COLONIAL LEGISLATURE.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

March 21, p. m., (*continued.*)

Hon. Mr. Lord: I did make the statement which his honor, the Attorney General, has attributed to me, and I think it should be the sentiment of every honest man. No man should be deprived of his property without an equivalent; but to come at the fair amount due the proprietors, you would have to calculate the amount of rent, as well as the interest on it, which they have received. It has often been said that the Liberals want to wrench the property from the proprietors without any equivalent, but I do not. His honor, the Attorney General, says we blow hot and cold, and he asks why we did not take up His Grace's despatch of July last, and lay down some definite scheme to settle the question. I answer that it was not our place to do so. The only thing the present Government have done for the benefit of the tenants, is, to work on the Land Purchase Act, a measure which they condemned in the strongest terms when it was introduced by the Liberal Government. I say the Liberals are as sincere as the present Government are, or ever will be. I do not blow hot and cold. I have nothing to gain by the agitation of this question. I could have got 7000 acres of land for one hundred sovereigns, but I would not take it; and I do not want to get land by possession or any other improper means. I believe the proprietors have not legal titles to a great part of the land which they hold, and the greatest injustice was done to this colony by the Royal Commissioners when they went to make those titles good, and when they gave up the fishery reserves, quit rents, and loyalist land to the Proprietors.

Hon. Attorney General: They did not make the titles good; they only found that they were good.

Hon. Mr. Beer: I am not surprised to hear it said that the late Government passed all the Acts which have been passed for the benefit of the tenantry; but they mismanaged public affairs so, that a great loss was sustained by the colony on account of the land which they purchased. Treasury warrants, too, were at a discount of 15 or 20 per cent; but there has been no such thing under the present Government. And the leader of the late Government had lost confidence in the Land Purchase Act, for he voted against an estate being purchased by the present Government at a little more than half the price paid by his party for the land which they purchased. But the present Government took hold of the Land Purchase Act and showed that it could be worked without loss to the colony. It has been said that the despatch of the Colonial Minister, of the 11th July last, was only published in the *Royal Gazette*, but that is a gross misstatement, for it was published in the *Islander* and *Examiner*. It has also been said that neither the propositions of his Grace nor the proposals of the delegates were compulsory; but that is another mistake, for the latter were intended to be made compulsory by law, while the former bear evidence on the face of them that they were not to be made binding.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: This subject, Mr. Chairman, is not a new one. The Legislature never meets but we have a blow at the land question. I wish, Sir, the time may soon arrive when we could give it a finishing blow. But I believe that were an angel to descend from on High on a mission to settle the land question in Prince Edward Island, on the most just and reasonable terms, giving to the proprietors everything that law or justice could demand, and to the tenants everything they could wish or desire, he would find some one to oppose him. Opposition, Mr. Chairman, is the rock on which the land question has become shipwrecked. As soon as this question was brought up the Legislature, like an unhappy family, divided among themselves, and the enemy has taken advantage of it. Had the Legislature been united thirty or forty years ago, as I think in their wisdom they should have been, we would not be discussing this subject now. As to sending the delegates to England, I am of opinion that the Government took the best step they could take under the circumstances, and I think good will yet come of it. Were we to wait for despatches from the Colonial Office, years might elapse before we would get as much information as we have now got in the correspondence. I will reserve any further remarks till the Bill comes before us.

Hon. Mr. Dingwell: I am sorry to hear his honor speak so despondingly of the settlement of the land question, for I think we will have it settled before many years. If we would only throw away those little party feelings, and be unanimous, I think the proprietors would come to reasonable terms. I do not think the land on the Island is so valuable that they need set such a price upon it; nor do I think it is any advantage to the proprietors to bind their tenants down to terms which they cannot fulfil. So if they consult their own interest they will see that it is for their advantage to come to some fair settlement of the question. It is quite reasonable for us to find fault with the delegation, for it has not resulted in any good. We were not consulted upon it, and, therefore, are not bound to support it. What have the delegates done? They have only come in contact with Sir Samuel Cunard, and the Government is placed in a worse position than they were before.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Strange things we are! We first knock down a thing, and then mourn over it and try to resuscitate it; but I would support any measure that I thought was for the benefit of the country, no matter what party brought it forward. It is said, however, that opposition is the life of trade, and if we were without opposition, I believe we would be in a far worse state than we are in at present; but what I depreciate is factious opposition. I would say, judge nothing before the time. Have a little patience till you see what will come of the delegation. I think there is something more favorable, and better adapted to our circumstances, in store for us, than that stern Bill of Sir Samuel Cunard.

