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### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

#### DEBATE ON THE SQUATTERS' BILL.

(Concluded.)

On the clause being read providing that the proprietor shall have the option of granting to the settler either compensation for his improvements, or a lease of 999 years duration, subject to one shilling sterling per acre rent—

Mr. DALZIEL considered that the rent of one shilling sterling was too high—the tenantry could not pay it. He would propose that it be one shilling currency; and the lease ought to be for 999 years.

Mr. DOUSE said, if the rent were reduced to Halifax currency, he was of opinion it would be of great advantage to the tenants. But as to the term of the lease, to leave it at 999 years would be the greatest absurdity. There is a sort of charm to the tenantry in the idea of becoming freeholders, and many of them have every facility of becoming so by the encouragement which Lord Selkirk gives them, by taking the purchase money in instalments, in sums as small as one pound at a time.

Mr. DALZIEL referred to the settlers on that part of Lord Selkirk's property on the Murray Harbour road, where the lease was 21 years only, with a liberty to purchase. Were they liberally treated? Suppose they had paid their rents and half of the purchase money, but with all their economy and industry were unable to pay the balance at the expiration of their lease, would Mr. Douse refund the sum advanced for the said purchase, and let them go free, they leaving their houses and improvements? If he would not, the liberality of the hon. gentleman, who acts as agent for Lord Selkirk, goes to the winds.

Mr. DOUSE would answer, there is no money returned. It was very likely that by the time the lease expired Lord Selkirk may have done with the land, and his successor left to get his balance the best way he can.

Mr. SPEAKER was disposed to leave the amount of rent as it at present stood; he thought a less sum would not be just. In some countries land was worth 20 years' purchase, but he did not think it was worth so much here. Heretofore, this sum has been the usual average of the term of rent throughout the Island. He was of opinion that with regard to the term of years, one hundred years, with a right to purchase, was equivalent to the term of 999 years without such a right. He highly approved of the plan of Lord Selkirk, in taking the purchase money in small instalments; it would act like a savings' bank, and he thought if all the tenants on the Island had the privilege of purchasing in that way, there would not long be many leaseholders on the Island.

Mr. COOPER objected to a rent of one shilling sterling. We retard the settlement and improvement of the land by keeping up the price. In fact, money cannot be had in any of the markets to which the inhabitants were accustomed to ship their produce—for the more produce was sent to those markets, the more depreciated would its value become. If we wish to do the squatters a service, let us nominate a rent they can pay; but by this bill we bind the tenant to pay a shilling an acre, which we all agree they are unable to pay. We do them more harm than good by confirming the right of the tenant to pay rent. How can he ever after deny it? The tenant will be told that his representatives proposed and carried the bill by which they were bound. They were much better off as they were than this bill would make them; by it, although their improvements might be worth £500, they would lose them all, unless they consented to receive the land burdened with a rent of one shilling sterling per acre.

Mr. COLES wished to have the rent and term of years fair and reasonable, in order that it may not be "burked" elsewhere. Let the rent be payable in the currency of the country; such as is taken at the treasury. He would moreover wish to see the rent fixed at one shilling, currency, and taken in produce at a fair market price; for the country is in a state to pay in cash at present.

Mr. PALMER said, if it were in our power to fix a standard for rent, there would be some reasonableness in adopting the mode proposed; but the question is, have we any authority to prescribe to the proprietor what sum he will accept of as rent, or for what term of years he must let his land? In this matter we have no more power than the squatters themselves; and we must be guided by what is expedient. It is well known that the rents are various throughout the Island; but he believed that one shilling sterling was the average rate. Some hon. members seemed to think that the fixing the rent depended on us; but let us take care that by grasping at a shadow we do not lose the substance. Now, although the rent is generally called sterling, yet he believed the current money was taken, unless that from some misconduct of the tenant he would provoke his landlord to insist upon its being paid in sterling. It is useless for us to make enactments that will not meet the approbation of the Imperial Government.

Mr. COOPER said, the annual rental of the Island is about Twenty thousand Pounds, though there is not so much money in the country; and what can be more unreasonable, when we know the tenants cannot pay, than to insist on embodying it in the Bill, by which the Government is deceived with regard to the state of the Colony—for when Government see the representatives of the people, by an Act of the legislature, fixing the amount of rent at one shilling sterling, they will be induced to believe that the tenantry are able to bear it.

