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—This can be better attended to when the last clause of this Bill comes up for consideration.

HON. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—Mr. Speaker, under this Act a person will go into court and claim certain privileges, and we will suppose he owes £500, but before his case can be disposed of, the claims of all his creditors have to be considered in the investigation of which all sort of objections may come up which will doubtless require time and the exercise of a good deal of judgment rightly to dispose of; and as such cases will not be considered by a jury, it will be found that the gentleman whose duty it may be to look into these matters will require all the legal knowledge and judgment which is required for a judge in the Supreme Court, for indeed the responsibilities will in many cases be even greater than that of a judge in the Supreme Court; and therefore it is one of those subjects which require to be carefully considered, and if the matter shall be proceeded with and a commissioner appointed he will find the duties to be one, the duties of which will sometimes be found difficult to discharge. I am for appointing a commissioner as I consider it will be one step in the right direction.

MR. McNEILL.—Mr. Speaker, it appears the provisions of this Bill are such that they cannot extend beyond the limits of this Island, and as those judges do not work for nothing it is likely the salary which will be proposed will be something handsome, and therefore I think before we agree to appoint a commissioner we should consider first what his salary is to be. With respect to the principle of the Bill, I may say that I have always considered it a hardship that any man who has been unfortunate in business should not have had some way by which he could be enabled to legally arrange his affairs and re-commence business again. I am not inclined to believe with some hon. members that this Bill will give undue influence to any, for as I understand it the property of a debtor will have to be divided among his creditors; and therefore I cannot see how any undue influence can be attained. But I fear it will be an expensive court.

MR. BRACKEN.—Mr. Speaker, suppose an application to be made which would be regarded by the judge as an improper one, and in consequence of that opinion, order the applicant to pay the costs, I regard it as a wrong principle which will thus place a judge so entirely above the suitors. He should not be placed in a position which would probably bring him into contact with the creditors. I consider that such a measure as this is required, and I think it but fair that they who want it should be prepared to pay for it. I am aware that in some cases in this Island the court will not grant a Bill unless the fees are paid.

HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Mr. Speaker, I now press the motion that the words "commissioner" be substituted for that of judge.

HON. MR. LAIRD.—Before the question is put I move that the words be added, "and that he be paid by fees."

HON. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—Mr. Speaker, as I consider the payment of such an officer by fees would be to establish a wrong principle, I shall oppose it, and support the Attorney General if he submits a resolution that he be paid by a fixed salary, for there can be no doubt but that all important officers should be paid by fixed salaries, for it is obvious to all that such men, especially such as occupy the important offices of a judge, who should at all times, like *Cæsar's* wife, be above suspicion, and therefore should not be placed in a position which might lead them to be ever suspected of being influenced by any one. I believe that in all courts where debts can be recovered which will exceed in value £50, the judges should be paid by the Government. Such is the practice in England from the lowest up to the Lord Chancellor and such should be the rule here, while all fees should be paid into public treasury, such, you may depend, is the sound principle, for a judge should be placed above all suspicion of jobbery, which I fear will not be the case if they are to be paid by fees. In a court of this kind many important questions will come up for consideration, and therefore the judge or commissioner should be paid by a fixed salary and not by fees.

HON. MR. HOWLAN.—Mr. Speaker, suspicions will sometimes rest upon judges notwithstanding all the precautions which will be taken, and even in England judges are sometimes suspected and that, too, without and just cause. While I quite agree with the learned and hon. member the Leader of the Opposition that the proper way to pay a judge is by a fixed salary, yet as this Act is introduced as an experiment I think that for one year it is better to let the fees rule.

HON. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—The hon. members says this Act is introduced as an experiment, but if so, I ask does he suppose that any professional man would forego his private business for the sake of the fees which he might receive. I do not believe any professional man in Charlottetown could be found who would.

HON. MR. HOWLAN.—Any professional man who would undertake the duties of the office efficiently, would know that it would be a stepping stone to a higher position, if the matter should be proceeded further with another year.

HON. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—We know, Sir, there are men in this city who have legal talents permanently employed by the year, and such would not suit for a commissioner in this court; but it may be that there are some legal gentlemen in this city who have no clients, and if one of these might take the situation; but if one of those who have clients should do so, and one of the creditors would come into court should happen to be a party for whom he was an Attorney, and as such bound to do the best he could for him, the commissioner would find himself in an awkward position. I believe the end of it will be that a third judge will have to be appointed.