Hon. Mr. McDonald: His honor who has just sat down has characterized the Bill of Sir Samuel Cunard as a stern one, and for my part I cannot see much difference between it and the propositions offered by the delegates. The price offered is much higher than the price paid for any of the estates bought under the Land Purchase Act. When the delegates went on their mission, they do not appear to have referred to the proposals of the Duke of Newcastle at all—at least, they do not appear to have brought them forward as proposals which could be entertained; and the terms they offered are, in some respects, less favorable to the tenantry. But I hope and trust the delegation will result in some good yet; but I think that if they had put the proposals of the Duke more prominently forward, His Grace would have been induced to accede to some more favourable terms. Some of your honors have charged the Opposition with insincerity, but I do not take any part of that to myself. In any action I have taken on this question, I have been actuated by a desire to promote the interests of my constituents; and that is the rule by which I intend to be guided in future. When we remember that we do not know what instruction the delegates received, nor can we see what good has resulted from their mission, we would not be doing our duty if we allowed the paragraph, as it stands in the address, to stand without expressing our opinions and offering an amendment.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Your honors, I wish to make one remark in regard to the proposals made by the delegates. If we compare these proposals with the maximum price recommended by the Royal Commissioners, which was twenty years' purchase, it will be seen that every tenant who would obtain his land according to the former scheme would save, at the very least, five years' purchase of the reserved rent; for all tenants who had paid up their arrears of rent since the 1st of May, 1858, were to have their land at fifteen years' purchase of the reserved rent. It is true that none of the proposals I have named would extend to or directly relieve the poorer classes of tenants, so as to enable them to become freeholders; but all who could avail themselves of such a measure would undoubtedly do so, and the indirect effect would be that, in the course of a few years, the consenting proprietors would have none on their hands except the poorest class of tenants, which it may be reasonably presumed, they would, in the course of a very few years, hand over to the Government of the day, on terms adapted to the reasonable wishes of such tenants.

Hon. Mr. Lord: His honor has shown very clearly that they were legislating for the rich, and not for the poor tenants; but it is for the poorer class that we want to legislate. If we cannot do anything for the poor, let the rich alone,—they can do for themselves.

Hon. the President: The poorer tenants would be relieved of back rent, and that would be a great encouragement to them. I know there are many so deeply in arrears that they have lost heart. The tenant who has paid his rent would have no advantage over the other; but he has a right to encouragement as well as the other. If an act were passed to enable the tenants to obtain the fee simple of their farms at fifteen years purchase, I believe thousands would avail themselves of the privilege. There are many even on the Selkirk estate who are not able to pay for their farms, though they were sold at an almost nominal price. The Worrell estate was purchased at 7s. 6d. an acre, and even at that price there will be a heavy loss to the Colony. The Government will be called upon to redeem £18,000 or £20,000 in debentures, on account of that purchase, in the course of a few months.

Hon. Mr. Lord: We have, at any rate, relieved a great number of tenants on the Worrell and Selkirk estates; and I believe that, in the end, they will come out very much alike as regards loss to the Colony. At least, I will venture to say that if the Worrell estate is paying nothing at all, there will be a loss of 60 per cent. on the Selkirk estate.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: I would just call attention to the fact, that, if the richer tenants do not obtain any privileges by those proposals, the benefits will be to the poor tenants. We have nothing to assure us that the proprietors will not exact the whole of the back rent from them, if they can find anything on their farms to pay it. I know instances where the poor tenants have given bonds and notes of hand for rent to the amount of scores of pounds, and which would be cancelled by the operation of the scheme proposed by the delegates. And would it not be a privilege for a tenant to be allowed to purchase his farm at £75 or £80 per hundred acres? A man can purchase at that price without being enormously rich. And if you enrich one portion of the tenantry, who will deny the fact, if he would allow his better judgment to speak out, that it would be a benefit to the Island, as a whole; and if we do not accept the one offer, we lose all.

Hon. Mr. Walker: I am at a loss to know what to say, for—judging from the remarks of some of your honors—I cannot tell what is really before us. A Bill is spoken of, but there is no Bill before us. His honor the Attorney General asks why the Opposition did not take up the despatch of the Colonial Minister of the 11th July, or propose some scheme for the settlement of the land question; but it was not their business to do so. As to the delegation, I thought no good would result from it, and I am of the same opinion still. I think the land question is in no better position now than it was years ago.

The question was then put on Mr. McDonald's amendment and the Committee divided:

Contents: — Hons. Messrs. McDonald, Lord, Walker, and Dingwell,—4.

Non-contents: —Hon. Messrs. Attorney General, President, Anderson, Ramsay, Beer, and Henderson.—6.

So it passed in the negative.

The remaining clauses having been read and agreed to, the Committee rose, and the chairman reported the Address agreed to. When the President was about to put the question on the Address, Mr. McDonald again moved his amendment, and the House divided, Division same as above.—Mr. Goff, the Chairman, voting with the non-contents.

The Address was then ordered to be engrossed, and the same Committee who prepared it appointed to wait upon His Excellency to ascertain when he would be pleased to receive it.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

Tuesday March 22.

Hon. Mr. Goff, from the Committee appointed to wait upon His Excellency to know when he would be pleased to receive the Address, reported that they had discharged the duty assigned them and that His Excellency had been pleased to say he would receive the Address of the Council that day, forty-five minutes after three o'clock in the Legislative Library.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

At a quarter to four o'clock the Council waited upon His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor in the Legislative Library, and presented the

ADDRESS IN ANSWER TO THE SPEECH.

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

May it please your Excellency:

We, the members of the Legislative Council, in general Assembly convened, tender to your Excellency our thanks for the Speech with which you have opened the present session of the Legislature.

In common with Her Majesty's subjects in all other parts of her dominions, we cordially participate in the joy which has been occasioned by the birth of a Prince.

It would have been gratifying to us to have learned that Her Majesty had complied with the prayer conveyed in the address adopted by both branches of the Legislature, last session, on the subject of the Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the differences between landlords and tenants; but your Excellency informs us that Her Majesty has not been able to do so.

