

Correspondence.

FOR THE EXAMINER.

PUBLIC MEETING AT PRINCE-TOWN ROYALTY AND LOT 18.

A General Meeting of the Inhabitants of Princetown Royalty, Lot 18 and vicinity, was held in the Mechanics' Institute, Princetown Royalty, on the evening of the 25th ultimo, convened for the purpose of taking into consideration matters in connection with the Land Question and the Award of the Royal Commissioners thereon.

The Hon. the Speaker of the House of Assembly, the Hon. Mr. Warburton, Geo. Sinclair, Esq., M. P., and others, severally addressed the meeting.

The Hon. the Speaker deprecated the idea of taking any action or expressing any opinion on the award pending its publication in full, while others contended that the exposition by the Hon. Mr. Howe contained its principal features, and was amply sufficient to afford a correct idea of the whole, and declared, as their opinion, that its confirmation would prove a lasting evil to the Island.

The following Resolutions were then severally submitted and unanimously adopted:—

1. Moved by Mr. H. S. MacNutt, and seconded by Hon. Mr. Warburton:

That in the opinion of this Meeting, the indiscriminate confirmation of the titles of all proprietary claims of Lands in P. E. Island is an act of injustice to the whole people.

2. Moved by Mr. Simon Delaney, and seconded by Garret Dumpey, Esq.:

That a compromise by means of the Land Purchase Bill is the best solution of the difficulty that can now be devised, provided that a Loan be guaranteed by the British Government, as an act of retributive justice to the people of P. E. Island, in consideration of their previous improvident exercise of the prerogative of the Crown in granting away the whole lands of this Island in blocks of 20,000 acres each; and provided further, that the Government of this Island were authorized, ere they concluded a purchase, to require the proprietors thereof to satisfy them that they had an equitable title to the lands they were in possession of.

3. Moved by Mr. John Chalmers, and seconded by Mr. P. Slaters:

That the proposition of 20 years' purchase, together with the arbitration clause attached, is calculated to diminish rather than increase the present ratio of tenants becoming freeholders, inasmuch as, if any proprietors could be found who would not previously have parted with their tenancy on equal, if not more advantageous terms than those proposed by the award, but who having now the sanction of Royal authority, will be more likely to insist on the full benefits of those terms, more especially as their titles will be thereby placed beyond question.

4. Moved by Mr. Chas. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Stephen McLellan:

That in the opinion of this Meeting, the striking off of all arrears of rent prior to 1858, confers but small benefit on the tenantry, as few who strive to pay their rent are more than that class in arrears; and of those who do owe more, the proprietors have small chance of collecting more by any means they can resort to, which the Commissioners seem quite aware of; and by providing that all arrears must be paid up before the land is bound to treat with the tenant respecting purchase, that benefit that might otherwise accrue from it, as tenants who might otherwise be desirous to purchase might not be able to realize the whole amount of back rent and the first instalment of purchase money.

5. Moved by Mr. Stephen McLellan, seconded by Mr. Peter Hickey:

That in the opinion of this Meeting, the Royal Commissioners had erred in their awarding that the fishery reserves should be sold, and should merge into the adjoining properties. Those lands having been reserved in the award, were like all other unalienated lands, ceded to the Government of this Island when the payment of their own Civil List was undertaken by them.

6. Moved by Mr. Alex. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Donald McDonald:

That the manner in which the quit rents and loyalist claims appear to have been disposed of is an outrage to justice and common sense.

7. Moved by Mr. John Sutherland, seconded by D. S. McLellan, Esq.:

That the introduction of Mr. Whitman in the manner and for the purpose for which he was, was degrading to the Royal Commissioners and insulting to the people of this Island, and any information supplied by him can only be regarded as information obtained under false pretences.

8. Moved by D. S. McLellan, Esq., seconded by Mr. Chas. Stewart:

That the interests of the whole people of P. E. Island would be marred by that award becoming law in its present shape; and that in the opinion of this Meeting, it is their duty to urge on the Legislature, at its next Session, not to confirm the same by any legislative enactment.

