

THE AMATEUR

A Weekly Journal of Politics, Literature, and News.

"This is true Liberty, when Freeborn Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free."—Euripides.

Vol. VII.

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New Series.—No. 18.

Colonial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Resolved, That the moneys appropriated for the service of Roads, Bridges and Wharves, be expended agreeably to the following Scale:—

PRINCE COUNTY.

District No. 1.

Comprising Townships Nos. 1, 2 and 3.

Bridge at Gordon's mills, Lot 3	£2 0 0
Kildare bridge	5 0 0
Tyghish bridge	12 0 0
Bridge near Bain's mill	10 0 0
Bridge near Gregoire Bernard's Lot 1	5 0 0
Black Pond bridge	15 0 0
Bridge over gully, near Jno. Rix's, Peter's creek	15 0 0
Bridge below Costain's mills	40 0 0
Western road, Lots 1, 2 and 3	15 0 0
Peter's road, Lot 1	3 0 0
Road from Skinner's pond to Black pond	8 0 0
Bridge between Skinner's pond and Horsehead	5 0 0
Road from Black pond to Richard Moakler's	6 0 0
do Costain's mills to line of Lot 4	5 0 0
do W. Haywood's mill dam to Western road	6 0 0
Bridge near Joseph Martin's, Lot 2	5 0 0
Road from Kildare bridge to Gordon's mill	2 8 0
McNeill's road	3 0 0
Road from Donald McIntyre's, Lot 3, towards sea shore	5 0 0
Road from Sea Cow pond to North cape	5 0 0
Road from Dugherty's bridge	3 0 0
Harper's road	5 0 0
Road from Kildare bridge to Gordon's mill	5 0 0
Swamp between Sissane Richard's and Figbrook	3 0 0
Fiddle Gadget for survey of road	12 0 0
Palmer's road, Lot 1	10 0 0
Bridge near Clarke's mill dam, Lot 1	8 0 0
	£208 0 0

District No. 2.

Comprising Townships Nos. 4, 5 and 6.

Bridge at Long Creek, Mill river	£20 0 0
To rail bridge near Louis' ferry, over Mill river, and repairing and straightening road from said bridge towards the dock	40 0 0
O'Leary's road	15 0 0
Western road, Lots 4, 5 and 6	15 0 0
Road from Dugherty's bridge to Western road	6 0 0
Bridge near Dugherty's, Lot 5	6 0 0
Road from Western road to Halloran's	12 0 0
do Western road at head of Duck road	12 0 0
do past John McDougall's and W. McDougall's to Western shore	12 0 0
Road from Halloran's to line of Lot 3	6 0 0
Bridge near William Hardy's	5 0 0
Road from Cascumpee cross to Gordon's mills	10 0 0
do Fortune's Cove to Dock bridge	5 0 0
do Jas. Forsyth's to Jno. Campbell's	3 0 0
do Alexander McDonald's, Lot 4, Kildare river towards sea-shore	2 0 0
Alexander McDonald, ferryman at Louis' ferry for saw, and ferrying nails last season	6 0 0
Cascumpee wharf	10 0 0
To pay McPherson's ferry	2 0 0
Road from Cascumpee cross to the Point	3 0 0
	£178 0 0

District No. 3.

Comprising Townships Nos. 7, 8 and 9.

O'Leary's road from Lot 8 to line of Lot 6	£4 0 0
Halloran's road to West point	8 0 0
Road from McDonald's settlement to Lot 7 road	5 0 0
do Brae chapel towards Western road	12 0 0
do West shore to Big Pierre Jacques	7 0 0
do Big Pierre Jacques to Little Pierre Jacques	5 0 0
do West point to Big Pierre Jacques	5 0 0
do Robinson's to McDonald's towards west shore	35 0 0
do Little Pierre Jacques to Brae	2 0 0
do Brae chapel towards Grand Digue, including bridge over Brae river	29 0 0
do from Little Pierre Jacques to Indian point	5 0 0
do Indian point to Brae, by Donald McNeill	7 10 0
do Brae settlement, Lot 7, to main road	5 10 0
Wharf most required	2 0 0
	£129 0 0

District No. 4.