When your Excellency will be pleased to lay before us the despatch you have received from the Secretary of State containing suggestions offered for the settlement of the differences existing between certain landlords and their tenants, we will give them our careful consideration, although it is not without regret we learn that the terms of commutation proposed by His Grace appear in some respects less favorable to the tenantry than those which had already been offered by the proprietors. It being considered that little practical good would result from the adoption of those terms, in consequence of its not being intended by His Grace to render them compulsory on the landlords, we concur in the course taken by your Excellency in sending delegates to England to ascertain the views of the Imperial Government and to facilitate a settlement of the question.

After taking into our consideration His Grace's despatch, together with the report of the delegates, our earnest endeavors will be applied to the maturing of such measures as we conceive best calculated to ameliorate the condition of the tenantry, and at the same time to receive the sanction of the Imperial Government and the concurrence of the proprietors.

The communications which your Excellency has received from the Administrator of the Government of Nova Scotia, on the subject of a proposed union of that Province with New Brunswick and this Island, when laid before us, shall receive our serious consideration.

We will be prepared to take into our consideration, when laid before us, the Bill to prevent the fraudulent marking of merchandize, as well as the suggestion of the Colonial Minister respecting the establishment of a Maritime Court of Enquiry into the cause of wrecks, and to give our concurrence to such legislation as may be deemed necessary on these subjects.

We receive with much satisfaction your Excellency's congratulations on the general prosperity of the Colony, and on the abundant harvest with which the labors of our agricultural population have been blessed during the past year.

It is most gratifying to perceive that the value of our staple produce has been so materially increased by an unprecedented demand for it, and that the quantity which left our shores has exceeded the export of any previous year.

To which His Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

I thank you for your Address.

It is my study to promote the welfare of this Island. You may rely on my cordial cooperation in your endeavors to advance the public interests.

Hon. Mr. Henderson, from the Committee appointed to receive tenders for publishing the debates and proceedings of this House for the present session, reported, that four tenders had been received. One from F. W. Hughes, at 17s. 6d. per sheet of four pages, or to perform the same work, and publish in the *Examiner* newspaper, for the sum of £22 5s., and 9d per copy for binding. One from Geo. T. Haszard, at 22s per sheet of four pages, and 9d per copy for binding. One from Edward Rielly, at 12s 6d per sheet of four pages, and 1s 9d for binding. And one from Henry Cooper, for the sum of £12 15s, and to publish the same in the *Monitor* newspaper.

The Committee recommended that the tender of Mr. Henry Cooper be accepted, it being the lowest, and it was accepted accordingly.

Hon. Mr. Beer presented to the House the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum. Laid on the table.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

Wednesday, March 23.

Hon. Attorney General, by command of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, laid before the House copies of a large number of Public Despatches, on various subjects, the most important of which were those relating to the Land Question and to the Union of the Lower Provinces. They were read by the Clerk, and ordered to be laid on the table.

Hon. Attorney General also presented, by command of His Excellency, a copy of the Blue Book for the year 1862; and the Semi-Annual Returns of the Bank of Prince Edward Island for the year 1863-4.

A message was brought from the House of Assembly, by the Hon. Mr. Gray, informing this House that the House of Assembly had appointed a committee, consisting of the Hon. Messrs. Gray, Coles, Longworth, and Hensley; Mr. McLennan and Mr. Sinclair to join a committee of this House to prepare Addresses of congratulation to Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, on the happy occasion of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales being safely delivered of a Prince.

The Hon Attorney General, Hon. Mr. Beer, and Hon. Mr. Lord were appointed a committee to join the committee of the House of Assembly for the above purpose.

A message was also brought from the House of Assembly by the Hon. Mr. Gray, with a Bill relating to the Office of Commander-in-Chief. The said Bill was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Monday next.

Friday next being Good Friday, there being no business of importance before the House, and some of their honors wishing an opportunity to visit their homes in the country, they adjourned till Monday next at 3 o'clock p.m.

Monday, March 28.

A Bill relating to the Office of Commander-in-Chief was read a second time, passed through a committee, and agreed to without any amendment.

A message was brought from the House of Assembly, by the Hon. Col. Gray, with a Bill relating to the fraudulent marking of merchandize. The said Bill was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Adjourned till to-morrow.

Tuesday, March 29.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Beer, the Bill "relating to the Office of Commander-in-Chief" was read a third time and passed.

FRAUDULENT MARKING OF MERCHANDIZE.

Hon. Attorney General, on rising to move the order of the day for the second reading of the Bill relating to the fraudulent marking of merchandize, remarked, that the principal object of the Bill was to protect the mercantile community from imposition, by dishonest persons counterfeiting certain trade marks. By the English Statutes, the mercantile interests were protected by a law which allows certain individuals to have marks for articles of their own manufacture, and a fine was imposed upon any person convicted of counterfeiting those marks. This Act was, indeed, to protect the interests of manufacturers in the colonies, whose trade marks might be counterfeited very much to their prejudice.

The Bill was then read a second time and committed to a committee of the whole House. Hon. Mr. Walker in the chair.