9. Moved by Mr. B. W. Morson, seconded by Mr. S. Delaney:

That this Meeting, entertaining as they have done, the very highest opinion of the Hon. Mr. Howe, view with surprise and deep regret; the whole tenor of the award; and observe, with feelings of keen disappointment, that the interests of the tenantry of P. E. Island have, with the fishery reserves, the quit rents, and the loyalist claims, been merged into the interests of the proprietors; and that the declaration of Hon. Mr. Howe, that the award is the unanimous decision of the whole Commission, they are unable to discover that he (Mr. Howe) has established his claim to that high spirit of independent patriotism which they had previously given him credit for possessing.

A gentleman present having suggested the propriety of petitioning His Excellency to dissolve the present House of Assembly, Hon. Mr. Warburton submitted a draft of a petition for that purpose, which being approved of, and an intimation given that a copy had been placed in the hands of a person in the neighbourhood for signatures, a resolution was passed that it be published; after which a vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman, when the meeting adjourned.

I. L. S. MAGNUTT, Secy.

[We understand that a very large Public Meeting was held in the forenoon of the same day as the above, at Indian River, when copies of the foregoing resolutions were submitted, and unanimously adopted.]

PUBLIC MEETING AT TIGNISH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR—A public meeting was held on Tuesday, the 2nd inst., at Christopher's Cross Road, Lot 1, for the purpose of considering the Award of the Land Commission, which was fully discussed by several gentlemen present from different parts of the District. At the close of the meeting the Chairman reported the following resolutions:—

Proposed by Mr. John Brodricke, seconded by Mr. William Callahan, and carried unanimously:

1st. Resolved, That this meeting is of opinion that the Award of the Land Commissioners, as explained by Mr. Howe in a speech which appeared in the Examiner newspaper of the 25th August last, can be of no benefit to the tenantry of this Island in general; but, on the contrary, (with the exception of the Land Purchase and Loan Bills) it would be of great injury to them, while it places the proprietors in a much better position than they had been heretofore, as it confirms them in their titles, although the Land Commissioners readily admit that they have forfeited their titles by the non-fulfilment of the original grants. It also exonerates the proprietors from a large amount of Quit Rents due the Colony by them, and confirms them in their usurped claims to the fishery reserves, which were intended for a public benefit, while on the other hand the interests of the tenants and the Crown are wholly neglected.

Proposed by Mr. Prosperie Gallant, seconded by Mr. Sylvian Gallant, and carried unanimously:

2nd. Whereas it is stated in certain resolutions passed by the Legislature of this Island in the session of 1859, and approved of by His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, that the basis of such arrangement should be a large remission of arrears of rent. And whereas, by the said Award all arrears of rents since 1858 must be paid up, thereby leaving to the landlord as much as in most cases he could collect.

Resolved, therefore, that this meeting is of opinion that the above recommendation has not been carried out by the Land Commissioners, and therefore the tenants will not derive any benefit whatever from that part of the Award.

Proposed by Mr. Peter Doyle, seconded by Mr. James Macnecken, and carried unanimously:

3rd. Resolved, That 20 years' purchase is a price far too high for lands which have been forfeited over and over again, as explained by Mr. Commissioner Howe, and which were made valuable only by the industry and hard labour of the tenants. This meeting is therefore of opinion that the Commission have taken a wrong view of the matter; they should have taken into their wildest state, and not with their improvements, as a great many Townships

have already paid more rents than the amount required to effect a purchase.

Proposed by Mr. Fidele Gallant, seconded by Mr. Robert Thomson, and carried unanimously:

4th. Whereas this meeting has no confidence in the Government, as now constituted, to settle the Land Question in justice to the tenants, and to bring about a settlement under the control and influence of the landlords, in consequence thereof this meeting is of opinion that a petition should be got up and presented to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, praying him to dissolve the present House of Assembly, and thereby give the tenants, whom the Award is intended materially to affect, an opportunity of expressing their opinion thereon at the next meeting.

Proposed by Mr. Fidele J. Gaudet, seconded by Mr. Peter Gallant, and carried unanimously:

5th. Resolved, That this meeting is of opinion that they are justly entitled to the privileges of a General Election before the Award becomes law, as the Land Commission scheme was not in contemplation at the last General Election.

By inserting the above resolutions in the Examiner you will oblige yours,

Signed in behalf of the meeting, THOMAS BERNARD, Chairman. Nail Pond, Lot 1, October 2, 1861.

PETITION.