HON. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—The hon. Leader of the Government is coming to the point, for, Sir, it will be found that you cannot leave your court properly presided over by a man who is in practice. It is impossible, for it will be found that many of the cases which would come up for consideration would be such as he would have an interest in. No doubt, as the hon. member said, the proper way will be to have a third judge, unto whom those duties could be assigned, as the duties in the Court of Chancery are to Judge Peters. At present our Supreme Court is an anomaly. No other court like it is to be found in either of the other provinces, for all their courts are presided over by three or five judges; whereas, virtually, it may be said, that we have but one, for although there are two individuals on the bench, yet if they should happen to differ in opinion, and able judges do differ sometimes in their opinion, then there could be no judgment at all, and the consequence would be, that for this very reason, there would be a denial of justice. Why, Sir, although all our Commissioners' Courts have three to preside over them, yet our Supreme Court has but two. No two men are constituted so that they can see alike on all subjects, and though it may be, that to save trouble, one may yield his opinion to the other under the conviction that possibly the view taken by him was the more correct one. The plain matter of fact is there ought to be three judges, one of whom should discharge the duties this Act will impose, and when the Supreme Court is sitting take his seat on the bench also. I hesitate not in again saying that our Supreme Court as at present constituted is an anomaly in jurisprudence.

HON. MR. HENDERSON.—Mr. Speaker, I think we shall have to find some other wife for the hon. Leader of the Opposition besides *Cæsar's*, for I consider she is now becoming too common for the hon. member. With respect to the question brought to our notice in this debate, shall I shrink from saying that eighteen months ago our Supreme Court could not be looked up to with confidence by all classes, just for the reason put forward by the learned and hon. member the Leader of the Opposition, and because it was thought by some that they were in a position which would prevent them from extending even-handed justice to those men who had broken the law. It is true that to appoint another judge will involve an additional expense to the Colony; but, notwithstanding this, for any part, I hesitate not to express the hope that the money which will be required to meet the salary of a third judge will not be allowed to operate as a hindrance, when it is remembered that justice to the subject is of more importance than money. In so far as I am concerned I am prepared to give my hearty support for appointing a third judge.

MR. P. SINCLAIR.—Notwithstanding all that has been said by the learned Leader of the Opposition that this Bill will not affect the position of a creditor of this Island, yet the hon. member, with others, are willing to go for giving £500 a year to pay the salary of another judge, in order that he may attend to the duties which this Bill will impose. Our Supreme Court may be an anomaly, but if another judge was appointed to-morrow, I do not know that you would be more certain of a correct judgment than you are now. The decision of majorities are not always correct. (Laughter.)

MR. BELL.—I consider that we should do something in this direction, for certainly it is not saying much for our intelligence to be behind all other people in such an important matter as this. It is better, in my opinion, to take the Bill as it is, at least for one year, and let the commissioner be paid in the meantime by fees, for at present I do not feel disposed to go for the appointment of another judge.

HON. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—The hon. member for Casumpee ought not to say that we are behind all other people, for in Nova Scotia and other places they have no courts of this nature.

MR. BRACKEN.—They had a law of Insolvency in Nova Scotia, but they soon repealed it. In New Brunswick they tried such a measure twice, but those courts were so swarmed with suits that it was deemed necessary to close them by repealing the Act. In England the same was their experience. Lord Westbury brought in one, and after a year gave it up, although some of the statesmen at home are directing their attention to the subject at present.

MR. G. SINCLAIR.—Mr. Speaker, the practice of paying judges by a fixed salary is one that has in it a sound principle, but one that is not recognized by us in the appointment of the Commissioners of our Small Debt Courts, as they are paid entirely by fees. I doubt the wisdom of appointing a third judge at a higher salary for the special benefit of a few individuals. True, this Bill may be but a temporary measure, but if we appoint a third judge to preside over this court, it will be found that the appointment will be permanent. Respecting the petitions which came up here for the appointment of a third judge, I think they were got up by interested parties. When the court sits in Prince County there is seldom more than one judge present; and I believe, with the hon. member for New London (Mr. P. Sinclair), that two judges are as competent to form an opinion upon a case as three. We are going sufficiently fast as it is into debt without further increasing the outlay of the Colony by the appointment of another judge, and thereby adding in increasing an expense which the country cannot bear.