On the clause being read relating to the weight or measure contained in any articles of merchandise being marked thereon, and also the country where such articles had been manufactured;

Hon. Attorney General remarked, that there might not be anything objectionable in requiring a warranty of the vendor of any articles of merchandize that such articles really contained the weight or measure marked upon them. The vender might easily ascertain whether the quantity contained in any articles was correctly represented by the weight or measure marked upon them; not so with regard to the country where they were manufactured. A man might import articles labelled as manufactured in Canada, and after he had sold them, it might be discovered that they were manufactured in the United States, and *vice versa*. Such person, under the operation of this Act, might be liable to an expensive action in court for the recovery of damages, unless he took the precaution not to warrant that they were manufactured in the country represented by the label.

Hon. Mr. Beer thought the clause was objectionable, even with regard to the weight or measure contained in articles of merchandize. A commission merchant, for instance, might have a quantity of soap consigned to him, which was usually put up in boxes labeled "56lbs;" but after being kept on hand for a time, they might not contain 50 lbs.; and so with sugar and many other articles. His honor thought a merchant should not be liable to prosecution if he sold according to the label.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay thought his honor who had spoken last was right with regard to soap; but he had been informed by good authority that a great portion of the flour sold in the country was deficient in weight; in many of the barrels, he had been told, there was a deficiency of twenty or thirty pounds. In this way, the purchaser was often deceived, and did not know where to look for redress.

Hon. Attorney General said he was still of opinion that the clause, as far as it referred to weight and measure, was very proper, because it was a protection to the purchaser, who was oftener deceived, particularly at sales. His (Attorney General's) idea was, that no man should sell an article marked at a certain weight unless he were prepared to warrant that it really contained the weight marked upon it. There was no other way that the purchaser could avoid being imposed upon. It could be no injury to the vendor, because he could easily ascertain the real weight of the article, and regulate the price accordingly; but if he bought an article with the weight marked upon it, and afterwards found a deficiency, he would look upon it as a fraud. People often came in from the country with the intention of purchasing at public sales. In the midst of the excitement, a man would ask the weight of an article; the reply would be. "O there is no time to weigh it now!—there is the weight marked upon it." The man would take it, and might afterwards discover that there was a deficiency of ten or fifteen per cent., but he would have to suffer the loss. Our law should protect the poor man from being imposed upon, particularly in articles of food. The principle was already acknowledged in regard to the article of bakers' bread, and should be extended to articles of general merchandize. He was very glad to see such a clause in the Bill, as it was very much called for. There was great imposition practised in the sale of flour. He did not think that 50 per cent. of the barrels would hold out their weight. The commission merchant need not suffer, because, when he had an importation of articles, it would be his duty to ascertain if they contained the weight marked upon them; and if they did not, he could charge the consigner with the deficiency, as well as with the expense of weighing.

Hon. Mr. Lord said he agreed with some of the remarks of the Attorney General, but thought there would be great difficulty in reducing the propositions contained in the clause under consideration to practice. How could the price of articles be regulated? Soap, for instance, was allowed to lose twelve per cent. of its weight in the course of six months. Merchants would regulate their prices according to their invoices. If they were compelled to weigh everything, it would cause a great deal of trouble, and the law would not be complied with though it were ever so binding. Merchants would sell according to the weight marked on the articles. He had noticed that molasses generally held out the quantity, though a wasting article. Sugar was sold by the 112 pounds, the twelve pounds being allowed for wastage. As regards chains, anchors, etc., a certificate from the manufacturer generally accompanied them, and they were sold according to the weight marked upon them. He had sold a great many in that way, and never heard any complaints of deficiency in their weight. He presumed that this Bill had been suggested from the other side of the Atlantic, but was sure it could not be carried out in this country. A similar law had been passed in England for the purpose, he presumed, of preventing persons from making use of the names of other parties; and he was certain that there was not a scythe manufacturer in that country who would venture to make use of the name of "Griffin" without authority to do so.

Hon. the President thought that such a measure would do very well in England, where the merchants receive their articles directly from the manufacturers; but he did not think it would suit in this country, where goods are obtained through so many different channels. When articles were sold by the pound, the purchaser had no right to pay for more than the box or package contained; but when they were sold by the box or package, the case was different. Scythes might be imported from the United States marked "Griffin," and there was nothing to prevent the Americans from using that name; but in England it would not be allowed.

On motion of the Attorney General, the clause was amended, by striking out all that relates to the country or place where any articles of merchandize are manufactured.

The House was then resumed, and progress reported.

A message was brought from the House of Assembly, by Mr. Brecken, with a Bill "to amend the laws relating to Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes." The said Bill was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Adjourned till 4 o'clock, p. m.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

A message was brought from the House of Assembly, by the Hon. Mr. Hensley, with a Bill "to repeal the Act now in force establishing and regulating the rate of interest, and to make some provisions on the same subject." The said Bill was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(FOR THE EXAMINER.)

"OUR LEGISLATORS AND THE LAND QUESTION."

Mr. Editor;—Incidentally taking up the *Protestant* of the 26th ult., we notice an article under the above heading, in which we have the opinions of that paper on the subject. He thinks that the quit rents have been remitted. Sir S Cunard is, we opine, of a different opinion, and judging from his Bill, we infer that the Attorney General, and also the "evil genus" of the Land Question on this Island, are of a different opinion too. He glances at the Duke's despatch, and argues that the proposals therein made, are not as good as those made by the Delegates. He further informs the public that Mr. Whelan's views on the subject have undergone a great change. Advancing a step, he tells his readers what a bad fellow the *Examiner* is; so bad, indeed, that that innocent man, the "Spy," was denounced by him in "the most unmeasured terms," but that when the good man's Report came out it contained nothing "to justify all the evil things that had been written against him."