To His Excellency GEORGE DUNDAS, Lieut. Governor, &c. &c. The petition of the undersigned inhabitants of the First Electoral District of Prince County.

Most RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

That we having met for the purpose of considering the Award of the Land Commissioners, as published in the Examiner newspaper of the 25th of August last, beg leave to state to your Excellency that the outcome of the said Award, as given by Mr. Howe, has caused us great dissatisfaction, having been led to believe that the tenantry would be materially benefited by the Award, while it in fact would place them in a worse position than they had previously been. And as the Award is to be submitted to the Legislature for the purpose of passing it into a law, your petitioners are of opinion that the passing of a law, as recommended by the said Award, would be a serious wrong to the tenantry of this Island, and as the present House of Assembly does not possess the confidence of your petitioners, as they believe the majority of the said House are the nominees of the proprietors.

Your petitioners would also beg leave to state to your Excellency, that at the time of the last General Election the Land Commission scheme was not in contemplation, and we consider that it would be unfair to pass a law grounded on the said Award, until the opinion of the tenantry would be taken at a General Election.

May it therefore please your Excellency to grant the prayer of the foregoing petition, and dissolve the present House of Assembly.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

MR. EDITOR.—Your correspondent "Aurora" very properly says, that men who are not guided by general principles are like ships at sea without chart, compass or rudder. I will note down one or two general principles for his future guidance, which he may use as compass or rudder, as best suits him. The first is, that a man, in discussing public questions, should not allow his private likes or dislikes to sway his judgment or disguise his style. Again, we ought not to hold a whole community answerable for the sins and shortcomings of a few of its members. And my third is, that we should never, in writing, particularly, use a word without well weighing its true significance, and satisfying ourselves that it is capable of conveying our full meaning to the mind of the reader. I will add yet one further reflection, that wholesome censure is generally more unjust and certainly a great deal more unamiable than unqualified praise. Had Aurora been guided by either of the principles above enunciated, he would never have penned the concluding paragraph of his last communication to you. In the paragraph alluded to he offers, if challenged, to engage the New Londoners in a respectful debate, and further on, in defiance of good manners, good taste, and good sense, exclaims that a base people they are!

Some persons have a very loose way of writing and talking. This looseness and carelessness is more observable where it is least excusable, when they dilate on the faults and follies of others. It often happens that such writers have intended for moderate censure their unskillful use of words has transformed into unmanly abuse, and that where they wished to cast merited blame on others they have brought upon themselves the contempt of the judicious and the discerning. Had Aurora taken his dictionary and looked up the word "base," he would not, if he possessed a particle of candour, have applied so offensive an epithet to the people of New London. I am the more inclined to think this from the connection in which I find it. If they desire to be called base, who are deficient in political knowledge, who have no fixed and definite notions as to what are the proper and legitimate functions of a Lieutenant Governor, then I fear that not only the New Londoners, but nineteen-twentieths of the whole community, not excluding the indignant Aurora himself, must resort to be classed with the vile and the mean-spirited. If you sign a complimentary address without reading it, is a sign of baseness, the characters of many who have hitherto been accounted worthy, respectable men among us, are irretrievably lost. In fact, so far am I from agreeing with Aurora, that I deem that man to have a most voracious and indiscriminating literary appetite who can read more than one of the insipid things without experiencing qualms something similar to those of the unfortunate who for his sins is obliged to swallow a bowl of lukewarm water. Fashion makes people do a number of queer and even absurd things—from wearing beaver hats to signing complimentary addresses to a man of whom they know very little, and for whom they care a great deal less.

