DOOR-KEEPER.

Hon. Mr. Walker moved that Mr. John Hobbs be appointed Door-Keeper to this House.

Hon. Mr. Palmer moved an amendment that Mr. Hugh Perkin, the present Door-keeper, be continued.

The House divided upon the amendment—

Contents—Hon. Messrs. Palmer, Balderston, Beer, Anderson and Gordon—5.

Non-Contents—Hon. Messrs. McDonald, Dingwell, Walker, Lord, Haythorne and Muirhead—6.

So the amendment was lost, and the original motion passed in the affirmative.

COMMITTEES.

The following Committees were then appointed:

To regulate the expenditure of the House: Hon. Mr. Lord and Hon. Mr. Walker.

To receive tenders for printing and binding the Journals; Hon. Mr. McDonald and Hon. Mr. Balderston.

To make arrangements for the publication of the debates: Hon. Mr. Beer and Hon. Mr. Haythorne.

To-morrow being Good Friday, the House adjourned till Saturday at eleven o'clock.

SATURDAY, April 20th, 1867.

COMMMITTEES.

The following standing committees were appointed:

On engrossed Bills—Hon. Mr. Beer, Hon. Mr. Walker and Hon. Mr. Gordon.

To revise the Journal of the House each day—Hon. Mr. McDonald and Hon. Mr. Balderston.

To examine what laws have expired or are about to expire—Hon. Mr. Palmer and Hon. Mr. Lord.

COMMUNICATION.

Hon. the President informed the House that he had received a communication from Mr. Archibald McNeill, Superintendant of the Charlottetown reading room, granting the members of the Council free access to that institution during the session.

FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. McDonald, it was

"*Resolved*, That the postage on all letters and printed papers, both foreign and inland, to members of this House, and the postage on the same when inland only, from members of this House, shall be charged to the contingent accounts of the House."

ADDRESS—ANSWER TO SPEECH.

Hon. Mr. Walker, chairman of the committee appointed to prepare an address in answer to His Excellency's Speech, presented the following draft thereof:—

To His Excellency George Dundas, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects the Legislative Council in General Assembly convened, thank your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present session.

Although the period of our meeting has been unusually late, owing to the ministerial arrangements which were the result of the General Election, we will cheerfully devote to the business of the Session sufficient time to enable us to mature such measures as the exigencies of the Colony, and its Public Service may require.

We are gratified to learn that during the recess extensive estates have been purchased, and that your Excellency's efforts are directed towards extending the action of the Land Purchase Bill to such parts of this Island as have not yet participated in its benefits, and we trust that your endeavours to buy out the interest of the remaining proprietors to the extent contemplated will be fully successful; and in aid of this most desirable object we will readily concur in the vote of whatever funds may be necessary for its accomplishment.

The important question of Education is one to which we will be prepared to give our serious attention, with the view of improving the system by which it is at present managed, and rendering it more efficient and more extensively useful than it has hitherto proved.

We shall most gladly co-operate with your Excellency in all such measures as can be devised for the development of local industry, and the improvement of the Agriculture of the Colony.

In entering upon the consideration of the present imperfect state of the Public Highways, we will most willingly assist with our earnest endeavours in maturing such a measure as we think will be best calculated to improve the system under which that branch of the public service is at present managed.

The draft address was made the "order of the day" for Monday next.

Adjourned till Monday next, at eleven o'clock.

MONDAY, April 22nd.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole to take into consideration the address in answer to His Excellency's Speech—Hon. Mr. Walker in the Chair.

First and *Second* paragraphs agreed to.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. McDonald, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Palmer, the third paragraph, on being read, was separated into two distinct paragraphs, and were then, together with the fifth, severally agreed to.

Sixth paragraph.

Hon. Mr. BEER: I am pleased to see that paragraph in the Speech. There is not much debating ground in the speech as a whole; but something might be said upon this clause relating to local industry, and I hope and trust it will be acted upon by the present Government—that they will assist in developing the resources of the colony. There are several things to which their attention will soon be directed; some of which indeed were initiated by the late Government. An amount of money was appropriated by the late Government for the importation of a boreing machine to ascertain whether we had anything valuable beneath our soil. That amount should be expended, and even a larger amount if required, so as to have the question set at rest. A sum of money was also appropriated to have a survey of the ground between Traveadie Harbour and the Head of the East River, so as to ascertain what it would cost to construct a Canal between those two places. The distance is but short, and such a Canal would be a great advantage to a large number of inhabitants. I hope to see the day when such a Canal will be an accomplished fact, and also one from the head of Richmond Bay to Bedeque Harbour. It would facilitate the business of the colony generally, and especially the fishing business. If those places were surveyed by a competent person we would have an estimate of the cost of constructing the Canals. We also require to have one or two dredging machines. I think we should have one immediately, for some of our harbours are filling up, so that vessels cannot load now where they could a few years ago. The introduction of cloth mills I am glad to see taken up by private parties. I think the Government should also import machinery for scutching flax. I am satisfied that a good article of flax can be raised here, and if something were given to assist persons in importing machinery it would be money well spent. I think we should also have a few thousand bushels of Canadian spring wheat imported for seed. It is a pity it was not done this year, but the season is now too far advanced. I am glad that this subject has been brought to our notice in His Excellency's speech, and I am also glad that we have some practical agriculturists in the Government, such as my honorable colleague (Mr. Haythorne). I hope we will soon see some good results from the changes which have taken place lately.