Mr. THORNTON thought that some hon. members were losing sight of the nature of the Bill. The proprietor must tender compensation for the improvements, or give a lease to the settler. Those people, called squatters, had no right to the soil, and yet we are recognizing that they have a right, and for their benefit we are now legislating. This hon. member seems to have forgotten. If we lose sight of moderation, the proprietors will, with the greater facility, be enabled to upset everything we do. This bill he would consider as a stepping stone to something better; but we ought to be very cautious how we peril it elsewhere. In discussing the merits of this Bill on a former occasion, he made an allusion to Lot 30, which he was happy to have in his power to contradict; as he is informed that an authorised agent has been appointed, who grants a lease of 61 years, at a rent of one shilling, which is taken in produce. He was not aware of this circumstance when he made the allusion referred to. He (Mr. Thornton) agreed with the Hon. Speaker, and would therefore propose that 999 years be struck out, and one hundred substituted in lieu thereof, with right of purchase.

Mr. RAE said, whatever we do, let it be real. Hon. members have proved, on the floor of this house, that it was impossible the rents could be collected, even from those who were long settled—how then can the squatter pay what it is confessed it is impossible to pay?

Mr. SPEAKER said, the hon. member for Prince County (Mr. RAE), it would seem, was sent here to reduce the rents already due, and if he succeeds, he would give him credit for more sagacity than ever he thought him possessed of. We know it is contrary to the spirit of the British Constitution to legislate on private property, and we have gone to the very verge of our authority, if not beyond it, in the present bill. The squatter has no legal right to the soil, and he may think himself well off to receive a compensation for his labour, or a lease. Those hon. members who are loudest

in their cry for extreme measures have never yet been able to carry any of them. He would really wish their constituents were here to see them spending their time in reading, and then, when any measure was brought forward by the majority, for the benefit of the country, they fly at it, tooth and nail, and for no other reason than because it did not emanate from themselves. It was in vain to think we could alter all the rents of the Island; and suppose we were so silly as to imagine we could, would the Imperial Parliament, composed of the land proprietors of England, listen for one moment to such a proposal? but he need not argue this point further. Those squatters went upon the land without the leave of the proprietor, and yet they must be put on a par with leaseholders. He thought they might consider themselves well off to get a lease and a settlement, or compensation for their improvements.

Mr. D. MACLEAN said the people had little to hope for from the Imperial Government, one way or other. He could not approve of the policy that would substitute so fluctuating a medium as currency for the rent. This was of a nature so changeable, that there could be very little certainty of its intrinsic value at any time.

Mr. D. MACDONALD said an hon. member (Mr. Thornton) had remarked that the present bill did not go to fix the rate of rent to be taken in the Island. Can any one say that the country is able to pay one shilling sterling? It is useless to expect it.

Mr. MONTGOMERY said if the Bill went to establish one shilling currency, the country would cry out against it; and he himself, if he found such a clause in the bill, would vote against it in toto. He would sooner see the bill lost, than establish such a precedent.

Mr. SPEAKER said the leases are generally filled with one shilling sterling, but the agents do not exact it, unless in cases of great provocation. We have nothing to do with the rate of exchange. The fact is, if the rent were paid in Halifax currency, as the rate of exchange now is, it would be more than the shilling sterling.

Mr. MONTGOMERY said, it is in the power of the proprietors to demand a shilling sterling; but he cannot conceive how a shilling sterling is less than a shilling Halifax currency. It is not easy to tell when they may usurp this authority. He would like to put it out of their power to do so.

Mr. SPEAKER said it was easily explained. The amount in this currency is brought to sterling by adding one-ninth thereto; whereas, as the rate of exchange is between this Island and Nova Scotia at present, he who pays rent in that currency, pays it at a considerable advance.

Mr. MONTGOMERY thought the better way to prevent the proprietors from exacting sterling, would be to put it out of their power by law. He did not like to trust to their tender mercies, for we know not how soon they might think proper to exercise their authority, especially if we give them any excuse.

Mr. DOUSE observed that the proprietor for whom he acted had, on his representation, done away with sterling money in the leases. But when the tenants act in the perverse manner in which he had seen some of them act, they could not be too strictly handled. It was by such conduct that the proprietors were driven to adopt extreme measures, and the people's greatest enemies are those who advocate extreme measures. They were talking of leaving the country; he thought the sooner they did so the better for the country. The fact is, these persons come here, spend their time in poring over newspapers, and when they go home, they can tell fine tales to their constituents in the chimney corner; while those who can use their pens, and do the labor of the House, receive no thanks for it. He would ask the agitators, what single measure they had carried out for the last four years? Let their constituents come here and judge for themselves.