If we are rightly informed, when the *Protestant* first came out, it was subscribed for by many people under the impression that it was to be independent in politics; but certainly in the above named aaticle there is not one spark of that fearless independence so desirable, at all times, in a public journal; but the silly twaddle of one who has, apparently, learned to bow his shoulder to bear, and to be put under tribute to any phantasy which the present tenant-outraging Government may see good to lay upon it.

When the *Protestant* sent abroad the article on "Our Legislators and the Land Question," he should have borne in mind that the questions then engrossing the attention of the Legislature was not, how often that terrible man, Edward Whelan, had changed his opinion, nor what it was he had written about the Government pet, the "Spy;" but the real question was, was the Government justified in sending the Delegates home, without first laying the Duke's despatch before the Legislature? And in considering this question the further, the all important enquiry naturally arises also:—viz. Did the Government in thus acting, unwisely and inconsistently betray their trust, and trespass upon the constitutional rights of the people? The consideration of these questions, naturally arising out of the questions then before the Legislature, involved serious and very important enquiries, and the *Protestant* proves himself to be neither a good patriot, nor a good councellor of statesmen, when he would presume to draw the attention of his readers from their consideration by an exhibition of the changed opinion, as he says, of the *Examiner*.

The Land Question is assuming too important a feature, just now, to be passed over with such a gloss. The independent letters of Mr. Hugh Ramsay show that the day might yet arrive when its deadening and polluting influences might tarnish the beauty and glory of our Courts of Judicature. And the reported speech of the Hon. the Leader of the Government, in which reference is so freely made to the shedding of blood, in case the resistance to payment of rent should be persevered in, or seriously entertained by the tenantry—is conclusive to shew the baneful and pernicious influence this question might yet have upon as loyal a people as the sun ever shone upon, when goaded on to madness by the outrageous procedures of an imbecile and pusillanimous Administration.

As regards the "Spy," since the *Protestant* again introduces him so gracefully (?) to his readers, we should bear in mind that we have not to do with his Report, whether favourable or otherwise, but with the principle involved in his appointment. The case is this:—The Queen grants a Commission to enquire into the differences existing between Landlord and Tenant. This Commission holds an open Court. Able and learned Counsel appear for each party, and witnesses are heard and examined by both parties, after which the Counsel for each are heard. The Court takes time to give its opinion; but before doing so sends a "Spy" out to collect further information; and from whom, pray, from the Proprietors and tenants alike? No! but from among the tenants! And the Government whose special duty it was to guard their rights with unwavering fidelity, not only approves of obtaining information in this contemptible manner, but takes their money to pay for the introducing of a "Spy" among them—And a cringing majority supports them in it.

Now, Mr. Editor, we contend that in this mode of proceeding a precedent is set, and that in this precedent a principle is involved that only requires extension, to subvert the dearest rights and liberties of the people of this Colony, and that if the *Protestant* was true to his motto he would denounce it as we do.

A LOOKER ON.

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE TENANTRY OF LOTS 8, 9, AND 10.

After six days' notice, a large and respectable concourse of the tenantry of townships Eight, Nine and Ten, met at the Brae Schoolhouse, on Monday, the 10th inst., at 1 o'clock, p. m., for the purpose of taking into consideration the long agitated land question, and the plausibility of forming a tenant league. The meeting having been duly organized by the calling of Mr. Felix McKinnon to the chair, and the appointing of Mr. A. A. McSween to act as Secretary, the meeting was first addressed by Mr. Strang Hart, who explained to his fellow tenants the nature of the long agitated land question from the time of Governor Smith down to the present day. The meeting was also addressed by Messrs. John McLean, Neill McKinnon, Peter McDougall and James Doyle.

After considerable discussion the following reslutions were proposed and unanimously passed, viz.:

Moved by Mr. Felix McKinnon, and seconded by Mr. Donald McIntyre:

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting that the offer made by the Government delegates, of sixteen years' purchase, was an improvident and unjust proposal, and one, which, instead of being a benefit and being calculated to ameliorate the condition of the oppressed tenants, was more calculated to oppress and rivet their shackles more firmly than ever — We, therefore, unanimously agree in disapproving of such a measure.

Moved by Mr. Strang Hart, and seconded by Mr. John Mitchell:

Resolved, That as the inducement of obtaining free land held out to us by the appointment of a Royal Commission has proved fruitless, and all proposals made since by the Government have been of non-effect, we, therefore unanimously agree in common with the oppressed tenants of this Island to offer terms for the satisfactory adjustment of the exising evil.

Moved by Mr. Laughlin McLean, and seconded by Mr. Alexander McLean:

Resolved, That the tenantry of Lots 8, 9 & 10 shall have the privilege of purchasing the fee simple of their farms at a rate, say five shillings per acre, for all tillageable land, all arrears of rent up to 1864 to be forgiven.

Moved by Mr. John McLean and seconded by Mr. Alexander McDonald:

Resolved, That it is indispensably necessary for the the tenants to have seven (7) years given them for the fulfilment of their obligations to the proprietors, according to the above proposal.

Moved by Mr. John McKinnon, and seconded by Mr. George McDonald:

Resolved, That if the foregoing resolutions be not complied with, the tenantry will consider themselves justifiable in resisting to the utmost of their power, legally, all coercive measures that may be used by the proprietor for the collection of rents.