The writer is not a New Londoner, nor is he in any way connected with the New Londoners; yet he has had opportunities of knowing them that few have enjoyed who have not been born and brought up in that part of the country. He has sat at their tables, slept in their houses, rejoiced at their weddings, and sorrowed at their burials. He has sympathized with them in their misfortunes, and he has hated them on their faults. Yet he can with all honesty and sincerity say that a warmer hearted, a more hospitable, and a more obliging people the sun does not shine on. They are, in the common language of the country, *par excellence*, a "clever" people. If to lead a life of spotless morality, to possess an unblemished character, and to have as much of this world's goods as to be enabled to live in comfort and independence, gives a man a right to be called respectable, then there are in New London as many 'respectable' men as in any portion of the Island, of equal extent and population, that I am acquainted with. That the New Londoners have faults I do not pretend to deny; but those faults are as far removed from mean-spiritedness as one pole is from the other. The great fault, and I had almost said the only fault, in the public character of the inhabitants of New London, is a want of independence of thought. They allow others to think for them who are not one whit more capable of performing the difficult business of thinking than the generality of themselves. A phrenologist would say that the organ of veneration has had an undue development on the craniums of most of the good people in that section of the country, and that self-esteem needed to be sedulously cultivated for a while among them. They have suffered themselves to be duped by politicians, lay and clerical. They—that is, a majority of them—have their political opinions on credit, without sufficient examination as to their soundness. Their faith in their leaders and guides has been unbounded. I may, as before, if I am rightly informed, a spirit of doubt and enquiry is showing itself among them, and the time is not far distant when they will throw off the degrading shackles they have so long and so fondly hugged.

Had either of the gentlemen who addressed the meeting the other day at Graham's Cross, followed the example of the renowned Marcus Al. Raschid, donning a pedlar's habiliments, and mixed with the people as they wereled their way homewards, he would have heard many unpalatable truths, which a misplaced politeness or a foolish diffidence on his part prevented him from publicly bearing at the meeting. The great unknown would have been a good deal edified, but I fear not much encouraged, by what he would have heard during his wanderings.

Hoping that Aurora will take in good part what I have written, for I bear him no malice, though I could not see the New Londoners abused without handing my protest, I remain, &c.

Lot 17, Oct. 3, 1861. OBSERVER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR—I observe in the *Islander* of the 6th instant a repetition of complaints against the Hon. Messrs. Coles and Kelly, over the signature of "Probo," on account of the unequal division of road money, as he would make it appear,

within their Electoral District. Now, observe the money expended in Townships 35, 36 and 37, by the *Islander's* own showing, was for the building or repairing of wharfs and bridges, stoning or hushing swamps, and not for the work commonly done by statute labour. Lot 48 I suppose to be an old settlement as Lot 34, with roads equal to, if not better, than the latter; and yet I assert we require no public grant on our road, except for building or repairing bridges. French Fort road, or any other settlement road not open to the shore, cannot in common honesty be entitled to any share of public money. On the St. Peter's Road, Lot 34, some £6 or £7 was unnecessarily expended, which might have been better laid out on Appletree Road or Wharf; yet the inhabitants of the former are, with few exceptions, Protestant Conservatives. Some few years ago I was Overseer, and in my returns I recommended that no public grants should be given us, except for building or repairing bridges; that we could keep our roads in good repair with our statute labour.

Probo proposes petitioning the House of Assembly for the removing of the disabilities under which the six or seven hundred respectable, wealthy and intelligent electors of Lots 33, 34, parts of 35 and 48 labour. It puzzles me and many others to know what method they will adopt, unless it be that declared by Mr. Douse, M.P.P., some years ago, that any person voting for Mr. Coles should get his head broken. I suppose the hon. member would've second a resolution to that effect.

The above declaration he made to the undersigned between the Jail and Nelson's Corner, when coming up to a few sensitive Liberals, who, I believe, would have broken his head had not Hon. Messrs. Palmer and Longworth interfered in his behalf.

It is sorrowful that such unfounded assertions should be made to deceive and endeavour to prevent the people from pulling together to secure their civil rights.

ALEXANDER ROBERTSON. Township No. 34, Sept. 30th, 1861.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR IN THE STATES.

EAST BOSTON, Mass., 7th October, 1861.

HON. EDWARD WELLES:

MY DEAR SIR,—I have purposely abstained from writing you in the hope, from day to day, that something of an encouraging character in the way of a god battle and a victory for the Federal troops would take place, but I have waited in vain. More than two months have passed away since the shameful defeat of our troops at Bull Run, during which period there has been nothing done to retrieve that disgraceful affair. The rebels were permitted to advance and fortify themselves within sight of Washington, and their rattlesnake flag to float insultingly in the presence of the White House and its occupants. If the rebels had followed up their advantage, after the battle of Bull Run, they might have taken Washington with very little trouble, as our panic-stricken and disorganized troops could make very little resistance; but it appears they were ignorant of their advantage, and the chance was lost. Since that time they have been menacing Washington, but the immense and impregnable defences which have been made for its protection have apparently convinced them of the impracticability of taking it now, as they have fallen back towards Manassas again. In the meantime, the States of Missouri and Kentucky are taking up a considerable share of attention from both parties, and I regret to say that the efforts to force those two States out of the Union are making alarming progress.