Comprising Townships Nos. 10, 11 and 12.

For work done on a bridge on Barlow's road	£3 0 0
Bridge at Barclay's	5 0 0
Western road from Lot 6, to Robinson's, Lot 13	29 0 0
Road from line of Lot 13 to McPherson's ferry, including Canadian river bridge	20 0 0
do McDonald's bridge towards Western road	3 0 0
do McKay's bridge to McDonald's, including the two bridges	10 0 0
do Robinson's to Egmont Bay	5 10 0
do William Ellis's to Lot 12 point	4 0 0
do Barlow road to McArthur's	2 0 0
do western road to Enmore river mill	2 0 0
Road and bridge from Luke's to Post road, Lot 11	4 0 0
Road between Thomas Ramsay's and Hugh Callaghan's	5 0 0
do from Dubois Smith's towards main road from line Lot 13, at Grigg's, towards George Ellis	1 0 0
Wharf at Bideford wharf	10 0 0
Bridge at Goff's, Lot 10 river	10 0 0
Ferryman at Lot 11 river	2 0 0
Wharf most required	1 0 0
	£201 0 0

District No. 5.

Comprising Townships Nos. 15 and 16.

Alexander McLean, for work performed on south-west bridge last summer	£7 16 14
Clement Arsenault, for work on fishing road, Lot 15	3 0 0
Captain Mowbray, for repairing road, Lot 15	15 0 0
Donald McDonald for work done on Ellis river bridge	1 15 0
Repairing St. Nicholas road, Lot 16	8 0 0
Samuel Hood, for blasting river, Lot 15	6 0 0
Simon Fraser, for bushing ice, Lots 14 to 16	11 0 0
Daniel Lyle, for bushing ice from Lot 16 to Curtain island	14 0 0
do for bushing ice from Lot 16 to Beech point	14 0 0
do for bushing ice from Gull point to Lot 11	11 0 0
Hon. James Yeo, advance for repairing bridge at Ramsay's, Lot 16	8 0 0
To raise for contract at Ramsay's bridge	20 12 0
Repairing the ends of bridge, south-west, Lot 16	5 0 0
Bridge at Ellis river	20 0 0
Road from said bridge to Western road	6 0 0
Main western road, Lot 16	20 0 0
Road between Lots 16 and 14, west side of the western road	4 0 0
Ellis river ferry	2 0 0
Road from John McDougall's to Daly's St. Nicholas road, Lot 16	2 0 0
Road from Barlow's to 15 point	7 0 0
From Egmont Bay road to Barlow's	2 10 0
Road from 15 point to Beach point	5 0 0
do Simon Fraser's to back settlement	2 0 0
do do do do do do do	0 0 0
Bridge between 15 point and Egmont Bay	15 0 0
Fishing cove road, Lot 15	1 5 0
Drawing the road near Capt. Mowbray's	1 5 0
Hammond bridge	20 0 0
Road between Lots 15 and 14, towards Higgins's	2 15 10 1/2
Repairing road from Ramsay's to Fraser's, Lot 16, and cutting down the bushes	3 0 0
Bridge on the road from MacNally's to back settlement	1 10 0
	£173 0 0

District No. 6.

Comprising Townships Nos. 17 and 19.

Special grant for Summerside wharf	£120 0 0
Road and bridge on the Margate road	25 0 0

New bridge near Webster's, Lot 19	10 0 0
Main western road, from Jopp's to line of Lot 17	10 0 0
Blue Shank to Mrs. Barrett's	5 0 0
Bridge at McIntyre's, Barbara Weit	10 0 0
Bridge at George White's	10 0 0
Road from Road's corner to line of Lot 17	6 0 0
Causeway, Wilmet Creek	5 0 0
New road from W. Williams' to Summerside	10 0 0
Where most required on Lot 19	7 10 0
Repairing road from St. Eleanor's to G. Darby's	25 0 0
Main western road, Lot 17	19 10 0
Misouche road, towards Baristo's, and bridge	10 0 0
Road and bridge from Lot 16, towards St. Eleanor's, by Ramsay's	6 0 0
Bridge and road from Linkletter's to western road	4 0 0
Balance of last year's contract towards Summerside wharf	11 0 0
Summerside wharf	26 0 0
Wharf at Rushy Creek	2 10 0
	£322 10 0

District No. 7.