Moved by Mr Peter McDougald and seconded by Mr. Roderick Gillis:

That all independent journals in the Island are hereby requested to give publicity to the foregoing resolutions.

Donald McIntyre,
John McLean,
Laughlin McLean, } Committee.
Alex'r McLean,
Felix McKinnon.

Brae, Lot 9.

DELEGATION MEETING.

The undersigned, nominated and deputed delegates, on behalf of the oppressed and suffering tenantry on Townships numbers 48, 49, 50, 35 and 36, most respectfully request all tenant organizations, who have unfurled the banner of Freedom, and emphatically repudiate arbitrary, intolerable and tyrannic propositions of resident and absentee proprietors, and consequently intend withholding the further liquidation of rent and arrears of rent, until a compromise be effected, upon compatible, honourable, equitable and satisfactory principles, to appoint and depute three discreet delegates for each Township throughout this colony, to meet at the "North American Hotel," in Charlottetown, on Thursday the 14th day of May, inst., at 11 o'clock a. m., precisely, for the purpose of taking into consideration and deliberating upon ominously important measures in connection with the respective tenant organizations in progress in this slave-holding Colony. Therefore, the object in contemplation being the formation of one concentrated federal tenant organization, the *basis* being unflinching fidelity, loyalty, union, sympathy and action, which inevitably must ultimately contribute to the tranquility, harmony, contentment and prosperity of this much neglected Island, &c.

Leonard Wood,	George F. Adams,
Robert Stewart,	Edward Grant,
John Jenkins,	John Grant,
James B. Gay,	James Millar,
Samuel Lane,	John Mooney,
John W. Acorn,	James M'Quaid.

ALEX'R McNEILL, Secy.

Lot 49, April 15th, 1864.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, April 25, 1864.

STEAM COMMUNICATION.

The subject of Steam Communication was again under discussion in the House on Thursday last. The Hon. Mr. Coles reiterated his charge of partiality against the Government, inasmuch as they had agreed to give the new Company £1500 a year more than the amount for which Mr. Boultenhouse was prepared to perform the contract — making fifteen thousand pounds of a loss to the Colony for the full term of the contract. He rebutted the charge against Mr. Boultenhouse as to his security being insufficient, by saying that Mr. B. had received a promise from the Government to communicate with him on that and other matters in relation to the contract, *but that the promise was never kept*. Mr. Coles also instanced the fact, that four members of the House of Assembly—three of them being members of the Administration — were shareholders in the new Company, and their pecuniary interest in the Company not only affected their seats in the House, but was the means of entailing a loss on the Colony of £1500 a year. This charge was acquiesced in by the silence of the parties referred to. Mr. Coles, in the course of his remarks, quoted extracts from the speeches of other members made last Session, in which they expressed themselves strongly in favour of accepting the tender of Mr. Boultenhouse, on account of its being so much lower than the others, and shewed the extraordinary inconsistency they had practised in now advocating the highest tender, merely to serve party interests, and thereby repudiating their own opinions of last year. We have not been able to put our hands on the printed debates of last Session, otherwise we should give the extracts quoted by Mr. Coles. However, the matter will be fresh enough for weeks to come, and we intend to give it a fair and full consideration. It does certainly appear, from the points at which we can now view the subject, that the Government have shown extraordinary favoritism towards some of *themselves and their friends*, at a heavy cost to the public: and as a public journalist, we are bound to give a thorough investigation to the subject.

NOTES OF THE SESSION.

No. 6.

ORANGEISM.

Hon. Col. Secretary—After having moved certain Resolutions, as given in our last, condemnatory of his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, for having refused to submit the Act, passed by our local Legislature, last session, to incorporate the Grand Orange Lodge of P. E. Island and the subordinate Lodges in connection therewith—proceeded to comment upon the Petition transmitted, through the hands of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, to the Secretary for the Colonies, the Duke of Newcastle, praying that the Royal assent might be withheld from the said Act and signed by 11,000 of the inhabitants of the Colony—the signatures including individuals of every shade of politics, and of every religious *denomination in the Island*. He said he would not impute motives to the Duke of Newcastle; but he thought it very probable that His Grace, in withholding the Act from the consideration of Her Majesty, had fully before his eyes the power of that party in the House of Commons commonly denominated the Brass Band of His Holiness the Pope, unfortunately, at times, holding a candle to the Devil. The power of that party consisted in their holding themselves distinct both from the supporters of the Government and the Opposition, and being ready to throw their weight into either scale, as might suit their own purposes, and by that means they occasionally obtained concessions from the Administration which would otherwise scarcely be granted to them. The Duke, well knowing that, was, perhaps, influenced by the consideration that, should he allow the Royal sanction to be given to an Act which would be so inimical to the aspirations of Roman Catholics in general, "the Band" might resentfully avail themselves of the first occasion which might offer, on which, by voting with the *Opposition*, they might embarras the Government.

