Haszard's Gazette.

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TEMPERANCE.

TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.

Rev. Mr. NARRAWAY in seconding the first Resolution said, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: The able speech of the mover of the Resolution renders it unnecessary for me to detain you by any lengthened remarks. The Resolution asserts, that the common use of intoxicating liquors is a tremendous evil. No assertion can be more readily demonstrable. Innumerable facts, prove that the ordinary use of those maddening drinks, dethrones the reason, extinguishes the generous emotions of the soul, benumbs the conscience, God's vicegerent in the human breast, degrades man below the level of the beasts that perish, delivering him up to the uncontrolled tyranny of the basest passions, and impels him to that self-murder, which shuts him out of the kingdom of God. Nor do the results of those destructive draughts terminate with the user. He cannot, if he would, suffer alone. His parricidal vice brings the grey hairs of his parents with sorrow to the grave; breaks and crushes the fond heart of the wife of his youth, and bequeaths a legacy of pauperism and untaught raggedness to his much suffering country. And, sir, when you carry your investigations beyond the precincts of the drunkard's woe-stricken domestic circle, you behold drunkenness paralyzing the industrial nerve of the land, filling the dungeons with the condemned and furnishing the scaffold with victims. Without doubt, in all lands, the common use of intoxicating liquors is a tremendous evil—everywhere multiplying poverty and crime, misery and taxation. This evil, the Resolution says, must be abolished. You have been attempting it for years. You have effected much, but the evil is far, immeasurably far, from being abolished. What do you purpose to do now? You have, sir, reclaimed many forlorn and fallen ones by your sympathy and truth, your persuasion and pledges; but there are many, whom you cannot save by such means. You have preserved myriads, of the noble youth of the land from the contamination of the infectious evil, but an equal number of equal promise have been stricken down before your eyes by the terrible plague. You have induced many that were engaged in the manufacture and sale, to abandon a traffic fraught with indescribable woe to the best interests of the human family—but the river of death still overflows all its banks—the fountain of misery shows no sign of exhaustion—the fires of Tophet still blaze with undiminished fury. What is next to be done? Sir, you must still ply your logic, array your facts, enforce your appeals, and cast the warm mantle of your sympathy, over the trembling and sinking hopes of your perishing brother man—but you must also arouse society in its collective capacity, you must invoke the majesty of the law—you must summon to your aid the arm of legislative power. Why should not this be done? Are not all those material interests, which it is the province and duty of civil government to conserve, threatened with utter ruin by that traffic, without which intemperance could not exist for an hour. Is not the protection of life and property a principal design of the institution of Civil Governments? Are not both property and life destroyed to an extent perfectly heart-rending, by the use of intoxicating liquors? If the manufacture and sale of those drinks were prohibited by law, the prohibition would be just and wholly in accordance with the proper ends of secular government? If society has the right to say, thou shalt not kill thy fellow-man with sword and pistol, with arsenic or opium, has it not the same right to command, thou shalt not slay him with gin or brandy, with rum or whiskey? Imagine, Sir, that almost within the period of each month in this Town or in some county of this Island, the body—the murdered body of a countryman should be found—scarcely a month without a new victim—now drawn from the higher circles, and now dragged from the humbler walks of life, but all foully slain—with what horror would not the whole community stand aghast? Every resource of legislation, of justice, of executive power and private zeal would combine to unveil the mysteries, and punish the perpetrators of such dreadful crimes. Suppose moreover, that these bodies, as in the unhappy Webster case, were all cruelly cut and mangled and dismembered, as if in very wantonness of cold-blooded ferocity, the horror of the public sentiment would be intensified to an amazing degree. Now, Sir, the fact is stronger than the fiction. In this Colony, there have been many untimely deaths—many more are likely to ensue, and yet, because there is no sign of pistol or dagger wounds, no symptom of arsenic, or opium, or prussic acid, or poisons of kindred name—society must make no inquisition for blood—take no legal accountability upon the prime agents of this fearful slaughter—and take no effectual step to prevent the repetition of such soul-harrowing deeds! This is the old doctrine—the ancient superstition, which is about to be exploded forever. But, Sir, the mangling in this case takes place before death—not when the lifeless body is insensible to indignity and pain. Yes, Sir, before the body is dead, the brain and heart and soul are stretched upon the rack—through long years, the mind and heart are mangled and tortured with agony and despair. Every drunkard feels it. Every man that makes his fellow-man a drunkard ought to know it, and that he is in the sight of outraged humanity and humanity's God, accountable for it all. And the community, through its civil government must do its utmost to destroy a traffic which, vampire-like, has been draining the life-blood of the unconscious sleeper. It is in vain, to reiterate the old theory of moral suasion. The unhappy victim of Intemperance, when totally enslaved, is powerless for resistance in the larger proportion of cases. He trembles at the fate which threatens him. He shudders on the brink of the hell which yawns at his feet—but the fascination of the serpent, which wreathes the cup of sorcery, draws him on. From the ruins and places of his nature there comes forth the despairing wail of his piteous misery. It must wake from its lethargy the slumbering people. The cup of abominations must be broken by the strong hand, and the serpent's head crushed by the mighty heel of avenging Law.