Comprising Township No. 18 and Princeton Royalty.	
Due John Gillis, for keeping Indian River bridge in repair	£1 11 0
Due John Conaghan for keeping Darnley bridge in repair	2 0 0
do do do for repairs on Hickey's bridge	6 0 0
do do do for putting new stringers on Darnley bridge	3 0 0
Due George Thomson for repairs on Post road	1 0 0
Due John Baristo for repairs on Post road	5 15 0
Due Donald McLellan for repairs on Indian river bridge	1 0 0
Due James Stewart for keeping winter roads in repair	1 0 0
Darnley bridge, to pay for contract already entered into	35 0 0
do do do for new work	120 0 0
Princeton wharf, to repair injuries by the ice last fall	35 0 0
Indian River bridge	40 0 0
Road from Oyster Cove road to Princetown road	1 0 0
Road to Little Marsh	15 0 0
To cut down hill on road between Ramsay's and McKenzie's line, Ferryway	2 0 0
Road to County land	1 0 0
Burnt wood road, from Cross roads	1 0 0
Irishtown road, through Lot 18	1 0 0
Old Town road	1 0 0
Road toward Henderson's mill	1 10 0
Town road, through Lot 18	2 0 0
Road from McLean's to Bernard's creek, Princeton Royalty	1 10 0
Road from Ellison's to Big bank	1 0 0
Ferryway roads, where most required	1 10 0
Indian river and Oyster cove roads, where most required	3 0 0
For repairs on Darnley bridge	6 0 0
	£276 0 0

District No. 8.

Comprising Townships Nos. 25 and 26.	
For Wilmet Creek bridge	£40 0 0
For repairs on Hurd's point wharf	50 0 0
For road to Hurd's point wharf	5 0 0
do between Lots 19 and 25	5 0 0
To rebuild bridge at Taylor's mill	25 0 0
Bridge near Timothy Maxwell's	15 0 0
do do Andrew Halpinny's	7 10 0
do at Clark's mill, Lot 25	10 0 0
do near Malone's do	5 0 0
do do John R. Gardiner's	7 0 0
Road from Hugh Montgomery's to old schoolhouse	3 0 0
Wharf at Pope's shore, (balance of contract)	4 10 0
Bridge at George Wright's	7 0 0
	£185 0 0

District No. 9.

Comprising Townships Nos. 27 and 28.	
For wharf at the west side of Tryon	£10 0 0
To repair the bridge at Stanfield's mill	10 0 0
For repairing road from Clark's to Crapaud	5 0 0
do do do the Aboteau at Tryon	5 0 0
For Augustine Cove bridge	15 0 0
For repairing road from Bedouque road to Cape Travers	5 0 0
From Cape Travers to Carleton Point	5 0 0
Where most required on Lot 28	20 0 0
For County line road	10 0 0
From Tryon to Milligan's	5 0 0
To build a bridge at John Wright's, Southwest Craig's road	7 10 0
To be expended where most required on Lot 27	15 0 0
	£157 10 0

District No. 10.