Having thus indirectly attributed the conduct of the Duke of Newcastle, with reference to the Orange Bill, to His Grace's dread of provoking something like retaliatory action on the first occasion of a ministerial crisis in the House of Commons, from the Irish Catholic members, whom, in a spirit of most bitter irony, he styled "the Brass Band of His Holiness the Pope's," he (Hon. Colonial Secretary) next declared that the Petition against the said Bill was a misstatement of the truth calculated to deceive the Colonial Minister. Foremost of the petitioners he said was the individual who styled himself "the Bishop of Charlottetown." Whatever liberties with truth an obscure priest might allow himself to take, it surely became one who wore all the toggery of a Roman Catholic Bishop, to be especially careful that all he uttered, wrote, or subscribed was conformable to fact. He then proceeded to give an ironical exposition of the emblematical significance of the mitre, the vestments, and the crozier, which be termed the "toggery of a Roman Catholic Bishop;" and directly charged His Lordship and the ten or eleven thousand signers of the Petition, with having signed a falsehood. But not satisfied with this general charge, he singled out His Lordship from the rest of the signers, and said that not only had he (Bishop McIntyre) signed a falsehood when he appended his name to the Petition, but he (Hon. Col. Secretary) believed that he (His Lordship) knew perfectly well that he was signing a falsehood. The falsehood, he said, was that the Petition stated the Bill had been carried by a majority of only 3, whereas the truth was that it had been carried by a majority of 7. He then impugned the statement set forth in the Petition that it was signed by individuals of every denomination of Christians in the Colony. He next avowed his hatred of the Roman Catholic religion, declaring it was the duty of every Protestant parent to instill that hatred into the heart of his child as soon as he could lisp. He said it was perfectly consistent in His Lordship—whom he insultingly spoke of by the name, Mr. Peter McIntyre — to blackguard the whole Protestant community of the Island, after his having declared that he would overthrow the Government, his enmity to which was attributable to nothing but its being a Protestant Government and its having refused to make undue concessions to him and his flock.

He (Hon. Colonial Secretary) next proceeded to observe that when, in 1860, the Duke of Newcastle was in Canada, at Kingston and other places, he said that Orange processions were perfectly legal; and that in the following year, Mr. Cameron, the Grand Master of the Orange Lodges of Canada, on being sent to England with an Address of the brethren to Her Majesty the Queen, was presented to her with marked respect, the address was acknowledged in a most satisfactory manner, and Orange Lodges were recognised by Her Majesty as an institution of the Province. Next year, on the death of Prince Albert, addresses of condolence from the Orange Lodges of Canada were forwarded to England, to be presented to Her Majesty, and these, having been laid before Her Majesty, were duly acknowledged by the Duke of Newcastle in a despatch to the Governor General, who was thereby requested to communicate the respectful acknowledgment of them to the loyal Orangemen from whom they had proceeded. How came it then, he asked, that His Grace, in his despatch, in which he informed the Lieut Governor that he had declined to lay the Orange Bill of P. E. Island before Her Majesty for confirmation, had said that Orange Lodges were detrimental to the best interests of any Colony in which they existed? Was it not that the respectful consideration which His Grace accorded to the Orangemen of Canada, and his condemnation of them in Prince Edward Island, were owing to the fact that, in Canada their numbers amounted to 150,000 or 200,000, whilst in P. E. Island, although composed of a very large and respectable portion of the community, their number was comparatively insignificant? The Orangemen of P. E. Island, he said, had never sought to invade the rights and privileges of their Roman Catholic fellow subjects,—then why should they be maligned by an untruthful Roman Catholic Bishop and his flock? So far from Orange Lodges belonging to a class of institutions which all experience had shewn to be mischievous, as they had been represented by the Duke of Newcastle, it was well known not only that Orangemen were always among the most peaceful members of every community in which they existed, but they were also the most zealous preservers and promoters of peace; and he hoped their numbers in the Island would rapidly increase, and that, before long, an Orange Lodge would exist in every District of it. As to bloodshed, there was not the smallest reason to apprehend it as a consequence of any collision between Roman Catholics and Orangemen in the Island. The Orangemen, strong in their courage and their numbers, felt confident that Roman Catholics would not dare to assail them, and that, of themselves, without the assistance of any other power, they would be able to maintain peace throughout the Colony.

The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, after having strongly reprobated the most unjustifiable language in which the Hon. Colonial Secretary had spoken of His Lordship, Bishop McIntyre, stated that when the Petition, praying for the Incorporation of the Orange Lodges in P. E Island, was presented to the House and it was moved that it (the said Petition) should be referred to a Special Committee to report thereon by Bill or otherwise; and when, on St. Patrick's Day — which day, he believed, was chosen for the purpose that by such choice Roman Catholic Irishmen might be the more annoyed—the said Committee reported a Bill, and it was moved that the said Bill be read a first time, the contemplated measure was as fully discussed as any measure ever was discussed by the House, and on the motion that the Bill be read that day three months, the House divided, Yeas 12 Nays 15, as was recorded on the 52d page of the Journal of the House. The first reading of the Bill was, therefore, carried, in a House of 27, besides His Honor the Speaker, by a majority of only 3, a fact which fully established the truth of the statement on that head set forth in the Petition. For the third reading of the Bill there was, it was true, a majority of 7; but the increase of the majority in favor of the Bill was obtained by postponing the motion for that purpose until the absence of some of the hon. members who had opposed its introduction and first reading gave those who were in favor of it an opportunity of carrying it with an apparently increased majority. It would not have been so, had every hon. member been in his place.