Mr. MONTGOMERY said he would like to see the blame laid on the party who opposed the good measures brought forward for the relief of the oppressed tenantry, by those who are now called the enemies of the people. He did wish that the constituency were at the bar of the House; they might then distinguish their friends from their foes; but he trusted the reporter would give a faithful account in his notes, and then the country could judge for itself.

Mr. DALZIEL could not see how such a rent could be paid. If hon. members were aware of the distress in some of the districts with which he was acquainted—if we were to look at the poverty-stricken appearance of their houses—the roofing little better than the sky, and their beds little better than the snow—and those avaricious persons, who act as agents grasping at every thing they can—he (Mr. Dalziel) felt convinced that hon. members would see that if things are carried on in the same way a few years longer, anarchy and confusion will ensue. The land that was formerly a wilderness, is now, by the labour of the settler, made a new creation; but as to what the hon. member for Georgetown (Mr. Macaulay) had said about the crop for two years paying for the clearing, that was a fallacy. Lord John Russell said the evil would cure itself; he (Mr. Dalziel) was afraid it would, but not in the way he (Lord John Russell) contemplated. How could any one expect such persons as those mentioned could pay one shilling sterling per acre as rent?

Mr. D. MACLEAN was impressed with the idea that the discussions and debates of this House should be conducted with some regard to decorum; he was, therefore, much surprised at hearing the tirades he had listened to—such as some members wishing others out of the country, and similar expressions.

Mr. SPEAKER said he had heard that Mr. Cooper intended to leave the Island. He (the Speaker), in common with many others, would wish the hon. gentleman a happy departure; and he would use his utmost influence with the Legislature to assist him, in a pecuniary way, to get off the Island. We are called to say if the tenants in this Island could pay a rent of One shilling an acre. He maintained that they can, and he knew as much about clearing land as any one in the House. Emigrants, on coming here, must not expect to become gentlemen at once—but they must have 100 or 200 acres set apart for them at once, otherwise, they are told by the agitators that they are oppressed. They have nothing on coming to the country; they pay no rent, but they must all become freeholders. These poor people are led astray by agitators. What sympathy they express for the poor people, as they call them, just as if there were no poor in any other part of the world! He would inform them that the poor in England, Ireland and Scotland were much that the poor in England, Ireland and Scotland were much worse off than they were here. What were those people who so excite the pity of some hon. members when they are now before us some Mr. So-and-so may take it into his head to contradict, but he (Mr. RAE) was determined they should not be contradicted, as they should be grounded on incontrovertible evidence, and upon this evidence the House may act. He (Mr. RAE) was not bound to bring forward a remedy, nor did he at the present time know any plan—it is as much the duty of other members as it was his (Mr. RAE's).

Mr. PALMER was one of those anxious to hear a remedy for the present state of the Colony, but before going into it, he would wish to hear some feasible plan proposed, in order that the House might apply a remedy. He was anxious the hon. member would devise some plan different from those abortive schemes that have so often failed; but he could elicit nothing from the hon. member like a connected plan, or indeed any plan at all; some members might wish to go into the state of the Colony, but it appeared the mover is not prepared to give any reason; so that he now

stands in a worse state than he was before called on to produce his reason for taking the step he proposed to the House. From the tenor of his Resolutions, he wished to prove that great distress prevails. What need have we of evidence to prove what no one is prepared to deny? The examination of so many witnesses would be a very tedious process: he would always wish to see the tenants well represented in this House. Indeed, he thought the agricultural interest should always have a majority in the House, to redress any real grievance. We cannot take any matter for debate until we know its meaning, and he confessed he did not well understand the meaning of these Resolutions till he came to the last; that, he perceived, means agitation, if it goes forth to the country. He (Mr. Palmer) did not wish to throw obstacles in the way of the Committee to investigate every real grievance that may appear within our power to remedy.—The tenor of those Resolutions, with the exception of one or two of them, for any thing we know to the contrary, are perfectly true (reads Resolutions.) "The tenants cannot pay their rents in cash," &c. This Colony is peculiar; the inhabitants have rent to pay, and he would wish to see them well represented; and he thought the hon. members of the present House were willing to redress any grievance under which the people may labour; but he could not see the utility of calling the attention of the House to a matter, the result of which cannot be foreseen.