The battle at Lexington, Mo., in which the gallant and heroic Col. Mulligan, with his brave band of volunteers, engaged the enemy for five days, and was finally obliged to surrender to a overwhelming number of rebels, is another illustration of the gross mismanagement of those who control this war. Gen. Fremont, who has had command of the western division of the Union Army, had fifty thousand men at his command, from which he might easily have reinforced Col. Mulligan. With abundant means at his command of crushing rebellion out of Missouri, he has succeeded rather in strengthening it by his abolition proclamation, which has converted thousands of sound Union men into rank rebels. He seems to have been studying individual popularity with that fanatical tribe at the North who have been so largely instrumental in reducing this country to its present deplorable condition. But whatever may be the faults of the Administration at Washington, they cannot be charged with giving any encouragement to those who would make this an abolition war. Fremont has been ordered to modify his proclamation, and for his unwarrantable assumption of authority, as well as his culpable inactivity, he has been ordered to report himself for Court-Martial. His case is now engaging the attention of the Cabinet. Through his military incompetency, or his gross neglect, the brave Gen. Lyon was sacrificed at Springfield, and the equally brave Col. Mulligan, with his band of heroes, were compelled to surrender to the rebels.

As matters stand at present, it is difficult to discover anything from which to hope for a speedy termination of the war, and the affairs of the nation appear more complicated than ever. There is much talk of naval expeditions to the Southern coast, and of a great and decisive battle which is hourly expected, but seems much less likely to take place now than when I last addressed you.

The only fighting worthy of the name, which has been done, so far, has been done by foreigners, including a large proportion of Irish, who have nobly sustained their reputation for bravery and courage on the battle-field.

Last week I had the pleasure of listening to an address on the affairs of the country, from the celebrated patriot and orator, Thomas Francis Meagher. He invoked his countrymen, all who could of them, to enlist in this war for the re-establishment of the Union. It was a novel and gratifying spectacle to see Gov. Andrew presiding at an Irishman's lecture, to an audience composed for the greater part of Irishmen, and clap his hands approvingly when the eloquent orator announced Know-nothingism as dead. What a change since a few years ago, when a Governor of the same type disbanded all the Irish regiments in this State! There is little danger of such an indignity to Catholicity and Irishmen being repeated in a hurry in this country, as the alacrity with which they have taken up arms in support of the Government and the Union, has proved how scandalous, how unjust was such proscription.

Very respectfully your obedient servant, J. J. MCD.

MURDER OF A LIEUTENANT BY A SERGEANT.

The Military Camp at Riker's Island was, on Friday night, the scene of a horrible, and as far as can be learned, unprovoked murder, which illustrates the increasing necessity of punishing with rigor the spirit of insubordination prevalent among a few of the Companies of the Regiment now being raised in N. Y., and the suburbs. George Lindsay, an orderly sergeant of Company B., of the 10th New York Rifles, now encamped at Riker's Island, was placed under arrest for disorderly conduct on Thursday, and confined in the guard house. He had evinced a turbulent disposition since his enlistment, and had repeatedly threatened the officers with summary punishment for insubordination by the Commander of Riker's Island, Colonel Bull. On Friday night, about ten o'clock, Lindsay endeavored to escape from the guard house, and succeeded so far as to reach the sentry's room where arms were stacked. The guard gave the alarm, and an altercation ensued between the sentry and the prisoner, which was heard by the officers. Lieut. Davis, of Company B., was the first to repair to the scene, and order the prisoner back to the guard house. Davis pushed the prisoner inside, when he immediately returned with a bayonet, which he plunged into the unfortunate officer's chest. The lieutenant, as reported, raised his hands, and exclaiming "Oh, my God! I'm killed," fell dead.