Hon. Mr. HAYTHORNE: As my honorable colleague has alluded to me, I feel myself called upon to make a few observations. There have been some paragraphs read which I think no honor has lost sight of. Without time and money the Government, even with the best intentions, cannot inaugurate very extensive improvements; especially as they are yet without reliable information respecting the state of our finances. Perhaps this paragraph is rather loosely worded, but I believe it refers mainly to an exhibition of articles of local industry, and also to the encouragement of the fisheries. As to agricultural improvements, I think the large establishment near Charlottetown has cost the country a great deal without corresponding benefits. His honor, my colleague, is one of the managers of that establishment, and I think he should have enlightened us a little as to the working of it; but up to the time of the last meeting of the Executive Council we had no report from the Model Farm. I think it is founded upon wrong principles. I do not consider it sound policy to encourage one branch of local industry at the expense of others. I am doubtful of the expediency of devoting attention exclusively to the raising of stock. His honor speaks of the importation of seed wheat, and I think the raising of seed would be worthy of the attention of that establishment. If the Government had been in possession of a report they would be able to speak more definitely as to the course they intended to pursue with regard to that institution. I admit the expediency, or rather the advantage, of canals, but I do not think the country is at present in a position to warrant such an expenditure as their construction would entail. With regard to the cultivation of flax, I dare say at some future time it will be an important branch of local industry; but I think the action of the late Government should be a warning to us. It was about to be inaugurated by private parties when the Government interposed, and it was left in their hands. It was sown in considerable quantities by farmers in different parts of the country, and they had only the seed for their trouble. From what experience I have acquired in different parts of England and Ireland, I am convinced that this is an advantageous country in which to raise flax. It does not require much outlay of capital. The machinery is simple and inexpensive. From personal observation I can testify that a small sum of money, perhaps £200 sterling, would be sufficient to import machinery for each county. I think, however, that it would be more desirable to have it undertaken by private enterprise than by the Government, because if such a grant were given for the encouragement of one branch of local industry, others would probably be applying for similar aid. I believe machinery would have been imported by private enterprise if it had not been for the interference of the Government at a critical time. Dredging *machines are, no doubt, desirable to improve* our harbors, as well as for the purpose of raising manure to enrich our fields, large deposits of which are found in our Bays and Rivers, and which is well adapted to our present purposes and necessities. I hope and trust that it will be more extensively used; but at the same time I do not think it is the province of the Government to import those machines for private use. It would be well, however, for the Government to make the necessary outlay for deepening and improving our harbors. Perhaps I should apologise for the clause under consideration not being more distinct, but the reason for its obscurity is that the Government was not in possession of all the facts that would render our course more clear and definite.

Hon. Mr PALMER: I was glad to see a clause of that kind in His Excellency's speech, and I do not know that I should have found fault with it for not being more distinct. It is sufficient to bring those questions before the members of the Legislature with whom it is supposed to rest to devise such means as will carry out those objects. Now, with regard to some of those public undertakings, I have frequently concurred in the sentiments expressed by his honor from Belfast (Mr. Beer), but I am sorry to say that, in some of the ideas to which he has just given utterance, I cannot coincide. I am of opinion that at present, and for many years to come, the benefit resulting from canals would bear a very small proportion *to the expense and heavy taxation which would* be entailed upon the people by their construction. With regard to procuring dredging machines at public expense, I am of a different opinion. Since I have seen the benefit of these machines, I am of opinion that it is desirable for the Government to try the experiment of importing one. I do not think there is any way in which the Government could so much advance the interests of the people, and especially of the agricultural portion of the community as by facilitating the means of exporting their produce. When a farmer is successful in raising a large quantity of produce he often finds great difficulty, owing to the state of our roads, in bringing it to market. I am of opinion that if our many inlets and harbours were attended to, many places would be found which, with the aid of a dredging machine, might be rendered fit for the admission of vessels suitable for carrying produce, and thereby a vast and lasting benefit would be conferred upon the people at large. Looking at these experiments as they have been tried here, I feel assured that *nothing we could engage in would be more satisfactory* or pay better. I have brought it to the notice of the late Government, and it was my desire that they would appropriate a sum of money *to procure one of those machines, so as to deepen* the water of our harbours and let vessels come to places where they cannot approach at present. I have great objection to experimenting too much *with Government means, but I think this one* might be safely embarked in; and I am convinced that £2,000 appropriated in this way would yield valuable returns. With respect to the cultivation of flax I agree with a good deal of what has been said, but it is more a matter for private enterprise than for government speculation. The model farm I think should be kept up, for I am convinced that raising stock in this country is more economical than importing it. As to the improvement of seed grain, that is a matter which should rest more especially with the Agricultural Society, which is an incorporated body, and one of the public institutions of the country. There is no doubt but the importation of seed grain would be an advantage. I am sorry that the Society has fallen off so much within the last few years, for I can see that it has been an advantage to the country. I hope, however, to see it recussitated, and large importations of seed grain made by it, oats as well as wheat. I think if we had some oats imported from Great Britain or some of the Northern countries of Europe it would soon show itself in this Island. I do not think there would be much difference of opinion between parties respecting those improvements, though there might be some diversity of opinion as to the best means of carrying them out. I have always supported objects of this kind and will continue to do so while I have a seat in this House.