Comprising Townships Nos. 13 and 14.	
Road from Alexander McArthur's, Egmont Bay, to Western Road	£5 0 0
Road from Higgins' road towards Alexander McArthur's, by Sheep River	11 0 0
North-west Road	12 0 0
From Allan McLean's towards Western Road, including McLean's Bridge	18 0 0
From Allan McLean's to Canada	2 0 0
Western Road, across Lot 13	10 0 0
do do do do do do do	10 0 0
do do do do do do do	20 0 0
Road between Lots 13 and 14, west side	20 0 0
Plasted's Road, on Lot 13	6 0 0
Traverser, on Lot 14	3 0 0
Cooper's Wharf	31 0 0
Road between Gorman's and Uriah Williams'	1 10 0
do do do do do do do	2 0 0
do do do do do do do	2 0 0
Where most required on Lot 13	2 0 0
Wharf at Ellis River	38 0 0
Road between Lots 14 and 16	7 0 0
Road from Allan McLean's to Crooners'	7 0 0
Road from Cross Rivers to Ellis River Bridge	5 0 0
From Cross Rivers to Western Road	5 0 0
From Cross Rivers to Donald McDougall's	5 0 0
From Connor's to the Ferry	2 0 0
Ferryman at Ellis River Ferry	2 0 0
Bridge between Lots 14 and 16, over Trout River	20 0 0
	£219 10 0

MONDAY, MARCH 24.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE ON THE AWARD, &c.

The order of the day was then taken up for the House in Committee on the consideration of the Despatch from the Secretary of State to Lieut. Governor Dundas, dated "Downing Street, 7th February, 1862," together with a copy of the report of the Commissioners appointed by the Queen to inquire into the differences relative to the rights of landowners and tenants; Mr. Sutherland in the chair.

Hon. Col. GRAY—Mr. Chairman, with respect to the matter which is now before this hon. committee I have a resolution to offer; but before doing so permit me, Sir, to make a few observations. Sir, when I first moved for an inquiry into the relations between landlord and tenant, I did so with the impression that my motion would be supported by both sides of the House; but I have been sorry to observe that some hon. members consider this a party question. I regret that they have not deemed it their duty to legislate so as to secure the greatest good for the greatest number. Never shall I allow myself to oppose any measure which seems to be for the good of the country, though introduced by a political adversary. While several members oppose have shown a great amount of hostility to the settlement of this question, others have supported my endeavors on behalf of the people; and to these I must express my gratitude. I am sorry that efforts have been made to stir up the minds of the people against the Award, for any share of ingratitude on the part of the tenantry must have the effect of dampening the zeal of those persons who may be stepping forward to maintain their cause. But I am happy to testify to the good conduct of the people wherever appeals have been made to them against the Award; in such cases they have generally administered a rebuke to those who denounced it. The award of the Commissioners appointed by Her Majesty is now before us. This is enough for me to say on a subject which is worn so threadbare. The Award speaks for itself,

and no amount of declamation will either strengthen or weaken it. It is an accomplished fact; and the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies having directed it to be laid before the Legislature at its earliest meeting, it now remains for hon. members to take such steps as they may deem meet. I will now read the resolution which I submit:—

"Whereas, the House of Assembly in Session convened, in accordance with the Despatch received from His Grace the Secretary of State, dated "Downing Street, 21st March, 1860," on the subject of the proposed appointment of a Commission of Enquiry for the arrangement of the long-pending disputes between Landlords and Tenants in this Island, did, on the 14th day of April in the same year, agree and bind themselves, on the part of the Tenantry, to concur in the Award of the Commissioners to be appointed by Her Majesty, or the majority of them; and whereas,

"Her Majesty was graciously pleased under Her Royal Sign Manual, on the 25th June, 1860, to issue Her Royal Commission, appointing Commissioners, who proceeded to this Island, and opened their Court; and having discharged the duties confided to them under Her Majesty's Commission, did make their Award and submit the same to Her Majesty; and whereas,

"His Grace the Secretary of State having forwarded a copy of the aforesaid Award to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, for the purpose of being laid before the Legislature as soon as possible after its meeting.

"I THEREFORE RESOLVE, That this House in fulfillment of its pledge, do now introduce a Bill to confirm the Award in all its provisions."

