

limited operations connected with the purchase and disposal of the Worrell Estate have been so unsatisfactory, the control and management of £100,000 sterling would have been far more prejudicial in their consequences.

Mr. COOPER, having asked if the titles were to be subject to investigation and the terms on which Government would acquire the same.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH—I am not surprised at the persistence of the hon. member. The wonder would be, that he should swerve from the path he has trodden so long. When he says that it is wrong to assume any doubt on account of the purchase of this property, and that the offer should be referred to the Commission, does he expect that better terms will be obtained by waiting? The fact is, I believe, that he would not accept the free transfer of the land, if its acceptance involved the loss of his occupation of acquiring the question of Echeat. If that were granted, and if the lands were declared forfeited, they could not be offered to the people for much less than the price at which they are now offered. I deny that the majority are justly charged with inconsistency in advocating the acceptance of the offer.

Hon. Mr. COLES, having briefly recapitulated his objections to the proposed action of the House, submitted an amendment expressive of his views, as follows:—

Hon. Mr. POPE—The hon. member opposes the purchase for fear that the Government may obtain credit for the benefits they will confer upon the people. His assertion that the majority opposed his taxation for the purpose of converting tenants into freeholders, is a gross misstatement of the facts. The late Government, who had the late Government succeeded in obtaining the loan they tried for, I believe the Colony would have been ruined. Such an opinion is but a legitimate inference from their management of the Worrell Estate. The present Government is in a position very different from that of their predecessors; they do not intend to send parties to report upon the desirability of effecting a purchase, on the completion of which depend the livings of the very persons employed to examine and report upon the property. There is nothing to prevent the Selkirk property being self-sustaining, for while the rents amount to upwards of £1400, the interest on the first cost will be only £400 annually. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition said last night that it would be a good bargain, and should be accepted as a compensation for the Worrell Estate, but now opposes it, and refers the offer to the Commission, on the deliberations of which I believe the offer of Lord Selkirk will have a good effect. I am happy to bear testimony to the fact that the hon. member, Col. Gray, is entitled to the whole credit of the offer having been made; and the people of this colony have cause to be grateful for his exertions in their behalf.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN—I do not often find myself voting differently from the hon. member, Mr. Coles, but if he presses his amendment, a regard for consistency will induce me to vote against it. As to waiting for the Commission to decide upon this offer, I cannot see the propriety of that course, for I have no great faith that it will be in operation, and still less that its operation will be followed by any practical benefit to the tenantry. But supposing that the Commission were in operation, and even were the land liable to be escheated—the proceedings would render the cost to intending purchasers greater than the amount now asked for it. But the probability is, that the Commission would not be in the market when the Commission should sit for it. I believe that the Lord Selkirk will hesitate to accept from private individuals, which he has consented to take from Government. I do not coincide with the hon. member, Mr. Coles, in his opinion that all the credit which may accrue from the acceptance of this offer is due to the hon. member, the Leader of the Opposition. I rather think that they who passed the Land Purchase Bill, and under the provisions of which it is proposed to purchase the property are deserving of any reputation which may accrue from this operation. While I say this I do not hesitate to award all praise for sincerity of purpose to that hon. member, but my hon. friend the leader of the late Government is justly entitled to the credit of the measure which his political opponents have adopted, and I regret that he should appear to regret the measure of such adoption. It ought to be a source of gratification to him to see his opponents acting on his measures. In 1855 the then Commissioner of Public Lands applied to Lord Selkirk to sell his estate to the Government, and I believe his Lordship authorized his agent, Mr. Drouse, to treat for the transfer, which might then have been effected had the Government been prepared to purchase. The Government seek to veil their inconstancy by charges of mismanagement of the Worrell Estate. The Bill under which that purchase was effected, and which they are about to amend, was passed by them before a foot of land had been bought; and had not the present Col. Secretary interfered, it would have been purchased for much less. But notwithstanding these complaints about that property, no evidence has yet been adduced that any loss has been sustained from it. I am prepared to support the resolution of the leader of the Government, and I hope that the management of the Selkirk property may be such as to prevent any necessity for relating upon them charges similar to those they have preferred with reference to the Worrell Estate.

Hon. Mr. COLES' amendment was then put and lost on the following division:—

AYES.—Messrs. Coles and Cooper.—2.
NAYS.—Messrs. Whelan, McAulay, Wightman, Spaker, Joy, Pope, Montgomery, Beer, Gray, Longworth, Haviland, Laird, Howat, Holm and Davies.—15.

Hon. Col. Gray's motion was then put and carried, and a Bill in accordance with it was brought in and read first time.