Hon. Mr. BEER: I am pleased to hear that it *is the intention of the Government to do some*thing towards an industrial exhibition, for I am of opinion that such exhibitions have been attended with beneficial effects in years past. They have *induced private parties to manufacture articles* which would otherwise have been imported. I will certainly give the undertaking my support, as well as any other which has for its object the advancement of local industry. In speaking of the necessity for dredging machines, I might mention the Harbour of St. Peter's and also Wood Islands, at both of which places the inhabitants have done a good deal themselves and I think they should be assisted. As regards the stock farm, no doubt there will be a report laid before the Executive Government, giving a retrospective view of what has been done, though there is not much to be said, as it is an experiment which is only in its infancy. We found the land very much out of order, as well as the fences and buildings, so that a large expenditure was necessary, much larger than was anticipated by those who undertook the management of it. However, the prospects are looking brighter, and I hope we will soon be able to present a more favourable report than we can at present.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, April 22.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL moved that the House do adopt the usual Resolution touching the distribution of a certain number of copies of the Journals. In submitting which, he observed that it would be necessary to forward copies to the Governmental departments of the Provinces recently Confederated.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND asked the Hon. Attorney General if he admitted that Confederation was a fixed fact.

Hon. Mr. DUNCAN remarked that the people of Nova Scotia were driven into Confederation without their consent—they were denied the privilege of an appeal to the polls.

Mr. HOWAT did not see the necessity of re*cognizing the Confederated Government*, as it was termed, for it could scarcely be said that it had as yet an existence—certainly it was not yet in working order, and, therefore, it was un*necessary on the part of that House to give it any* hasty recognition.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES said the fact that the Bill for Confederating Canada and the two Maritime Provinces had passed the Imperial Parliament, and received Her Majesty's Royal assent, rendering it necessary that the House should recognize it. He thought the views of some hon. members of the Opposition must have been considerably modified on the question of Confederation, for it appeared that they had nominated the Hon. Mr. Haviland, who was a strong Confederate, as their Leader.

After some further remarks from hon. members, the resolution was put and agreed to.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND remarked that the names of the new Administration had not been announced to the House, nor was it made known whom hon. members should address as Leader of the Government.

Hon. Mr HENSLEY, Attorney General, replied, and read the names of His Excellency's responsible advisers. He remarked that the Hon. Mr. Coles, Colonial Secretary and President of the Executive Council, having just been triumphantly elected by the people, would in a few days be able to take his seat as the Leader of the Government.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

DEBATE ON THE DRAFT ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

On motion of Hon. Mr. KELLY the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, to take into consideration the Draft Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Session.—Mr. BELL *in the Chair.*

The 1st paragraph was agreed to without remark.

On the 2d paragraph being read—

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY rose to move its adoption, and said:—Mr. Chairman: this clause may not meet with the approval of all hon. members, though I am unable to see that any one can raise against it a valid objection. It does not censure any party; it simply states a fact. While it says that "the late time at which it was deemed advisable to dissolve the last Assembly, and the Ministerial arrangements resulting from the General Election," prevented His Excellency from summoning the House at an earlier period, it does not cast the least reflection upon the late Government. We charitably suppose that they had good reason for delaying the Election. But, as some eight or ten months of the most suitable season of the year for holding it, elapsed before the House was dissolved, a satisfactory explanation of the matter, from some of His Excellency's late advisers, would, no doubt, be gratifying to hon. members, as well as to the people generally. As you are aware, Sir, the "ministeriall arrangements" referred to in the clause, are those rendered necessary by the resignation of the late Government and its principal officers, whose places had to be filled up to carry on the public business of the Colony. Those hon. members who accepted offices of emolument, of course, had to vacate their seats; and, *though the writs for the Elec*tions, in such cases, were made returnable as soon as possible, delay in calling the Legislature together was impossible. We do not wish to attach blame to the late party in power; we merely express our willingness, notwithstanding the lateness of the Session, to devote a sufficient time to mature such measures as the exigencies of the *Colony and the public service may require.* It, however, would afford me pleasure to hear from two hon. members present (Messrs. Duncan and Henderson), who held seats at the late Executive Board, an explanation of the reason why the General Election was so long delayed. It is surmised that the late Government deferred the dissolution of the Assembly until Confederation might be matured; but as those two hon. members are understood to be decidedly opposed to that measure, they could not have consented to the delay on any such ground.