Hon. Mr. DOUSE—I should like to ask the hon. leader of the Government if he does not think it proper that the minds of the people should be satisfied as to whether the Award is to bind all the proprietors, or only certain persons who signed their names to a paper. It seems to me a strange proceeding if the report of a Commission appointed on account of Sir Samuel Cunard and one or two others, should be made to effect all proprietors. It must be a source of great satisfaction to all parties, Sir, should this land question be now settled in some way. I have been in the Legislature for 20 years, and I think I have served my time to this question. But whether the decision come to by the Commissioners will settle the question or not remains to be seen. It appears to me they have taken a very wide range, for they have drawn in parties who have had nothing at all to do with the Commission. I have often heard the quit rent question and the escheat question discussed, and resolutions passed respecting them, but to use my own adage they have "all ended in smoke." And, Sir, the decision of the Commissioners does not give satisfaction. I agree with the Duke of Newcastle, that the arbitration clause must cease endless agitation. I do not wonder at the tenantry endeavouring to get the opportunity to purchase their lands on easy terms; I must say that I myself would never pay rent if I could help it. (Laughter.) But we need never expect to acquire property in any other way than by our own industry—at least that is the manner in which I obtained mine. I got it honestly, and have always paid 20s. to the pound. I am aware of the difficulties the Commissioners had to contend with in bringing their investigation to a termination, but I consider their decision unfair. I know of tenants who are arrears of rent to a large amount, but this is owing to improvidence; consequently, I think it unjust that industrious and thrifty tenants should not be remunerated for paying their dues to the proprietors, while those in arrears are to be let off with three years' rent. Some members of the Government, in their zeal to set everything right, seem to me to have made exaggerated statements. I will refer to a paragraph which appeared in the last issue.

Hon. Col. GRAY—It is proper to read paragraphs from newspapers in this House.

Hon. Mr. DOUSE—Here it is. (Laughter.)

Hon. Col. GRAY—I have no desire to shirk the matter. Mr. DOUSE—It was a remark made by an hon. member on this side of the House, respecting which a question was asked by Mr. Doyle.

Hon. Col. GRAY—I submit that if my colleague is going to read the speeches of hon. members, he should do so from the Parliamentary Reporter.

Hon. Mr. DOUSE—What I wish to read is the latter part of a speech of Hon. Col. Gray's, on the 25th page of the Reporter. It is as follows:—

"We asked for the tenant an opportunity to purchase on credit terms, and the Commissioners declared that no proprietor shall demand more than 20s. an acre, even for the most valuable mill site, though it may be worth £500."

Now, Sir, I know of mill sites worth a great deal more than £500, but I am sure their owners would not part with them on such terms. I myself have a mill site worth that sum yet I would be very sorry to sell it at that rate. But it may be said that I am not included among those who are bound by the Award of the Commissioners. Why, then, were my tenants dragged here, and corrupted I should say, because expectations were raised in their minds which cannot be realized? I have provided in all the leases which I have given my tenants that they can obtain the fee simple of their farms at 20 years' purchase.

Hon. Col. GRAY—Even mill sites. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. DOUSE—I have been very jealous about this Commission, and am so yet. The Messrs. Cunard and Montgomery have a right to do with their property as they please, and so have I. I will now sit down to hear what my hon. colleague has to say in reference to this question, and what he expects the country to understand when he says that "no proprietor shall demand more than 20s. an acre, even for the most valuable mill site." I think the hon. member, Mr. Doyle put a question to him very properly, and had I been here at the time, I would have supported that gentleman. Let us, I say, have this matter settled.

Hon. Col. GRAY—I did not expect to be called upon so soon to answer questions. He first asks whether all the proprietors are to be bound by the Award, and then objects to selling his land on such terms as will fit, as if he intended to have his estate included under its operation. He has answered the question in regard to mill sites himself, when he says that under the Award these may be had for 20 years' purchase, with the difference, however, of the reduction of ten per cent for ready money. I need not defend the Award of the Land Commissioners, it speaks for itself; but, Sir, I must reiterate such statements, as when the hon. member says that his tenants were dragged before the Commission. Does he mean to say that I did so? I have been accused of something of the same kind by hon. members on the other side of the House, so a person would require to be hardened indeed to stand all the taunts to which he is exposed; but I deny that the tenants of my colleague were dragged before the Commission, either by myself or by the Commissioners. He says that his tenants were dragged before the Commission, in order to obtain the fee simple of their farms at 20 years' purchase. This, I presume, he says in regard to Lot 31. Now I would ask him if the lands on that estate are not rented at British sterling?