The hon. gentleman again adverted to the highly indecorous language in which the Hon. the Colonial Secretary had indulged when speaking of His Lordship, Bishop McIntyre, and attempting to cast ridicule upon the canonical vestments worn by him as a dignitary of his Church. The manner in which he had spoken of His Lordship was not only disgraceful to himself, but to the whole Government majority who had permitted him to use it, and who, from their having failed to interrupt his flippant tirade, had, it was to be inferred, listened to it approvingly. Had he (Hon. Mr. Coles), in a similar manner, taken the liberty to ridicule a certain minister for donning and wearing a clerical gown there, which he did not wear elsewhere, he had no doubt he would have been called to order immediately, and severely censured by hon. members on the Government side of the House; and yet they had not manifested the slightest disapprobation of the ribald ridicule which a member of their majority and the first officer of the Government had attempted to cast upon a clergyman of high standing in his Church and also otherwise of the greatest respectability in the community!

The Duke of Newcastle, continued the hon. gentleman, was perfectly justifiable in his condemnation of Orange Lodges; and the discussions which had taken place in that House concerning them, afforded most convincing proofs that they tended to embitter religious and political differences in any Colony in which they existed. Their arbitrary and despotic character was fully manifested in Canada when the Orangemen there attempted to force the Prince of Wales to pass under their arches; and deep was the humiliation which the Mayor of Toronto drew down upon himself and the city on account of the deception which he had practised upon the Duke of Newcastle with respect to the preparations which had been made by the Orangemen for the reception of the Prince of Wales; in consequence of which—the Duke having caused it to be notified to him that he must not attend the Prince's Levee, for, if he did, he would not be received—he had to make the most humiliating explanations. He (Hon. Mr. Coles) cared not indeed whether the numbers of Orangemen were upon the increase or decrease in the Island: the principle he went upon was that, as an institution, Orangeism was not required in the community. As to their principles, he hoped, however, that many of them were unactuated by such as those which had just been avowed by the Hon the Colonial Secretary, who, it was very plain, whatever else had been instilled into his mind in his infancy, had not had the principles of Christianity infused into it. Were he a good Protestant, the principles by which he would be actuated would be those of good will to all men; but, by his own shewing, he was almost as far from being so as it was possible for any one to be.

The hon. gentleman, concluding his remarks by eulogizing the Duke of Newcastle, and declaring that he believed all in this Colony would admit that he was better entitled to their respect than any other Minister of State who had ever preceded him in his office — the Hon. the Colonial Secretary said, "That was an erroneous assertion; and he for one would not subscribe to it." Hon. Col. Gray said, "Hear!" Hon. Mr. Coles, "I am surprised at the Hon. Col. Gray's "Hear!""

Hon. Mr. Kelly said he most heartily despised all the slang and filth which had been poured forth by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary. It would leave no stain upon the character of those against whom it had been directed; and could not, in fact, prove injurious to any except those in the quarter whence it had proceeded. It would certainly be very far from elevating, in the estimation of the right thinking or the right feeling portion of the community, either the hon. gentleman from whom it had immediately proceeded, or his hon. colleagues in the Government and their supporters, who had given to it their silent approbation and concurrence. As to the increase or decrease of Orange Lodges in the Colony, he himself was quite indifferent; and, perhaps, Catholics could live just as well in it, even if the Orange Bill should become a law, as they could were it *otherwise*; but he certainly did most sincerely wish that such a change should come over that portion of the public mind which, of late, had been so banefully influenced by fanaticism as should directly conduce to the restoration of that mutual good will and charity, by which the whole community was once so happily distinguished. Protestants, in his District, had, however, in spite of all the incendiary efforts of intolerant bigots, continued to live on terms of perfect amity and accord with their Catholic brethern, and for miles and miles around him, he believed there was not a single Protestant of an intelligent mind, who did not literally abhor the plots, machinations, and devices of those, who, under the profession of religion, had most sedulously striven to disseminate jealousy, mistrust, and hatred among different communions and denominations of Christians.

Mr. Conroy said he had listened with mingled shame and indignation to the low, vile, and most disgraceful scurrility which had fallen from the lips of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, fully convinced although he was that, malignant as the rancour of the hon. gentleman was, it could in no way scathe or injuriously affect those who were the immediate objects of it. He trusted, however, that but very few, if any, of the hon. members on the Government side of the House participated in the disgraceful sentiments to which the hon. gentleman had given utterance. He (Mr. Conroy) trusted he should be excused if he spoke rather warmly, when it was considered that he could not but feel irritated by the gross insults which had been directed against his Bishop and his Church. He indeed believed that some of the hon. members on the Government side of the House had themselves been made to feel rather uneasy by their utterance; but fully confident, he trusted, he might feel that they met with no response in the breast of any hon. member on his (Mr. Conroy's) side of it. Indignant as he felt, he yet spoke more in sorrow than in anger; and, as for the broad insult which had been offered to his Bishop, he could have treated it with extreme contempt, were it not for the position which, not only as a member, but as the first officer of the Government, the hon. gentleman from whom it had proceeded occupied. He (Mr. Conroy) had been about to say that any one who could condescend to the use of language and scurrility, such as had been used by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, so unprovoked, so uncalled for, and so utterly beneath the dignity of a gentleman, was altogether unworthy of the situation which he filled, and his being allowed to occupy it, was, in fact, a disgrace to the Government that kept him in it, and to the country that tolerated it.

Hon. Colonel Gray rose to order, and called upon the chairman, Mr. Sinclair, to take