Lindsay has the reputation among the officers of being a desperate character, and many light offences which he committed were passed over, lest the brutality of his nature should be illustrated. For some misdemeanor about a week since Lieut. Davis caused him to be reduced from the rank of orderly sergeant to a private, which increased his enmity to that officer. He had boasted, it is reported, that he would kill Davis the first opportunity; that he had killed three men while serving in the British service, and that if occasion offered he would not scruple to kill as many more.

Capt. Drake of Co. B., had Lindsay restored to his former rank immediately after he was reduced. This circumstance made him more insubordinate than ever, and added to his desire to effect the removal of Lieut. Davis and obtain his commission. He was placed in the guard house for riotous conduct on Thursday evening, by Lieut. Davis, and when he was put there he said that he would murder the Lieutenant as soon as he gained his liberty.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., October 14, 1861.

REVIEW OF THE AWARD.

No. 4.

EVERY person who has taken an interest in the discussion of the Award must have been amused at the manner in which the advocates of the Government have approached that subject. They say it is premature to discuss the principles of the Award, because we are not in possession of the document itself; and then—as if to afford a speedy demonstration of the folly and inconsistency of their own conduct—they indulge in the most extravagant laudations of that which they are pleased to designate the "valuation clause"—eliminating the proper word "arbitration," from a well-grounded belief that the scheme proposed under that head cannot be put into anything like general operation, and that the very thought of an arbitration between landlord and tenant is obnoxious to a majority of the leaseholders.

As to the discussion being premature, members of the Executive Council do not seem to think it is, when they show so much anxiety to be present at public meetings, called expressly to discuss the principles of the Award. But without regard to the public meetings or the remarks in the press on the subject, why has not the official document been given to the public long before this? We have Mr. Howe's authority for stating that a copy was expressly prepared for the Government of the Island. It is true that copy was sent to the Colonial Office to be forwarded by the Colonial Minister. We can scarcely think that his Grace the Duke of Newcastle has taken about three months to consider whether he should order one of his clerks to do a little bit of routine business that would not occupy more than five minutes, though the Minister might be ever so much absorbed in the cares of the Empire, or—in the pleasures of the sporting season. He is, or ought to be made aware that the people of this Colony are deeply interested in the settlement of the Land Question, and that no time should be lost in making them acquainted with the terms proposed for settling it. If the Government here have not received the copy of the Award which was prepared for them in July last, and which the people of the Island have had to pay for—it was the duty of the Lieut. Governor to have called on the Duke of Newcastle for it, urging the importance of speedy publicity, to allay agitation—to settle the questions in dispute, if the Award can settle them,—and to stay, if possible, the harsh proceedings which land claimants have been instituting against the tenantry since the Commission was established. But the Government have evidently no desire to prevent the land claimants from fleeing the unfortunate tenantry. If the Award should even now be here, we have no doubt it will be kept back until the meeting of the Legislature, before which the people may be humbugged by false promises and misrepresentations, according to the mode adopted ever since the Commission was thought of. The Bill passed in 1850 was kept secretively locked up in this Colony for five months to serve the purpose of the proprietors, and the same system was established and carried out for the same object.

There is no doubt that similar connivance will be resorted to with the view of wearing out the public patience, and giving the proprietors ample time to make the award wholly subservient to their own selfish interests. With regard to the arbitration scheme, we have already given our views on that point at considerable length. Let the partisans of the Government disguise it as they may under a new name, they will not convince a dozen of intelligent and disinterested persons that it can be rendered available to any noticeable extent in the conversion of leaseholds into freeholds. A recourse to such a measure would only give rise to contention and had feeling between landlord and tenant, and be the means of putting fees in the pockets of the lawyers—for in nearly every case the tenant would require the services of a professional man to guard his interests in an arbitration, and there is no doubt the referee of the landlord would be a lawyer likewise. Indeed, such arbitration conflicts would have all the appearance of lawsuits—all the annoyance, delay, irritation, and nearly all the expense attending such proceedings. The only difference would be that they would not be conducted in open Court. No one can hesitate to believe who is most likely to be the victor in such a contest,—the rich landlord who will not be satisfied with a shilling less than his demand of 20 years' purchase, who is able to employ the best lawyer at the bar, and can exercise in a quiet way immense influence over even the referee of the tenant,—or the poor back-woodsman who can spare very little time from his daily toil, who is distracted by the cares of a family, who must make every sacrifice, short of actual starvation, to provide for the first instalment, supposing that he has been able to pay all his back rents, who must be content to employ cheap labour, and, therefore, labour of a very indifferent quality, on the part of a professional man—and who will have a hundred other difficulties to encounter before he can see the end of the contest. The tenant who would rush into a conflict of this kind must be very fond of litigation, and possess a larger amount of money than common sense. If a tenant has the means of buying his farm, and really wants to become a freeholder, it will be better for him to give the 20 years' purchase at once, and escape the annoyance, delay and expense of an arbitration, with the moral certainty of being the loser in the contest.