Hon. Mr. MCAULAY.—Mr. Chairman, I cannot but admire the moderation of the hon. gentleman who has just resumed his seat! At first he was not going to cast any reflection upon the late Government, but he concluded his speech by calling upon them to give an account of their actions. Conduct like this is unparliamentary. *Never before*, I believe, has such a thing occurred in any country, as an incoming Government attempting to call their predecessors to account on the floors of the Legislature. A new light has dawned upon the world since the advent of the present Government party to power, and I hope it will benefit from the faint illumination which that light affords. It is contrary to parliamentary rule for one House to refer to the proceedings of another. But the hon. member's allusion to the acts of the late Government seems merely intended to cover the misdeeds of his own party. He complains of the lateness of the Session, and throws all the blame upon His Excellency's former advisers. His excuse will not stand the test of investigation. The General Election was held on the 26th of February, and the House was not summoned to meet until the 18th of April. Why the delay? The pleading about ministerial arrangements will not satisfy the public. Were the Officers of the late Government asked to retain their places for a few months, until the business of the Session could be got over? The real fact of the case appears to be that the leaders of the party now in power were so anxious to obtain office, that, rather than forego the sweets of emolument for a few weeks, they were prepared to put the people to expense, and the country members to great inconvenience. I will not move any amendment to the paragraph under consideration, but I hope that the Hon. Attorney General will adhere to parliamentary rule more strictly in the future.

Mr. BRECKEN.—I regret that the hon. Leader of the Opposition is not in his place; if he were, I have no doubt he would satisfy the Hon. Attorney General respecting the delay in holding the General Election, which seems to cause that hon. member so much uneasiness. I believe, however, that his surmise was pretty nearly correct; that the late Government deemed it advisable to delay the Election until the intentions of the Imperial Government, with respect to the position this Island would occupy in regard to Confederation, should be made known. Though I am opposed to Confederation, I believe the policy of the late Administration, in waiting to ascertain the decision of the Home Government on that question, was a sound one. It was but right that the people of this Island should be made aware of what the Imperial Government purposed to do with them, before they were required to go to the polls. This is a small Colony; and, though we objected to enter the proposed Confederation, it was possible that the authorities at Home might resolve to include us in the Bill then about to be brought before Parliament. The people, I think, will not blame the late Government for delaying the Election until the public mind was relieved upon that point. It would have been unwise to put the country to the expense of a General Election, without knowing what would *be our future fate. But, Mr. Chairman*, if I recollect rightly, the late Government placed their resignations in His Excellency's hands some ten or twelve days before their successors were appointed, therefore the very late period at which the Session was called could not be altogether attributable to the time at which the Election was held. And, after the Government was formed, and they had placed their friends in office, there was apparently no occasion for delaying the opening of the Session until last week. They were strong—at least numerically so, whether really strong or not. The had nineteen to eleven of the Opposition—or eighteen to twelve—a question which I suppose the hon. member for Tryon alone can solve; consequently the absence of two or three members from their seats should not have delayed the public business. But I suppose we must accept the explanation in the paragraph under consideration, that "ministerial arrangements."—or perhaps more properly, *ministerial difficulties*—prevented an earlier call of the House. We know, Sir, from the declaration of the hon. Leader of the Government himself, at the late nomination, that his present supporters in the Legislature are composed of all political parties; therefore it is easy to understand how difficulties may arise. The paragraph before the Committee is moderate; and, indeed, the whole Address is moderate; and, had it not been for the allusion made by the Hon. Attorney General to the course *pursued by the late Government in reference to* the General Election, I would not have troubled this hon. Committee so early in the debate.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—The hon. member for Charlottetown has stated that the reason the late Administrators delayed the Election, was in order to ascertain what action the Home Government intended to take on Confederation. This is a very extraordinary excuse to offer. Did they suppose or desire that the Imperial Government would force us into Confederation? The British Parliament would not be so unjust as to sanction such an act. We are in as independent a position as any of the States in the neighboring Republic; and our independent rights cannot properly be taken from us. But the British Government never wished to coerce us into Confederation. Those who held up this idea, were the men who wished that this Island might be legislated into the Union without the people's consent. The Home Government could not rightfully deprive us of our separate Government, unless we had violated the constitution of the Colony. And I believe this is what the late Government attempted to impress upon the Home authorities, when they sent for troops to quell what they represented to be a disturbance among the tenantry, thereby bringing the Island into discredit. To state that the late Administration delayed the election until it was known whether this Colony would be included in it or not, is as much as to say that they believed the Legislature of this Island to be a farce, and our constituents not a free people.