Hon. Mr. DOUSE—I am not afraid to answer the hon. member. I love sterling, and British sterling, and sterling men too; there is no humbug about me. (Laughter.) In regard to this matter, I may say that my property is my own; and I am not going to deprive my children of it. If the hon. member wishes my estate for the Government, he can have it; I shall be glad to sell it. I desire to see this question settled. This Island has suffered enough by this agitation; it has been pretty well drilled by Col. This and Col. That, and Captain Cooper. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY—I desire to obtain the little information in regard to the resolution before the Committee. Do the Government intend to introduce a Bill to regulate the operation of the arbitration clause, and also the 1500-acre clause? because if so, it might influence the vote of parties on this question.

Hon. Col. GRAY—It is not intended that any details should be introduced into the proposed Bill; but I may state that I purpose before the close of the session to bring in a Bill to regulate the details of the Award. If the hon. member will refer to a despatch of the Duke of Newcastle respecting the former Act passed to confirm the Award, he will find that he says any Act passed by this Legislature might be either too sweeping or too limited; too sweeping if it included persons who had not consented to the reference, and too limited if it failed to make such provisions of detail as were necessary to give practical effect to the general principles laid down by the Commissioners. The Bill proposed by the resolution, however, we do not intend to include details. It is only to confirm "the Award, and nothing but the Award," as was remarked by the hon. member for Cardigan, when we were discussing the address in answer to His Excellency's speech. And I hope we shall now have that hon. member's support, as the resolution is to carry out what he appeared to desire.

Mr. DOUSE—The hon. member has not answered my question, whether he considers that all the proprietors are to be bound by the Award. Mr. COLES—I will answer my colleague's question if he puts it in writing; but I cannot reply to every title matter; besides the hon. member has already contradicted himself. His question is trivial, because my remarks had a clear reference to those proprietors only who had agreed to the Commission.

Hon. Mr. COLES—It is difficult, Mr. Chairman, to know what the Government intend to do. By the former Bill which was passed to confirm the Award, all the proprietors were to be bound; the Commissioners when they came here acted with that understanding, and last year we were told that that Act was only hung up to dry. Now, Sir, I would like to ask what good is to be gained by the Award unless all the proprietors are to be bound by it; if they are not there will be greater cause for dispute than ever. It was said once that a large number of the proprietors had agreed to the Commission; but we have nothing to show here more than four or five will submit to its decision. We understood that there were more proprietors' names than this, but it appears that the document has gone out of the hands of the Government.

Hon. Mr. HAVILLAND—I beg to set the hon. member right; it was never in the hands of the Government. I saw it in the possession of Mr. Cunard, who was obtaining signatures to it. The document I understand is in the Colonial Office.

Hon. Mr. COLES—I am glad that the hon. member has set me right; for I thought that the Government had neglected the settlement of this question. It is in the hands of the Government, but Sir, it was the intention of the majority to settle the question of the Award, and not the resolutions proposed by the hon. member for Belfast. If all the proprietors, however, are not to be included, the question cannot be settled. The Commissioners have passed a very high compliment on the late Government, by saying that they had advocated the best scheme that could be devised for settling the question. The hon. leader of the Government in this House repeats the opinion that was given by the Award, but outside; but, Sir, it is known that the greatest amount of opposition there, came from their own party; and in regard to this House, I hold myself free to express my opinion on any question that may come up. I desire to know whether it is intended that the Bill referred to in the resolution will confirm the Loan part of the Award.

Hon. Col. GRAY—The Award, as the hon. member for Cardigan said the other day, the Award, the whole Award, and nothing but the Award.