W. M. HOWE, Reporter.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 27.

DEBATE ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN—It will be in the recollection of the House, that a few days since, I asked the leader of the Government whether they intended to give practical effect to the Bill passed last Session for making the Legislative Council elective. I then stated my intention to move a resolution on this subject, and it is with that object that I now rise. The resolution I submit is proposed with a view of giving hon. members an opportunity of recording their opinions, and not with any expectation that it will be carried; but it is right that the country should know whether the Government intend to carry out in good faith the resolution as follows:—

Resolved, That the Bill having been passed last Session in this House to render the Legislative Council elective, which Bill was granted for general information, and its further consideration having been deferred until the present Session, when the Government were pledged to pass it—taking, in the mean time, such steps as would secure compliance with its provisions, and that a majority of the Legislative Council, that, previous to the commencement of the present Session, the Government were authorized to make such a change in the constitution of the Legislative Council as would be necessary to ensure its election, and that such authority having been exercised with that result:

Resolved, therefore, that if the Government were sincere in proposing to renege the Bill of last Session, they had ample time to do so—before the Bill had been introduced, and agreed to; but having failed to fulfil this promise, it should now be declared independent to entertain, for the present, the proposal to make the Legislative Council elective.

The Government not having stated that it is inexpedient to introduce the Bill at this late period of the session, that declaration should not fairly be taken. Whatever position others may be placed in by their votes on this occasion, the hon. member Mr. Kelly and myself cannot be charged with inconsistency, for we were the only opponents of the Bill. For myself, I am prepared to oppose it again, if it should be reintroduced. I have not been convinced of the policy of applying the elective principle to the Council, and I believe the Government or their agents, otherwise they would have given effect to it ere this. The reason assigned for not proceeding with the measure, is by no means satisfactory; for the necessity of the Bill was declared last Session to be urgent, and the only reason for delay which we then heard, was the futility of sending it to the Council, as that body would be constituted that its rejection would be inevitable, but that reason exists no longer, for the Government have changed the political complexion of the upper branch by the addition of so many members that they have a majority there to carry out their policy. The Council now consists not less than seventeen members, and its composition is in the hands of the Government. I complain not of this increase of authority, but certainly the justification is faulty. For one measure has been rejected by the Council. Why, Sir, year after year that body throw out several measures of the late Government which had passed the House, and no idea of its free instruction on that account was entertained. Another reason assigned is, if possible, more unsatisfactory than that with reference to the loss of the Election Bill. We have been told that the session is too far advanced, and that members are anxious that it should close as soon as possible. I have not—out that we all feel the same anxiety, why could not the Bill have been introduced at the commencement of the Session, and the Government during the two months and a half which have elapsed since that time, have had ample time to increase the Council to its present number and thus have insured its passage. As

the House had adopted the Bill last Session, it would merely have required this year to have passed it through Committee, and the Council would have had ample time to have considered it. If the Government intend to renege the Bill, let them say so; if they adhere to it, let them pass it into Law.

Hon. Col. GRAY—The resolution proposed by the hon. member is very indefinite and evasive. It proposes nothing, and does not indicate the course which he and his party are prepared to take on the question. With reference to the principle of electing the Council, I have on the present occasion conversed with several people on the subject, and they appeared to be tolerably indifferent about its application until they shall see that body systematically obstructing the action of the House. They look with more interest to the Land Commission. The idea of having the Council elective originated in the fact of the great influence over them possessed by the leader of the late Government—namely, that when members were elected by the possession of Government offices. That system is now at an end, and people have confidence in the Council, especially since the infusion of new blood by the appointments recently made of gentlemen of independence. The exclusion of salaried officials from both branches has had the effect of enabling members to hold their seats on equal terms with the tenantry, and motives of self-interest, that was the case under the previous system. Last year it was boasted that the Council had the Government at their mercy, and I have been informed that the rejection of the new School Act and the Revenue Bill has been agreed upon, unless the House shall pay the members of the upper branch. My opinions on the subject of electing the Council have not undergone any change since last Session; but I may mention that I heard from high authority on the other side of the ocean, that the Imperial Government is not altogether satisfied with the working of the elective Legislative Council in Canada. As I do not consider it necessary to detain the House at any length, I will merely move the following amendment:—

Resolved, That as the Legislative Council has but recently been reconstituted, this House do not now deem it expedient to go into the discussion of the Elective Council Bill, the subject being such as would necessarily greatly distract the business of the Session.