Mr. BRECKEN.—Mr. Chairman, I agree with the hon. member for Belfast, that it was not at all probable that the Home Government would take away the Constitution of the Colony without our consent. But the Government did not know what instructions His Excellency might, almost *at any moment*, receive. He might have been instructed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to dissolve the House, and test the opinion of the country on the question of Confederation. Suppose that he had received such instructions a week or two after the Election was over, would not the country have thought that the Government of the day had been too hasty in making an appeal to the people? I am just as prepared as the hon. member to stand up for the rights of the Colony; but considering our insignificance, I cannot admit that we are so independent of the Mother Country as he has asserted. The object of the late Government, he also stated, seemed to be to bring discredit or a stigma upon the Colony. This was caused, he says, by their sending for the troops. The Tenant Union disturbances are no doubt looked upon by him as a very trifling affair. He did not condescend to inform us whether he was a member of that organization or not; but I know, Sir, that when a procession of that body paraded the streets of Charlottetown, they halted *opposite the hon. gentle*man's business establishment, and gave him a groan. He appeared at the door before them, and received the honor with a countenance radiant with the smiles of patriotism. I am not going to say this hon. committee at present to discuss whether the nature of the disturbances which arose out of the great Tenant League agitation were such as to justify the late Government in *sending for troops*. I will merely say that if the hon. member for Belfast sincerely believes that the action in the matter was intended or calcuted to bring the Colony into disgrace, he ought now, since he is a member of the Government, have introduced a paragraph into His Excellency's speech to carry out the objects of this Tenant Association which he countenanced and supported. A little pepper in the Speech would have been an improvement. I was not at the hon. member's elbow through his election campaign, but have been informed that the League had not a little to do with his presence here. If, then, Sir, he owes his seat in this House to the influence of that organization, why has he not something in this Address on the subject, even supposing he could not desire a place for it in the speech from the Throne? I fear, Sir, that having ridden into the House on that political horse, he has turned it away, never more to be heard of until the next Election day comes round. I can only compare his conduct to a man who has undertaken a long journey on foot, and *finding himself fatigued* and almost despairing of reaching his destination he meets with a horse which he coaxes with little provender, leaps on his back, rides to the end of his journey, and then *turns him adrift. So* the hon. member with the Tenant organization: he gave it a few political oats, and encouraged it to help him along, but having served his purpose, he has now quietly forgotten its claims. He may declaim about the troops and the acts of the late Government, but now after having become one of His Excellency's sworn advisers he will discover that he must pursue the same policy in maintaining law and order as was adopted by the conservative party. It is rumored that the British troops are to be withdrawn from the other Provinces after they are confederated. If so, the which are here will also be called away. Should the hon. member for Belfast then ascertain that law and order can not be maintained in its Colony, except at the point of the bayonette, I think, will conclude that we are not so independent as he at present imagines.

Hon. Mr. DUNCAN.—The subject of the Tenant League having been brought forward by the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Davies), one of the members of the Government, it is, Mr. Chairman, no harm in the Opposition to mention it. The conduct of the hon. colleague, in regard to the Tenant association, has been, I think, somewhat strange. In fact, he has merely used that body as *means of going into power, and even in* his canvass before the late Election, he regulated his speeches in regal to the Land Question and the rights of the Teantry very much by the character of the people whom he happened to be addressing. He should not, I think, have alluded to this question at all and I wonder that he has done so. But, Sir, returning to the paragraph under discussion, why didnot the present Government, if they desired to call the Legislature at an earlier period, wait a few weeks before appointing their principal officers from the members on the floor of the House? Could not some of these appointments have been postponed until the House had risen, and thereby no delay be occasioned? But the Address throughout follows the policy of the late Government—that policy which the present Government at the late Election found so much fault with, but which now they appear ready to carry out. I, for my part, Mr. Chairman, see nothing objectionable in this paragraph, but am surprised at my hon. colleague's allusions to the Tenant League. It is plain that he has merely used that organization as a means of getting into the Government, and that he will now have no further use for the tenantry until he again calls upon them at another Election.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—I wish, Mr. Chairman, to make a few remark regarding the defence of the hon. member for Charlottetown, with respect to the action of the late Government in delaying the General Elections. The observations which have fallen from that gentleman would lead us to believe that had certain news come from England regarding Confederation the House would never have been called. This is but a poor defence of the action of the Government, and is equal to saying that its members were willing to sell their country and prove traitors to the trust reposed in them. And is not the party carrying out the same policy still? Have not the Opposition chosen the hon. and learned member for Georgetown, a red hot Unionist, as their leader, thus showing their leanings to the Confederation Scheme? With regart to what my hon. colleague (Mr. Duncan) has said of my connection with the Tenant League, I may tell him that I am now in this House through the influence of that body, though many of its members voted for me. It is true that I at first supported the Tenants in their demands, but had afterwards cause to disapprove of many of their acts. The hon. member's rambling allusions to my canvass and election in Belfast have not very much weight. He clearly expected to carry all Belfast before him, but failed in the attempt.