But supposing the award be confirmed, and that any tenant be captivated into a belief of getting rid of his difficulties under the arbitration clause,—he, failing to get the landlord to accept his offer of £30 or £50 for his 100 acres, notices the latter that he has appointed a referee. This is a challenge to the landlord. It is the first belligerent act, and will be regarded as an invasion of the "divine right" of property. The landlord, however, must obey the law, and reluctantly appoints an arbitrator on his behalf. But he wants no change in his relationship towards the land in dispute, unless he gets his full price,—his arbitrator knows this right well, and acts accordingly. We will suppose the tenant's arbitrator is equally zealous and honest in advocating the interests of his client—there is no chance of their agreeing upon any price,—how is the third arbitrator or umpire to be chosen? The tenant's arbitrator proposes a man imbued with feelings and opinions similar to his own—the opposite side objects to such a person. Is it possible to effect a reconciliation? We think not; and thus it would be in the power of the landlord's arbitrator at the very outset to put a stop to proceedings that would be distasteful to his employer.

We know that some supporters of the Government have been loud in proclaiming a remedy for this difficulty, in the hope of deluding the people into an approval of the award. They say the Legislature will pass a Bill to regulate the appointment of the third arbitrator, so that he shall be the tenant's friend! This is a monstrous absurdity that can deceive none but the most hopelessly ignorant. There can be no legislation on this branch of the subject. The principle of arbitration is universally known, and cannot be altered by Acts of Parliament. A Bill to regulate the appointment of a umpire would destroy the very essence of arbitration; and the Legislature that would attempt to pass such a Bill could be only actuated by a desire to deceive the public, and would be sure to be rebuked by the Imperial disallowances of the measure.

The Colonial Secretary professes to be a great advocate of the arbitration clause, and seems to be much distressed by the reflection that the proprietors will oppose the whole award on account of that section of it. He pretends to consider it an admirable boon to the tenantry,—such a wonderful concession that the proprietors cannot help opposing it, as it will interfere with their interests to such an alarming degree; and we

are accused of assisting the proprietors to oppress the tenant by opposing this part of the award. The sympathy of the Colonial Secretary for the tenantry will be appreciated at its full value. Every one knows that he is the servant of a proprietary Government—that he is the brother of a landlord,—that he is and has been a land speculator himself—that he is the agent of two or three large estates—and that he has always been the most unscrupulous advocate of the most extravagant claims which the proprietary party could set up. And this is the man who has the unblushing effrontery to announce that proprietary claims and tenant rights are antagonistic! And that he is the disinterested advocate of tenant rights!—Mr. Pope knows that popular prejudice inclines to this opinion,—that whatever arrangement in the settlement of the Land question will prove beneficial to the tenant will be injurious to the proprietor; and he merely panders to this prejudice when he recommends the tenantry to favour the arbitration scheme, "because," he says, "the great proprietors in England will exert their utmost influence in order that this clause of the award may be set aside." The proprietors, great and small, need entertain no apprehensions on this point; for, in the event of the award being confirmed, they can render the arbitration clause a nullity, if we have already shown, should any tenant be so foolish as to resort to it as a remedy for his grievances. The advantages which the award will confer upon the proprietors, as regards their exemption from payment of quit rents—usurpation of fishery reserves—confirmation of bad and doubtful titles—will cover a multitude of greater defects, in their eyes, than the arbitration clause; and when we see a staunch advocate of proprietary interests like Mr. Pope urging the acceptance of the award, we may be sure that the proprietors are exceedingly anxious to have it confirmed.