Hon. Mr. COLES—I am sorry that the Government has abandoned their measure of last year. Ever since the introduction of responsible Government I have been in favor of the gradual application of the elective principle to the Council, considering it an improvement on the present system. As the hon. Leader of the Government has stated that the Imperial Government is dissatisfied with the working of the elective principle as applied to the Legislative Council in Canada, the inference is that they will not sanction its introduction into any other Colony, and that the Government have a desperate task to effect that result. It is a pity that they are placing members in an awkward position by withholding information which should be tabled, that parties might be aware of the decision of the Imperial authorities and govern themselves accordingly. The House and the people should be in possession of some definite information as to the constitution of the Council, which ought not to be subject to change, and which might find its interest to make. The leader of the Government says that his opinion remains unchanged since last year, but himself and his colleagues and supporters denounced the constitution of the Council in no measured terms, as the published debates will show. It may be convenient to adopt a different course now, but there has been no expression of opinion on the subject since the change. At least I heard about the intended rejection by the Council of the Revenue and School Bills if the members were not paid, I know that such intention did not exist, and proof that I am correct may be found in the fact that last year, notwithstanding all the abuse they received, they passed the Revenue and Appropriation Bills abandoned or that Government measure—the Post Office Bill, their action on which has been approved by the British Government. With reference to my alleged influence over the Council during the time of the late Government, I can safely say that no appointment to that body was made with a view to carry any particular measure, nor was I ever conscious of having the influence applied to me as to the greater independence of the Council since the removal of officials from that body. It contains nearly as many now as formerly. The Judge of Probates, a Sheriff, and Commissioners of Small Debts, have seats there, and the obligations of party are as strong as those of office. If the charge of subserviency applied to the Council during the late Government, it is equally applicable to it as at present constituted; for the Government have nominated now but these are the same as formerly. No sufficient reason has been shown for withdrawing the Bills this Session, and the Government cannot justify their conduct before the country, and they must be considered as having abandoned the measure.

Hon. Col. GRAY—The hon. member misunderstands what I said. I said nothing to justify the inference that the Bill had been abandoned or that Government measure had received a despatch requiring the abandonment of the Bill that I had received a communication from a high authority in England, and I am anxious only communicating with persons high in authority there.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH—The resolution proposed by the hon. member Mr. Whelan is an extraordinary nature, inasmuch as it asserts no political principle and embodies no proposition. The motives which led to its introduction on the part of the hon. member himself, but of which he is the creator of political capital—if he seeks to increase his own popularity or that of his party—or to weaken the position of the Government. I fear he will not be successful. There is nothing to show that the Government has abandoned the principles on which they acted last Session. He probably would like us to act so as to bring on a crisis similar to that which occurred in Canada, and which resulted in the loss of the Revenue Bill. He would fain see the Bill rejected by the Council, that he might have the satisfaction of taunting the Government with inability to carry out their measures. But the Government have acted wisely in constitutionally changing the political complexion of the Council, which is now sufficiently remodelled for all necessary purposes. If the resolution is intended to elicit a declaration of the future policy of the Government, it will fail of its object. The hon. leader of the Opposition has asserted that the recent nominees to the Council are bound to support the measures of the Government. As a member of the Government which nominated them, I only know that they were selected as being gentlemen of intelligence, integrity of character, and personal independence, who would neither vote against the Government, nor as the blind supporters of any particular policy. The hon. gentleman further stated that the nominees of his Government were not selected for the purpose of subserving the interests of his party—that in fact, they were at liberty to act as they thought fit; but what is the conclusion to be drawn from this? Is it that they are to be elected? Was it not conclusive that their whole policy would be of a party complexion? If it was right in that hon. member to select parties entertaining views similar to his own, he should not censure the present Government for following the example he had set. Had he acted differently, it is probable that the necessity for alteration would not have arisen. If we were to draw a continuing line between the Council as formerly composed and the hon. member, I can find it in his assertion that he knows that they did not intend to throw out the Revenue Bill. How should he know the intentions of that body? If he knew what they intended to do, it is but reasonable to infer that his knowledge extended to what they proposed doing, or at least he should be aware of their predetermined rejection of the Elective Bill. This is quite sufficient to justify the Government in the course they have pursued.

COLONIAL.

CANADA.

The Montreal Reception Committee have prepared their programme for the Prince's reception. Complimentary tickets to entertainment are not to exceed five per cent. Extensive and capacious buildings should be erected for a ball and soiree—\$100,000 for that purpose, to be borrowed on the responsibility of the committee, to be covered by the sale of tickets. An extensive excursion of steamboats to meet the Prince in the river at Vercheres or Lavaterie. Triumphal arches to be erected on the line of route along which the Prince will proceed to his intended residence. Illuminations of public buildings during each night of his sojourn, and a general illumination on one special evening. Indian athletic games and races. Grand display of fireworks. Tickets for the grand ball \$10 each, \$5 each for minor performances.