Mr. BRECKEN.—In the explanation which I gave of the probable cause of the delay in issuing the Writs for the General Election, I merely stated that, in my opinion, that delay was occasioned by a desire on the part of the late Government to postpone the Elections until something *more definite was known on the subject of Con*federation; but I did not wish to convey the impression that they were waiting in order to sell their country. Even if disposed to take such action on Confederation, they would first have had to submit it to the Legislature; and I therefore do not see that they were in a position to act as traitors, even were they so inclined. Much, Mr. Chairman, has been said about the Opposition's having chosen the hon. member for Georgetown, (Mr. Haviland) who is a Confederate, as their leader, but I cannot think it consistent in the hon. member for Belfast to condemn them for doing so when the party of which he is a member offered the highest honor in this House which they could confer upon the same Confederate gentleman, namely, the Speaker's Chair. And has not the Government of which he is a member appointed a gentleman who is a strong Confederate to the most lucrative office in their gift? That gentleman has since lost his Election, and I am sorry that such is the case. The Queen's Printer has always been a credit to the House, and I would not have the slightest objection to seeing him now on the floor, for I have always respected him, strongly though he has denounced the policy of the Conservative party. I consider that the Liberal party—if such a party exists—acted rightly in appointing Mr. Whelan; I merely object to the inconsistency of hon. members who made that appointment, now finding fault with the Opposition for selecting their ablest and most experienced member as Leader, even though he be a Confederate.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—The hon. member who *has just spoken considers that I cannot*, with any degree of consistency, approve of Mr Whelan's appointment as Queen's Printer, and yet condemn the Opposition for choosing the hon. member for Georgetown (Mr. Haviland) as their Leader. It is well known that Mr. Whelan had strong claims upon the Liberal party. He ran his Election, was returned, and then applied for the Printership; but before that office was giving him he renounced his former opinions in favor of Confederation, and promised to oppose the measure in the House, if again elected. It appears, however, that, on his returning to his constitutents, they were not satisfied with his promise, and rejected him; and, I am proud as a politician, they did so, though I myself believe that, had Mr. Whelan been again returned, he would have opposed Confederation. But the case is different in regard to Mr. Haviland. The Opposition have chosen him unpledged, and he will still support Confederation.

SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, April 22.

Hon. Attorney General moved that the House do adopt the usual Resolution touching the distribution of a certain number of copies of the Journals.

In submitting which, he observed that it would be necessary to forward copies to the Governmental departments of the Provinces recently Confederated.

Hon. Mr. Haviland asked the Hon. Attorney General if he admitted that Confederation was a fixed fact.

Hon Attorney General, in reply, said certainly, as far as it related to Canada and the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Hon. Mr. Duncan remarked that the people of Nova Scotia were driven into Confederation with out their consent—they were denied the privilege of an appeal to the Polls.

Mr. Howat did not see the necessity of recognizing the Confederated Government, as it was termed, for it could scarcely be said that it had, as yet, an existence—certainly it was not yet in working order, and, therefore, it was unnecessary on the part of that House to give it any hasty recognition.

Hon. Mr Davies said the fact that the Bill for Confederating Canada and the two Maritime Provinces had passed the Imperial Parliament, and had received Her Majesty's Royal assent rendered it necessary that the House should recognize it. He thought the views of hon members of the Opposition must have been considerably modified on the question of Confederation, for it appeared they had nominated the Hon. Mr. Haviland, who was a strong Confederate, as their Leader.

After some further remarks from Hon. members, the resolution was put and agreed to.

Hon. Mr Haviland remarked that the names of the new Administration had not been announced to the House, nor was it made known whom hon. members should address as Leader of the Government.

Hon Mr. Hensley, Attorney General, replied and read the names of His Excellency's responsible advisers. He remarked that the Hon. Mr. Coles, Colonial Secretary, and President of the Executive Council, having just been triumphantly elected by the people would, in a few days, be able to take his seat as the Leader of the Government.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Kelly, the House went into Committee of the whole on the Draft Address in answer to his Excellency's Speech. Mr. Bell in the Chair.

The whole Address having been read by the Chairman, the first Paragraph was again read and agreed to.