Hon. Mr. COLES—This is different from what some of the party have expressed on other occasions; but I still doubt whether they intend to agree to the loan. I must remind hon. members that the Duke of Newcastle in the despatch before the Commissioners, only says that he was given the Award, but not a prospect for a future time, and that it will not be granted. He also says that he has insuperable objections to the method of arbitration proposed by the Commissioners. If, however, anything can be made out of the arbitration clause, and the loan is to be available, the Award may be some advantage; but the most important consideration is whether all the proprietors are to be bound or not, because if not, all that is a very partial settlement, and the hon. member for Cardigan states in his report that he concurs in the Award of the Government, when they say, "His Grace the Colonial Secretary had been led to believe that the evidence had been collected at Charlottetown, and that the case was ripe for decision. He had been misinformed. No case had been prepared, no evidence had been collected, upon which any arbitrator could fairly determine the merits of the case, and as a party to the interests of the poor man in the empire." This certainly shows that they thought the Government had not made that preparation which was necessary. The Commissioners do not consider the loan the best remedy for the evils of the tenantry in this Island; and in case the Home Government should refuse to guarantee it, the arbitration clause is introduced as an expedient to settle the difficulties between landlord and tenant. Though the Commissioners entered into the consideration of the quit rent and other questions, still the loan appears to have taken up the greatest part of their attention. They state as their opinion that the Government could obtain the proprietors' lands at 2s 6d sterling an acre. This was the conclusion they came to after all the evidence that they had seen. This rate they seem to say the proprietors should receive, and no more. I again with respect to the arrears of rent, if anything is to be gained by their being given up, it is important that all the proprietors should be bound; but I may say that this Award is not what the country was led to expect; nor is it, I think, what the majority of this House expected, and if all the proprietors are not to be bound by it, we shall do well to have nothing to do with the document. Sir, it confirms their titles and makes great concessions to them respecting the fishery reserves, the right of the Crown to which they never disputed. This was not a question between landlord and tenant, and I think the Commissioners should not have taken so wide a range as to include it or the quit rent question. In regard to the quit rents, Mr. Thomson, the counsel for the tenantry, prepared a case, and had he and his colleagues prepared that it was got up by the proprietors. No public documents were at hand, we have been told. How could the Government tell what documents would be required in the course of the investigation? But where is the necessity of dwelling on these matters? There is the Award, and there is my resolution; let hon. members vote against it if they choose.

Progress was reported, and the House adjourned.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 24.

Hon. Col. GRAY presented a petition from certain inhabitants of Lots 50 and 57, complaining of fraud and imposition arising from the use of Fairbank's Platform Scales, used in weighing agricultural produce, and praying protection. Laid on table.

Hon. Mr. COOPER—The inhabitants of the country are very desirous to know something of the Award. The case is so complicated it is difficult for them to understand it, and what ever is said on the subject ought to be to inform and not to mislead them. In the first place, they ought to know that this is not the Award. I have given my opinion, on a former occasion, that the evidence is undergoing an investigation by officers of the Crown, in order to prepare a special Award fit to be presented to the Royal Assent. It should be borne in mind that Her Majesty's Government have been desirous for years that some arrangement should be made for the settlement of the tenantry. And the Liberals, when in office, having been disappointed in the promised Loan by a change of Ministers, were unable to carry out a settlement by the Land Purchase Act; consequently they were compelled to propose some measure for the settlement of that long pending question. But, like all forced work, they commenced with a bad grace. The first resolutions, proposing a Commission to settle the question, were not entertained; because the Commissioners were not authorized to enquire into the titles or the rights of either party. They were only to negotiate with the proprietors for a remission of some arrears of rent, and learn from them at what price they would sell the freehold to the tenants. Consequently, a proposal for a Commission, to be bound by such restrictions, could not be recommended to Her Majesty. But when the resolutions, with such objections, were sent to the principal proprietors, they proposed three arbitrators, one for each separate interest to investigate the case, who were then appointed by Her Majesty to enquire into the differences between the proprietors and the rights of landowners and tenants, with a view to the settlement of the same upon fair and equitable principles." Now, to understand those parts of the Report which are called Awards, it should be borne in mind that the Commissioners were not authorized to enquire into the differences between Crown officers and the tenants, nor propose an adjustment on that score. It was not expected or required of the Commissioners that they were to give a final