Mr. RAE said, if the settler was paid half the value of his improvements, it would be better for him than to impose one shilling sterling for rent on him—the Bill was brought forward for the avowed purpose of relieving the squatters, but he feared it would have a contrary effect.

Mr. PALMER regretted the discussion that had this evening taken place, more than anything that had occurred in the House during the present session. If certain hon. members wish to fall back into their old track, well, so would he. He had tried to make the House unanimous in this matter, but he failed. Those who oppose every measure brought forward for the relief of the people that does not originate with themselves, pretend to say, that because from the present depressed state of the country, a tenant is unable to pay one shilling rent, it follows that it never has been paid, and never can be. Let them go on as formerly, and they will see what will be the result. He deeply regretted the course that some hon. members thought proper to pursue. If they think they can get land for the squatter in a different way, let them disclose their intentions.

Saturday, February 25.

#### STATE OF THE COLONY.

The House, according to order, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, to take into consideration the state of the Colony.

Dr. MACGREGOR took the Chair.

Mr. RAE said, he had certain Resolutions to submit to the consideration of the Committee, and although he did not think that the truth of all, or any of them, would be disputed by any member of the Committee; yet he, (Mr. RAE) would wish to put them past contradiction, either here or elsewhere, and in order to this, he held in his hand a list of the names of such persons as he would wish to have examined before the Committee, by whose evidence the allegations contained in the Resolutions would be borne out. The hon. member then read the following names: viz.—The Hon.ables Thomas H. Haviland, John S. Smith, R. Hodgson, G. R. Goodman, P. S. M'Nutt, Charles Worrell, Thos. Fairbairn, Thomas Tod, William Forgan, Samuel Nelson, James Haszard, Thomas Owen, John R. Bourke, Esquires; and Messrs H. D. Morphet, John MacKenzie, New London, John Davis, Charlottetown, J. Purdie, Patrick Walker, and Peter M'Gowan.—He would move that those persons may be examined before the Committee.

Mr. COOPER, as yet, did not hear much reason for the evidence to be elicited from those persons by the hon. mover. He, Mr. Cooper, could not see the necessity of sending for them; he hoped the hon. mover would state his reasons for sending for them, or what evidence he expected to obtain from the persons which he wished to summon.

Mr. RAE explained, it was for the purpose of obtaining evidence to substantiate the Resolutions; not that he supposed any member of the House could come forward to deny the existence of the state of things embodied in the Resolutions; but the Resolutions on the state of the Colony, sent home last session, were denied on the representation of certain influential individuals here. Now what he wished was, to find his resolutions on such a mass of evidence as cannot be controverted.

Mr. THORNTON wanted to know of what possible utility could it be to collect the numerous persons mentioned in that list to the bar of this House, to examine them as to the situation of the Colony, when we all know that, at the present time, the country is not so prosperous as it has been.

Mr. RAE said, we have been represented as having passed resolutions in the last session of the late House which were not founded in fact, by the Government at home; and by evidence we can prove the actual state of the Colony, and that by evidence that cannot be doubted. If it is decided against me, that the distress of the country requires no notice, I shall have discharged my duty to my conscience and to my country in bringing it before the House.

Mr. SPEAKER expected reasons advanced by the hon. mover, for going into the state of the Colony; but he heard none advanced. Here is also a long catalogue of persons to be summoned, and to prove what? to prove what no one will deny,—that distress to a great amount at present exists. But, admitting the present Resolutions to be true, what can we do? Our business here is to frame laws for the welfare of those who sent us, not to enter into discussions of what former Governors thought of certain members of the late House. The hon. mover wished to contradict what the Governor said of certain resolutions, and the persons who passed them in a late House. We have been sufficiently courteous to any member who brought forward any measure to ameliorate the condition of the country; but are we to undertake to alter the rents that people have agreed to pay? and if they cannot pay, are we expected to dictate to the proprietors what terms they must give their tenantry? He wished it to go forth to the tenants, that they have been wrongly informed: it is not in our power to relieve them. I do hope and trust the House will insist on knowing the reasons and remedies of the mover. From what has occurred in the House lately, an erroneous opinion is gone forth, and the people, one and all, expect to be freeholders, and the sooner we can put an end to the delusion the better: if he cannot give us good reasons for calling those persons together, the House will not put the country to the expense of summoning them to its bar. It was the right of the Legislature to reform abuses, but what practical benefit will result from those resolutions, admitting them to be facts? This House has no power to remedy the state of things complained of. We can hold out no hope of relief to the leaseholder; and it is for their special benefit that he (Mr. Speaker) wished to undeceive them. He might not be considered their friend; but he would not allow the impression to go abroad, that they would have free land—if he did, it would but revive and encourage agitation, which has been the source of many of the evils complained of. The hon. mover should bring forward his plans, so that the House might judge of the necessity of sending or not sending for those persons.