When the adoption of the second paragraph was moved by the Hon. Attorney General, he remarked upon the inconvenient season at which the late Parliament was dissolved, and said that any explanatory remarks from hon. members in the opposition, especially from those who were members of the late Government, which they might choose to make, he would be glad to hear, as to the cause of the late period at which the General Election took place. It had been rumoured that the delay was caused by a desire to ascertain what course to adopt relative to *the subject of Confederation* then before the Conference held in England. It was not his desire to cast reflections on the late Government touching that point, but he contended that an explanation was desirable.

Hon. Mr. McCaulay replied to the effect, that the explanation sought for was contrary to Parliamentary usages.

Mr. Brecken—Assuming that the rumor alluded to was correct, was it not advisable that the country should know the decision of the Imperial authorities on that important subject.

Hon. Mr. Davies was surprised at the reply given by the Hon. Mr. McAulay. It was also, he said, extraordinary to think that the con*stitution of this independent Colony* should be destroyed by any action that might be taken on Confederation by the Home Government. The people of this Island, he said, were misrepresented, touching their loyalty *to the authorities at home*, with the view of coercing them into Confederation: and, in proof of his remarks, alluded to the bringing of a portion of Her Majesty's troops to the Colony.

A lenghty debate then ensued, in which several hon. members on both sides of the House took part.

During the debate the Tenant Union and Political Alliance Associations, exclusion of office holders from the floor of the House, the Departmental system, and the principles of Responsible Government generally, were freely discussed, as were also the several actions of the Conservative and Liberal party relative to their policy in conducting the Government of the Colony since the year 1858.

Hon. Mr. Henderson and Mr. Prowse, from the Opposition, and the Hon. Mr. Laird and Mr. McNeill, from the Government side of the House, addressed the Committee for the first time. Their addresses were listened to with marked attention.

At a late hour the paragraph in the address under consideration was *unanimously adopted*. After which progress was reported and the House adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, April 23.

Hon. Attorney General, from the Committee on expiring Laws, presented the first report of said Committee, and moved that it be made the order of the day to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Haviland, leader of the Opposition, said that in the report just read, he observed one law had expired named in the report, the immediate consideration of which was necessary. He would therefore move that the House do now go into Committee on the report.

Hon. Attorney General supported the motion. Mr. George Sinclair in the chair.

The House in Committee reported the following Resolution agreed to, namely:—

That it is expedient to revive, continue and amend the law relating to the limits and rules of Jails in this Island.

A Committee was then appointed to bring in a Bill in accordance therewith.

On motion of Mr. Brecken, Mr. John Yeo obtained leave of absence for one week.

The House in Committee of the whole resumed the consideration of the Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech. The paragraph relating to the purchase of Proprietary lands was read.

Hon. Attorney General moved the adoption of that clause, and expressed his desire to see the leasehold system entirely abolished. He was favorable to the obtaining of a loan as a means for providing funds for the payment of lands, and was of the opinion that the Cunard Estate, purchased by the late Government might have been secured under the provisions of a Loan Bill, on terms more favorable to the tenantry, and less damaging to the interests of the Colony, than those adopted relative to that purchase.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition said he did not intend to move any amendment to the paragraph under consideration with which he found no fault. He contended, however, that the Conservative party had evinced as great a desire to enfranchise the people of this Colony as ever the Liberal party did. The Land Purchase Act was never made a party measure, as could be seen on reference to the records of that House. The Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, much as it had been condemned, conferred incalculable benefits on many of the tenantry whose arrears of rents was remitted by its provisions—rents that to his knowledge could have been collected, especially from many of the tenantry on the Cunard and Montgomery Estates, were by the provisions of that Bill cancelled. He reviewed the opinions of the Hon. Attorney General regarding a loan, and differed with him (the Atty. Gen.) on that question. He alluded to the extension of the privileges of the Land Purchase Bill by the late Government, and the purchase of the Cunard Estates under its provisions, effected without any material sacrifice—in proof of which he quoted the credit of the Colony. True, he said, commercial embarrassments were felt, but that was not attributable to the purchase of Proprietary lands, but the result of overtrading.

Hon. Mr. McAulay supported the views of the Hon. Mr. Haviland, and was also of opinion that money could not be obtained in England for the purposes in question, on terms that could prove any other than disastrous to the interests of the Colony.

Hon. Mr. Duncan said the Treasurer's Books up to the 1st of this month, would show the favorable position in which the Financial affairs of the Colony was left by the late Government, considering the heavy drain on its resources by the purchase of the Cunard and other Estates. He expected to hear that the Land Question would now be finally settled by the Tenant League; but it would appear that the great object of those who pretended so much sympathy with that movement was to get into the House of Assembly, and now that their ambition was gratified, he was inclined to believe that but little mention would be made of that organization.

Hon. Mr. Howlan, in replying to the hon. leader of the Opposition, alluded to the sentiments published in the *Islander*, the organ of the Conservatives, in 1853, expressive of the opposition of that party to the principles of the Land Purchase Act, and read extracts from that paper condemnatory of the actions of the Liberal party who introduced that measure. He spoke of the crippled state of the trade of the country as the result of the mode adopted for the payment of the Cunard Estate—the purchase of which, he was given to believe, would fall at least ten thousand pounds short of being a self-paying transaction.