R. GORDON, Reporter.

After some time spent in Committee on the further consideration of the Bill for the relief of unfortunate Debtors, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, the Chairman reported progress, and asked for leave to sit again.

The hon. Colonial Secretary, a member of Her Majesty's Executive Council, presented to the House a supplementary Estimate Extra for the current year. This was to expend the sum of three thousand pounds equally between the Counties, to aid farmers in purchasing seed grain.

Ordered that the same do lie on the table.

House adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow.

I. OXENHAM, Reporter.

FRIDAY, April 17.

House in Committee on the Bill for the relief of Unfortunate Debtors.

As Mr. Prowse was absent, Mr. G. Sinclair was appointed Chairman of the Committee.

Several clauses were read and agreed to.

The Committee then rose and reported the Bill agreed to.

Ordered to be engrossed.

On motion of hon. Mr. Calbeck, the Bill to Incorporate the Minister and Trustees of the Baptist Church at North River, Township No. Thirty Two, was read a third time and passed.

Hon. Mr. Kelly presented the Report of the Special Committee, to whom was referred the petitions praying for the opening of new roads.

Received and read.

The House then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole to take the said Report into consideration.

Mr. Bell in the Chair.

After some time spent in examining the Report, it was agreed to with certain amendments.

Ordered that the same Committee prepare an address to His Excellency, on the subject of opening the new roads recommended.

House adjourned for one hour.

BALDWIN, Reporter.

Afternoon Session.

The hon. Attorney General, from the Committee to whom was referred the petition of John Chappel and others, Bible Christian Ministers, to examine the same and report thereon, by Bill or otherwise, presented to the House a Bill, as prepared by the Committee, to amend and explain the Act passed in the second year of the reign of His Majesty King William IV., relating to the celebration of Marriages, so far as the same relates to the Bible Christian Church; and the same was received and read for the first time, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

A message from the Legislative Council, by their Clerk, stating that that body agree to a further conference, as desired by the House of Assembly, on the Bill entitled "An Act to consolidate and amend several Acts therein mentioned, relating to the Savings' Bank."

This was agreed to by the House, and after the conference ended, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, to consider further of a supply.

Mr. Kelly in the Chair.

HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the following:—

Resolved, That the sum of four hundred pounds be granted and placed at the disposal of the Government for the following purpose, viz:

Contractors for Charlottetown Ferry, for extra trips during the present Season, £400 0 0.

At disposal of the Government, £400 0 0.

This will remunerate the Contractors for extra trips. The boat gave great satisfaction last year, and the object is to continue the extra trips for another year, by granting a sum of money for this purpose.

MR. OWEN.—This large sum is more than a new and superior boat should be allowed. The people require a larger boat, and there should be some kind of a cover to protect travellers from rain and storms. The track which has been dredged at both wharves is too narrow, for, if the boat deviated from the least from the track which has been dredged for her, she would be instantly grounded.

HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The hon. member must have been misinformed. The Contractors offered to put on a new boat if the Government would grant three thousand pounds for that purpose; but I for one thought it would be better to make the experiment of running extra trips for another year. It would be injudicious to enter in a contract with any boat for another twenty years, for many improvements are effected from time to time, which cannot be carried out in the case of long contracts.

MR. SPEAKER.—Four hundred pounds is a very large sum for a small boat. A larger boat is very much required to carry a larger number of passengers, for the present boat is nearly always over-crowded.

The resolution was then carried. The Speaker took the Chair, the Chairman reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

A message from the Legislative Council, desiring a further conference with the House of Assembly, on the Bill to consolidate the Acts relating to the Savings' Bank.

This was agreed to, and the former managers were again appointed to the conference.

House again in Committee on Supply.

HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL submitted the Resolution granting the sum of three thousand pounds for the purchase of seed grain, which was read a third time, and said:—The distribution of this sum is to be carried out in a way similar to that adopted in 1846, when there was a similar scarcity of seed grain. This is about the

best that can be adopted, for through it the money can be pretty equally divided between those parts of the Colony where the principal destitution is. Some parts require assistance more than others; for instance, in Murray Harbor the amount required is rather in excess of other places in that vicinity. The intention of the Government is to appoint a committee of three in each Road District, and not to allow any single person to receive more than four pounds. If there was a general death of seed, three thousand pounds would be a very inadequate sum for the purpose required; but, happily, the destitution is only partial. A great portion of the Island might, and no doubt would, remain uncultivated, if the wants of those in distress are not attended to. If this Resolution passes, the Government will submit a scale of distribution.

HON. MR. HENDERSON.—It occurs to me that the sums borrowed by those in want of seed grain, should not be required of them earlier than the first day of December next, as that would afford them a reasonable time for the disposal of whatever they have for market.

MR. McLENNAN.—If the Government are really desirous to assist the people, the sum they propose to allow for that purpose is very small indeed, and will only throw out expectations that cannot be realized. I have not heard any great complaints from the people in my own district, although there may be a scarcity in a part of it. There may be a thousand persons in each County requiring assistance, and therefore there would only be a pound apiece, which would be nearly useless in buying seed grain. I do not expect that seed oats can be got at less than four shillings per bushel; but, as the Government have the responsibility upon their shoulders, I will support the motion made by the hon. member for Murray Harbor, because merchants and traders generally give credit till the first of December.

MR. BRACKEN.—I will support the Resolution, and hope it will be sufficient for the purpose required. I suppose it is as much as the Government can afford to give. We know that it is not a good principle to act upon, but I believe a great destitution prevails, and it would not do to allow the poor to remain without the means to put seed into the ground. I hope that the grant will meet the demands of the case.

HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—A committee of three will be appointed in each Road District, who will give the persons who need relief an order on the Government, and the money will be paid at the Road Correspondent's Office.

HON. MR. LAIRD.—If the sum granted was six thousand pounds instead of three thousand, perhaps the number of those applying for assistance would be doubled, and therefore each individual would, in that case, receive only the same allowance as at present. The sum granted is as much as the Government can afford; indeed it is a very liberal allowance. I think it will meet all the hard cases.

MR. McLENNAN.—I merely wished to give the people sufficient for their wants, and therefore I did not urge the Government to grant a larger sum, although I should have been better pleased if they had given more. I only hope they will put the money into good hands for distribution; but I suppose they will, as they know all the persons who are capable of judging aright, and who will be judicious in the division of the sums granted. There will not be much loss to the Government, and if there were a little loss, I would not object to the grant on that account.

HON. MR. HENDERSON.—The district which I represent is not more destitute than other districts; but I do not deny that those who reside in the newer settlements are badly off—they could not be otherwise. I am pleased to see the Government doing as they are, for unless something be done to assist the poor, large portions of the Colony would remain uncultivated for want of seed grain.

As the Government have gone so far as they have, we have a fair guarantee that they will do further if there was an absolute need for it, and if the resources of the Colony would justify their doing so. (Mr. G. Sinclair.) The money should be put into judicious hands. Men should be appointed to distribute it who will not allow any connections to bias their judgment, any more than the judge who sits upon the bench.

MR. P. SINCLAIR.—This Resolution supplies a want which the people could neither help nor avoid. In many cases they were obliged to feed their stock with what they intended for seed, and they are at the same time without the means of buying grain for that purpose. We must allow that such a step is not generally conducive to the interests of a country, for people would begin to look continually to the Government for assistance, if they were encouraged to do so by an annual grant. In that case they would lose their self-reliance and become dependent and without enterprise. The Government have been obliged to take extra steps to give even this sum and, therefore, it is as much as the country can expect under the circumstances. The time for collecting it should be fixed about the first of December.