On the occasion of the Prince's visit, and on the day of the inauguration of the Victoria Bridge, the Grand Trunk Company will give the grandest banquet which Canada has ever seen. It will also make the greatest display of fireworks ever witnessed on this continent, for which the leading pyrotechnists of the United States have been hired. An immense laboratory for their manufacture will be fitted up at Point St. Charles.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Wednesday's Gazette contains an official announcement of the time at which the Prince of Wales may be expected to arrive in this country. His Royal Highness will sail from Devonport on the 10th July, on board Her Majesty's Ship *Hero*, and may be expected to arrive in Halifax on the 30th of the same month. He will remain in this city during the 31st of July and 1st of August, and will proceed to New Brunswick and Windsor on the 2d. Returning to Windsor on the 7th, His Royal Highness will proceed by railway to Toronto, and thence to Boston, where he will embark, probably for Charlottetown, and thence to Quebec, although this is not officially announced.

The excitement about the gold diggings at Tangier river still continues, and increases from day to day. During the week numerous specimens have been brought into town, sufficient to establish the fact that gold does exist there, and in considerable quantities. Several hundreds of persons are off to the diggings, prospecting, but with what prospects of being remunerated for their toil does not appear. It is said that there has been some quarrelling among these amateur diggers. A stage coach from Halifax to the diggings is talked of.

UNITED STATES.

LOSS OF THE U. STATES STEAMER "WALKER."

The United States surveying steamer *Walker* was wrecked on the 21st inst., by coming in collision with an unknown schooner off the coast of New Jersey. There were on board in all, sixty-nine persons, including Mrs. Seawell, the wife of the first officer. About twenty of the crew lost their lives. The schooner struck the steamer square abeam, knocking a plate off below the water line, which caused her to fill so rapidly that she went down in 30 minutes after the collision. It was blowing fresh at the time, and the schooner passed on immediately after striking, without being able to communicate with the steamer.

LOSS OF TWENTY LIVES BY A STEAMBOAT DISASTER.—St. Louis, June 25.—About twenty persons were lost on board the steamer *Ben Lewis*.

VISIT OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.—Portland, June 25, 1860.—The City Council this evening voted to extend an invitation to the Prince of Wales to visit the city.

BLOODY FRACAS IN KENTUCKY.—Lexington, Ky., June 25.—There was a fracas at the Potter House, Harrisburg, yesterday. A young man named Miller was shot by Brown, a clerk of the Hotel, and is expected to die. Several shots were fired by other parties.

W. M. HOWE, Reporter.

Gleanings from late Papers.

ABOUT BUCKWHEAT.—About this time, when a fine plate of buckwheat cakes is the first thing looked after at breakfast, it is well enough to ask a few questions about the article. A writer in Hunt's *Marchants' Magazine*, says, considering its good qualities, "It is probably less appreciated than either grain." Writers on agricultural products seem to eschew it as food for man, and regard it only as a miscellaneous adulteration of what flour, as a product of poor soil for cattle. It is of a totally different family of plants from the cereals, and will flourish on sand hill sides which are barren for other and the grain, it is probably the most easily cultivated, and the cheapest bread grain in the world. It is extensively cultivated in Belgium, and some parts of France, where it forms the basis of food for the inhabitants. Through its properties are very different from wheat, it is nevertheless quite as rich in all important constituents. It is, however, less distinguishable, and apt to disagree with a weak stomach, or prurient unaccustomed to it. By analysis, buckwheat is second to wheat in gluten, but deficient in starch. By the addition of one-fourth quantity of oat or Indian meal to buckwheat flour, the flour is very much improved.

HOW IT WAS DONE IN ARKANSAS.—The recent brawl in the House at Washington reminds us of a story we once heard in Arkansas, several years since, which has never been in print. It is no disrespect to the present enlightened and genial State of Arkansas to say that in its incipient or territorial days it was rather rough. It was a common thing for a man to leave the bosom of his family in sound health in the morning, and return dead at night. Cuttings, slashings, and shootings were by no means uncommon. It was dangerous to be safe. The were of daily occurrence. It was dangerous to be a legislator, and the scene enacted by them were very often deadly. A fight arose about something in "the House" one day. The Hon. Mr. Bangor, of Napoleon, called the Hon. Mr. Slanger, of Helena, a liar. The hon. Slanger retorted with a bullet which took off the hon. Bangor's left ear. Both then sprang into the centre of the hall, with drawn bowie-knives. The Speaker said, "By God, if we must have fair play in this business!" and rushed out with a cocked pistol in one hand and a tremendous "tooth-pick" in the other, and in tones of thunder commanded the representatives to form a ring. A ring was formed, and, in the classic of the times, the combatants "went in." They cut each other frightfully, and for a spell it was difficult to decide who was the better man. But finally Bangor, by an adroit thrust, cut off Slanger's head, and instant death was the consequence. Mr. Slanger remains being removed and order restored, Mr. Bangor rose and said, "It is my painful duty to announce to this House the death of the Hon. Wm. Slanger, of Helena. He was good at draw-poker and faro, and wasn't of no account at legislation. He was middlin' on horses. He put on too many scollars. He had no family," tearing his brother out of Slanger's head, and instant death was the consequence. 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