Mr. RAE observed, the Hon. Speaker's speech was out of place. How does he expect me to produce a plan of what may hereafter be elicited, by the examination of the persons proposed to be sent for. Why call on me for a remedy? I have done my duty in representing the truth, and if I have no remedy to submit just now, it may be in the power of others of the Committee to propose something; it is the duty of each of them to do what he can, and who can tell but something may be devised that had not hitherto been thought of. The hon. Speaker is not correct in saying we have no power to redress; it is true we have the power of representing a law to grant redress, but we have the power of representing facts to the Imperial Government, and if he (the hon. speaker) does not wish to represent the grievances under which the Colony labours, let him bear the blame before his constituents. The hon. member drew up Resolutions on the state of the Colony, and by the Governor they were contradicted, and much odium was thrown on individual members. Now, these resolutions which are now before us some Mr. So-and-so may take it into his head to contradict, but he (Mr. RAE) was determined they should not be contradicted, as they should be grounded on incontrovertible evidence, and upon this evidence the House may act. He (Mr. RAE) was not bound to bring forward a remedy, nor did he at the present time know any plan—it is as much the duty of other members as it was his (Mr. RAE's).

Mr. PALMER was one of those anxious to hear a remedy for the present state of the Colony, but before going into it, he would wish to hear some feasible plan proposed, in order that the House might apply a remedy. He was anxious the hon. member would devise some plan different from those abortive schemes that have so often failed; but he could elicit nothing from the hon. member like a connected plan, or indeed any plan at all; some members might wish to go into the state of the Colony, but it appeared the mover is not prepared to give any reason; so that he now

stands in a worse state than he was before called on to produce his reason for taking the step he proposed to the House. From the tenor of his Resolutions, he wished to prove that great distress prevails. What need have we of evidence to prove what no one is prepared to deny? The examination of so many witnesses would be a very tedious process: he would always wish to see the tenants well represented in this House. Indeed, he thought the agricultural interest should always have a majority in the House, to redress any real grievance. We cannot take any matter for debate until we know its meaning, and he confessed he did not well understand the meaning of these Resolutions till he came to the last; that, he perceived, means agitation, if it goes forth to the country. He (Mr. Palmer) did not wish to throw obstacles in the way of the Committee to investigate every real grievance that may appear within our power to remedy.—The tenor of those Resolutions, with the exception of one or two of them, for any thing we know to the contrary, are perfectly true (reads Resolutions.) "The tenants cannot pay their rents in cash," &c. This Colony is peculiar; the inhabitants have rent to pay, and he would wish to see them well represented; and he thought the hon. members of the present House were willing to redress any grievance under which the people may labour; but he could not see the utility of calling the attention of the House to a matter, the result of which cannot be foreseen.

[Here the hon. Gentleman read the last Resolution, which is as follows:]

RESOLVED, That if no relief be granted, by altering the tenure, nor by making the rents under the present tenure payable in merchantable produce, it would in a great measure tend to relieve the distressed and do away with agitation, were the claimant of rent to pay the occupier of the land for the improvement made by such occupier and others, to enable him to seek in another Country for land, under a tenure which should not expose him, after every reasonable exertion of industry and economy, to be deprived in his declining years of the fruits of the labours of his previous life.

What is this Resolution put in for? For the purpose of going before the public. What good can we do even if we join in this Resolution? He (Mr. RAE) should show that it could be carried into effect. If these Resolutions go before the public, sanctioned by us, it only prolongs agitation, and consequently prolongs their misery. Candidly tell them we cannot benefit them by Legislative enactments. Will this Legislature, or the British Government, annul the leases, long since made by the consent of parties? Does the hon. member think the British Parliament would interfere with the right of property? No! and even if the 700 members of which it consists were Joseph Humes, it would still have to go to the Lords, composed of the greatest land proprietors of the Kingdom, and does he think it would pass them? For those persons who do not come under this class of tenants, we have a Bill before the House for their relief; and this he would think should satisfy those members who seem so peculiarly to interest themselves for the agriculturists. He (Mr. Palmer) was quite in the dark as to why he (Mr. RAE) wishes to examine those gentlemen: he did not like to have the time of the House taken up in so useless a proceeding, which would, at best, only tend to unsettle the minds of the people.