HON. MR. HOWLAN.—I hope that hon. members on both sides of this House agree that if the country's necessities required a larger sum than that contained in the Resolution it would be granted. There was a poor crop of straw last year, which caused a scarcity in the article of fodder. This was one great cause of the present scarcity of seed. The Public Accounts show us that a very large amount has been paid into the Treasury for public lands; the people come forward, and, in some cases, paid more than they were compelled to pay I allude to the people on the Selkirk Estate. A great many of the poorer settlers used to be able to buy their seed from the better or richer classes, but this year they cannot. Oats is bringing as much as four shillings per bushel, which is the price of a bushel and a half in other seasons. If we want to know the state of the Colony, let us examine the state of the Savings' Bank, and we will find that it is full of money. I think hon. members will allow that the Government have done the best they could under the circumstances. It is a matter of philanthropy more than anything else. But perhaps if the money is properly applied, there will be no loss to the Treasury. I quite agree with the remarks made by the hon. member for New London (Mr. P. Sinclair), and I do not think the grant will again be required.

The Resolution, as amended, was carried unanimously.

HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL submitted a Resolution relating to the sums to be granted to each Road District, to assist destitute persons in purchasing seed grain.

This Resolution was also carried unanimously.

HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL then submitted the following:—

Resolved, That a sum, not exceeding thirty pounds, be granted and placed at the disposal of the Government as remuneration to the person whom the Government shall appoint to manage the business of remitting the seed grain monies to the various Committees, and corresponding with them, and keeping the accounts.

HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—It is supposed that the Road Correspondent will conduct the business connected with these grants, and it is not to be supposed that he will do so without some remuneration.

HON. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—Some of the Committees may not deem it advisable to apply for the sums granted to their Districts as soon as they get authority, and in some cases where the money may not be required it will be expended. If the money is sent out to the Committees, they may think themselves bound to get rid of it; but some of them would prefer giving those in need orders on the Government for a certain amount. I hope the Committees will make all necessary enquiries about the persons asking for assistance, and that none of it will be wasted for want of proper management.

There are many persons who would rather make a little shift than receive money in this way. As the hon. member for Murray Harbor says, it will require a man with a pretty strong nerve to act fairly in the distribution of the money granted. Some persons may consider the sum too small, but I hope it will be enough to relieve all that really require it. There will be no ill-effects upon those who are suffering on account of the scarcity of seed grain. They do not want for money for seed grain, which is not to be had. The principal difficulty will be to obtain the seed wherewith to supply the people, unless the committees are given discretionary power to purchase it in those settlements

where it is plentiful. The best method of management will be for the people to get orders from the Committees appointed, and thereby draw the money from the Road Correspondent's Office.

HON. MR. HENDERSON.—These points are very obvious ones; the great question is where to find the seed. This is the next question to that of finding the money. It occurred to me that if an arrangement could be made with those parties in town who have stored up grain, to have some reserved and shipped to the principal ports of the Island, the requirements of the people might be supplied. The great question now is, "where is the seed to be found?"

HON. MR. DAVIES.—The people should understand the principle on which the money is to be granted. It is given because there is a great necessity brought on by unforeseen circumstances. An almost extraordinary winter, from the early part of November up to the present time, has caused a great scarcity of feed for cattle, and hay and straw have become so scarce that farmers have been obliged to feed their stock with the grain which they at first intended for seed. The Government now think it their duty to give the people a loan for the purpose of buying seed oats, &c. All parties agree as to the necessity for this action, but it is not expected that the money will be applied for by the better class of farmers. It is only for the poor, such as the majority of those in Flat River Settlement, White Sands and Murray Harbor, where returns last year were next to nothing. In the District which I represent there are small quantities of grain stored up, which may be had by those who wish to purchase at three shillings and six pence per bushel. In other parts of the Island it cannot, perhaps, be got so cheaply. There may be some difficulty in getting as much as may be required, and, therefore the persons who will superintend the whole, should buy up all the good seed oats at once, wherever they are to be had. I think the arrangements are simple and easy, and that the intentions of this House will be fully carried out.

MR. KICKHAM.—I believe there is not a street in Charlottetown where there is no grain stored away, and there must, in all, be some thousands of bushels, which could be secured for seed at once.

MR. McLENNAN.—There is plenty of oats for seed, and a great deal more than will be required for that purpose, in Prince County. Unless the Committees who will be appointed immediately buy up all the seed that will be required, before the harbors are cleared of ice, it will be shipped for other parts, and matters will be worse than ever. I do not think any man will be degraded by receiving a loan from the Government for the purpose of buying seed grain. Government speculations are not always losing affairs. We find some of the estates which have been purchased by them are more than self-sustaining and why may not this plan of purchasing seed for the destitute, be the same?