But the clause in reference to the Loan will be a bar to its confirmation. This is the very first part of the award, although it assumes the form of a recommendation; and the Commissioners urge it as the first and by far the best remedy that can be devised for settling the questions in dispute. The Government cannot cut the Loan clause out, and confirm the other parts of the award; they must take the whole or none. Can the Government support a Loan in 1861, or '62, which their party repudiated in 1857, when the debt of the Colony amounted to little more than half the present sum? They say,—they have done strangely inconsistent things in their time; and we believe some of the members of the Administration are now trying to feel their way through the country on that subject. One "influential member of the Government" declared at a late public meeting that he would support the Loan if all the proprietors would give a guarantee to sell their lands at a very low price. The "Hon. Member" does not believe that such a "guarantee" should be asked for; or if asked, that it would be given; and he may rest assured that if the operation of a Loan depends upon that or any thing of the kind, it will be a very long time before any portion of the present leasehold tenancy will be abolished. If the Loan clause of the award is to be crippled by such a condition, it will be nearly as efficacious in settling the Land question as the notable arbitration scheme.

But it appears to us that without reference to any circumstances or condition, the present Government cannot entertain the subject of an Imperial Loan. From the Lieut. Governor down, the whole Administration are unconditionally pledged against it; and we shall prove this by quotations from the public declarations of some of the gentlemen themselves. In answer to the Belfast address, presented to His Excellency last winter, which contained so much arrant nonsense about the Land Commission, that has since been proved to be a great delusion, Mr. Dundas advised the Belfasters to—

"Turn a deaf ear to all those visionary schemes... as crude and premature as they are impracticable." I care not whether these schemes assume the shape of a Loan to be guaranteed by the Imperial Government, or some supposed short-cut solution of the difficulty. I class them all in one category, and unhesitatingly advise you to reject them."

The late Mr. Labouchere, as Minister of the Crown, was the first to suggest the Loan—his suggestion was approved of by the Governor, Legislative Council and House of Assembly of this Colony; and it has been lately urged on the attention of the British Ministry by three Royal Commissioners—considered the most able men that could be found in the lower Colonies, whom the Government of this Island have been delighted to honour. His Excellency Lieut. Governor Dundas declares that a Loan is a visionary and impracticable measure. An eminent British statesman has declared the very terms of the proposition—the Royal Commissioners have endorsed the declaration of the British statesman, supported by the highest authorities in the Island; and if His Excellency claims to be a wiser man than the whole of them put together, we should like to have a little more satisfactory proof of his wisdom than any thing of the kind he has manifested since he took the Government of the Colony.

The President of the Executive Council is the next person who is entitled to consideration in connection with this subject. In the early part of last January two leading articles appeared in the *Islander*, advocating a Loan under the Imperial guarantee for the purpose of buying out the claims of the leaseholders, as the only effectual way to abolish the leasehold tenure. The Government were alarmed at these articles, especially as the *Islander* was known to be the organ of the Administration, and conducted by two officials; and the Lieut. Mr. Palmer published a protest against them, on his own behalf, as well as on that of his colleagues. The letter which contained this protest is dated 16th January, and was printed in the *Islander* of the same week. The following extract will show that the leader of the Government is irretrievably committed against the Loan:—

"As one member of the Legislature, I should most assuredly refrain from sharing in such a serious responsibility (as a Loan); and in this view I have every reason to believe I am backed out by all my colleagues in the Government. "It is not my purpose, at present, to give reasons why I am still, as I always have been, opposed to the scheme you have adverted to. I have always done so when the question was discussed in the House of Assembly, and nothing has inspired in me the intention to alter my mind, but I can confirm me in the opinion I had formed against the proposition."

It is not necessary to make any quotations from Mr. Palmer's speeches in the House of Assembly, referred to in the above extract; but we shall give two or three short extracts from the speeches of other members of the Government on the subject. In the debate on the Loan Bill, Wednesday April 1, 1857, the Hon. Mr. Yeo made the following remarks:— "Mr. Yeo said, if he should vote for the Bill, he would be a honest man. Where was the money to come from to pay for borrowing money to buy land? There were thousands of people who could not pay their rent; how then were they to pay for their land? The Bill might answer the purposes of some persons; but it would be ruinous to the country. He thought if they passed the Bill, they would bring down themselves the curse of their children and grandchildren. He was sure that no hon. member in the House, who gave the question consideration, could