Mr. COOPER said, it was the practice of the Imperial Parliament to appoint select committees, to report when any particular cause of public distress requires such a procedure; now distress is allowed to exist throughout the country; the tenantry cannot pay the rent imposed on them in cash. It is generally for the purpose of obtaining information, that persons acquainted with the state of the colony are summoned; and then, the committee might form their own opinion afterward. It was observed, that the tenantry were unable to pay their rents, and in consequence, were obliged to give their bonds and warrants to pay hereafter. He (Mr. Cooper) thought those who designed to leave the country should be paid for their improvements, in order that they might get away to some more favoured country. This, he thought, was the intention of the Resolution brought forward by Mr. RAE. Rents cannot be paid, there is not a sufficient quantity of circulating medium in the Island for the purpose. From the evidence we might find out where the best market was for produce, from the accounts given by those who import and export, and some plan might be devised to remedy the grievance complained of; if, for instance, the proprietors could be induced to take the rents in produce, it would be a great relief; if, instead of this, the poor settlers who cannot pay the rent, as demanded, are ejected, they must become vagrants or robbers, or, at best, burthensome to other settlers. The inhabitants who first came here for the purpose of making a settlement were neither the most intelligent nor most industrious, but such as were easily imposed on by the proprietary agents—they agreed to pay any rent that was demanded, but which they now find they cannot pay; there are now no markets for produce. Let us get all the information we can from those persons designed to be summoned.—Let us see what can be done.

Mr. SPEAKER said the hon. mover stated his chief object was, that no misconstruction might be put on certain resolutions which he has brought forward, and that they may be borne out by evidence of facts, in order that the present House may escape the odium that was thrown on the last one. He (Mr. Speaker) thought it was the duty of every hon. member of this house to provide every remedy he could devise to obviate the distress and difficulty that are acknowledged to exist; and the hon. member who has just sat down gives his remedy, which is to pay the tenantry for their improvements, to enable them to emigrate. Does he think we could get the sanction of the Home Government to such a measure? The last House went every length for the purpose of remedying those grievances. (Reads despatches.) We know pretty well the opinion of the present government. What need have we to enter into a useless examination, that would perhaps occupy the House a fortnight, to the detriment of other business. It is our duty to do to the utmost in our power, in whatever way we may think will conduce to the benefit of the Colony, if any thing can be done with the proprietors by our representations. He thought a strong case could be made out, and the weight of this House may have a good effect with them. An hon. member (Mr. Palmer) has proposed some resolutions, which he, Mr. Speaker, hoped would be carried by a great majority. This he considered to be a good, indeed the only plan we can expect to avail us; let us not take up any vague ideas—let common sense be our guide in our application. He was very sanguine, if they were unanimous, that their application would have the desired effect, and that the proprietors would take it into consideration—take off the arrears of rent, and in future receive it in produce. We should make the best of a bad bargain, and go into its consideration mildly; and then he did not doubt the weight of the home government, would go with our recommendation; and we may then expect more good to result from it, than from any thing that has hitherto been devised. Let us use sound discretion, and if the proprietors study their own interest, they will listen to our representations, for were they to exact the rents in specie and to enforce the rigorous collection of the arrears due, as the people could not pay, it would ultimately injure themselves.

Mr. WIGHTMAN said, there were some of the hon. member's (Mr. RAE's) resolutions of which he approved, but there were others of them of which he doubted the utility. How far we can interfere with the contracts between landlord and tenant, he could not at present say; but he had been asked for a remedy. His (Mr. Wightman's) remedy would be: Let the proprietors reduce their rents as they do at home, when the times are bad, notwithstanding the tenor of their leases. It has been lately done to persons so circumstanced to a considerable extent: even a third has been deducted by some landlords at the late auctions. With us, since the shipping trade has failed, we have nothing to bring money into the country, that might enable the tenant to pay his rent, except produce, and even that was so depreciated in all the markets, with which the Island was accustomed to trade, that it is impossible for the tenant to pay the rent in money, while such a state of things exists.

Mr. DOUSE had attentively listened to the observations that fell from the hon. gentleman, and he had concluded in his own mind that some of those Resolutions had a dangerous tendency. It is a well known fact that the payments of rent by the leases are to be in cash, and this House has no power to interfere with