MR. G. SINCLAIR.—If the money be advanced to the people they will have the liberty of purchasing grain wherever it is to be had. Some might want oats, others potatoes, others barley, and others buckwheat—some one kind of seed and some another. A good many farmers have some to dispose of, and, therefore, it is a fair thing for those who are in need to have the money in time to purchase grain before it is shipped to other markets. The chief complaint, perhaps, is, that the sum granted is too small for the requirements of the people; but it will be some help.

MR. McNEILL.—The grain is principally in the hands of traders. The Government should instruct the Committees or other persons who may be appointed, to purchase the oats from these traders before it is shipped; if this is not done it will not be got at all in many parts of the country. But we do not know whether these men will undertake to do this or not.

MR. ANNEVILLE.—I am glad that the Government have taken this step to assist the people in procuring seed, that the land may not remain uncultivated. This grant will be money judiciously expended, for the Committees will do justice, and give it only to those who will make a proper use of it. I think it will be best to give the money to the people, as proposed by the hon. member for Malpeque. (Mr. G. Sinclair.) As the general fault is that the people have too many hands, other crops should be cultivated instead. They sell all their oats in the fall, and often have nothing of real value left. If buckwheat were bought up together with potatoes and barley, instead of oats, it would be kept by the people for provision, and would not be so easily sold. They would not be so apt to go to debt for articles, which they might do without, if the seeds most necessary for food were more generally cultivated. As long as oats is the principal grain sown, the people will sell too much grain in the fall, and will be more apt to get involved in debt than when sowing that which is really necessary for food.

HON. MR. DAVIES.—I understood that the Resolution gave power to the Committees to buy up grain, if necessary. They have power to draw the money and give it to the persons in want; but, suppose there are districts where grain cannot be bought, what will be done in these cases? The grain is in the hands of a few persons who have it stored up in the towns, and who will not sell it out in small quantities. If a large quantity is not purchased, parties will be obliged to go without their seed, and, therefore, it should be bought immediately, to accomplish the object of the Government in granting this money. I beg to differ with the hon. member for Prince George's, for, if well-to-do farmers have not enough stored up to supply those who have none, the grain which has been stored up by traders should be purchased immediately for seed.

MR. P. SINCLAIR.—Supposing two thousand bushels were purchased in one part of the Island, it would be hard for all farmers who want seed in procuring seed, that perhaps, a long distance for it. If there was no money, they might be able, in many instances, to go to chase seed near at hand. You might secure seed by buying all the grain from the merchant; but, if the people can make their own bargains, it will be better for the Committees to give them an order on the Government for the money.

HON. MR. HENDERSON.—Would it not be better to let this matter to the discretion of the Committees?

MR. OWEN.—Those who have grain for sale, they can get for it. If a quantity were purchased in a particular place, a poor man would not mind going a quantity to suit all cases, for the Committee would always be able to tell what kind of seed a man required.

HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—It will be better to give money to the parties, and allow them to make their own bargains. We could hardly expect that the Committee would undertake to purchase the grain without being paid for their trouble. Let each man, in need, receive a certain amount, and he can purchase seed where he pleases, and whatever kind he may want, in the cheapest market.

After a few other remarks from hon. members, to the same effect, the Resolution was carried unanimously.

HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL moved another resolution, granting the regular allowances to the members of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, for their attendance during the present Session, to be paid out of the contingent expenses.

MR. McLENNAN.—I have great pleasure in seconding that resolution, and I am only sorry that it is the last of the money. I was expecting before the Committee Supply would rise. I would have seen an item in the grants which is not there, in reference to the district which I represent. I put a notice on the Order Book that I would ask the Government a question about a petition sent in from Summerside. I wanted a small sum from the Government to fence the only Government property in Summerside—the Drill Shed. If there were an Exhibition held there, it would be in and around that building, and, therefore, it should be fenced in. I know that the minority is powerless, although I hope the Government are liberal enough to grant a small sum for that purpose. I think they will admit that the minority have certain rights, and that the majority are not always right. The amount required is not large, and I am a little jealous that some districts are getting so much money, while we are getting so little. The Conservatives granted the City a thousand pounds for a public building, and Georgetown has not only a Market House but a Clerk to do its