Mr. Brecken—The depression of trade was felt to some extent previously to the purchase of the Cunard Estates, and no doubt the withdrawal of so large a sum as that purchase involved from the ordinary channels, tended to increase that depression. If a loan for the payment of Proprietory lands could be obtained on reasonable terms, he could see no objection to the measure.

Mr. McNeill replied to the remarks of the Hon. Mr. Duncan, touching the motives alleged to the friends of the Tenant League movement. Had that hon. member, he said, fairly investigated the motives which actuated the supporters of that organization, he would have arrived at very different conclusions.

Hon. Mr. Laird said that the soil of any Colony should be its capital; that was not the case with this Island; it was, therefore, but right that funds should be obtained to relieve its financial difficulties.

Mr. Peter Sinclair observed that he had listened with much interest to the debate on that paragraph in the Address under consideration. It was very evident that the Land Purchase Act was the most practical and efficient means ever adopted for the settlement of the land question, and the present leader of the Government was entitled to the credit of introducing that measure. He concurred with the remarks of the Hon. Attorney General regarding the obstructions to the Banks as the result of withdrawing the circulating medium to pay for purchased estates. He commented on the great advantages of banking accommodations to farmers, who gave joint notes, and getting discount, were enabled to purchase their flour and other supplies at a saving of 25 per cent. He repudiated the allusions of the Hon. Mr. Duncan in reference to the Tenant League, and favored the borrowing of money on terms as proposed on the loan principle, by which relief of financial difficulties might be effected.

House adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

House in Committee resumed consideration of Address in answer to His Excellency's speech. The paragraph touching the purchase of Proprietary lands continued the subject of debate.

Hon. Mr. Davies addressed the Committee for upwards of one hour, during which he reviewed the principles enunciated by the several past, as well as present, political parties of the Colony in relation to the settlement of the Land Qustion. He spoke of the course which he pursued when he first had the honor of a seat in the House of Assembly. He was at that time fully convinced that the Escheat party had the good of the country at heart, and he was free to confess that he gave them his support. He spoke of the forfeiture of original grants, which were but like leases, giving lands subject to certain conditions which were never fulfilled. He touched upon the introduction of Responsible Government, the conditions on which that system was ceded the adoption of the Land Purchase Bill, the Land Commission, and Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, and contrasted the *actions of the Liberal party* with those of the Proprietary party, and contended that the former had always evinced a greater desire for the extinction of the leasehold system than did the Conservatives, who, he said, had always been allied to the Proprietary faction. He had always entertained the belief that a Court for the investigation of titles could be established, and he had fought hard for that principle; but finding that the people, who had been from time to time deceived, would not support him in his efforts, he was induced to relinquish the advocacy of that measure. The Tenant League organization, though ridiculed by some hon. members, was composed of the stamina of Queen's County; but when he found that officers of the law were obstructed, he published a letter in the organ of that association denouncing the course which he regretted they adopted. He spoke also of the Financial embarrassments of the Colony, and advocated a loan as the best remedy for the relief of the crisis likely to result from the draining of the resources of the country to meet the payments of instalments due for the purchase of Proprietary lands.

Mr. Brecken followed the Hon. Mr. Davies, reviewing the whole of his address. He (Mr. Brecken) referred to the denunciations of the Liberal party against Escheat and a Court of Enquiry, in past sessions of that Assembly, when such schemes were termed by the leaders of that party as delusive and visionary. Why, said he, should those questions, which, on the admission of the Hon. Mr. Davies himself, were rejected by the people, be now resuscitated. He contended for the impartial manner in which the Land Commission was constituted, and showed that the failure of that measure was not the fault of the Conservative Government. The Tenant League, from the first, started with the openly avowed intention of resisting the law, and, as such, received the patronage and support of the Hon Mr. Davies, now a member of the Government. He (Mr. Brecken) then spoke of the illegal actions of that League, leading to the necessity of bringing troops to the Island to subdue it. He expressed his regret that financial difficulties prevailed, for the removal of which he would gladly assist, by lending his support to any feasible remedy that might be suggested.

Mr George Sinclair said, that comparing the different actions, and reviewing the past policy of parties, would not prove satisfactory to the people. He had listened with great attention to the opinions expressed on both sides touching the present embarrassed state of the trade of the country, and believed it to be the duty of the Government to provide means to meet emergencies.

Mr. Howatt agreed with the remarks of the last speaker, (Mr. G. S.), and hoped some definite plan would shortly be submitted. He wished to make one remark touching the necessity of a measure by which the principles of the Land Purchase Bill might be extended to all classes of tenants. It would be more equitable in its operations if its provisions were more general and compulsory.

Mr