CAPTAIN ORLEBAR, R. N., moved the second Resolution, as given in our last.

Mr. Chairman—said he—If there is any subject on which I should wish to speak well and clearly, it would be on the important subject of this Resolution. You have heard many good reasons for temperance, and each class of hearers in this room have been severally addressed, exhorted and persuaded. I am sorry, that the consideration of this and kindred Resolutions, has not an equally large and crowded audience, as was observable in this Hall yesterday evening, at the Jews' meeting. Yet it is for a subject intimately connected with religion and our social advancement,—a subject deserving the warmest interest of every one, who is desirous of seeing his fellow man freed from the continued dangers and miseries arising from intemperance. How is this—alive to the claims of the Jews, and blind to the claims of Temperance—the upper-crust of society, as my friend Mr. Arbuckle would say, the educated, the noble, the high-born, the genteel stand aloof from us. I know there is more than ordinary attraction elsewhere this evening; but I know also, that the principal obstacle to their attendance is, the ordinary custom of what is called genteel society. Yes, we are brought up too much in the atmosphere of drink, to realize the harm of drinking wine. Our father's knee and a sip at our father's glass, belong to the recollections of earliest childhood, and long before we have arrived at man's estate, the drinking of two or three glasses of wine daily has been a confirmed habit, even with our most delicate and refined young ladies. Let me say, moreover, that the habit of superfluous living, of tarrying long at the dinner table, of evening parties and hot suppers, so common, as not to be considered incorrect or improper, all combine to make the genteel, par excellence, shun all temperance associations. We want, I am convinced, as much a reformation in high life, as in low life; but at present, we may look in vain for so great a good. And again, I must say, that for the improvement, we rest upon the masses. Yes, we rest upon those principally, who engaged in life's sharp struggle for existence and support of themselves and families, feel experimentally, how great a blessing the reign of Temperance principles would bring them. Yes, of far greater consequence is the Temperance Reform to the welfare of the masses, than any measure before our Legislature. Put aside the drunkard's cup, and close the dram-shops, and we shall soon see our countrymen out of debt and free indeed. I could enlarge upon this subject; but I must remember, I have now to commend the terms of this Resolution to your notice. It is painful to express an opinion, so condemnatory of the traffic in ardent spirits, but truth is truth; and I would fain hope, that the plain expression of conviction, may lead those engaged in this traffic, to consider their position, and perhaps, to feel their situation, that as Christians and patriots they are alike compromised by their remaining in this employment.

In seconding the Resolution, Rev. Mr. RAND observed, that he felt the importance of saying just what should be said, and not saying any thing which ought not to be said. He had seen the three Resolutions. They formed a climax. The first represents the evils of the common use of Intoxicating Liquors, and our determination to abolish it. The second refers to the traffic, and the third, to the means by which this abolition is to be effected. If the first expressed a truth, the next two followed as a matter of course. And who could adequately portray the evils resulting from Ardent Spirits? Is poverty an evil? They produce and they aggravate poverty. Is sickness an evil? they produce and they aggravate disease. Is insanity an evil? they produce and they aggravate insanity. What the poet says of Sin, may be applied with scarcely any modification to Rum.

"What havoc hast thou made, foul monster, "Rum,"
Greatest and worst of ills! The fruitful parent
Of woes of all dimensions!
All noxious thing!
Of vilest nature! Other sorts of evils
Are kindly circumscribed and have their bounds,
The fierce volcano from his burning entrails,
That belches molten stone and globes of fire,
Involved in pitchy clouds of smoke and stench,
Mars the adjacent fields for some leagues round
And there it stops. The big swollen inundation,
Of mischief more diffusive, raving loud,
Buries whole tracts of country, threatening more,
But that too has its shore, it cannot pass,
More dreadful far than these, "Rum" has laid waste,
Not here and there a village, but a world!
Blasting the foodful grain, the loaded branches,
And marking all along its way with ruin!
Accursed thing! O where shall fancy find
A proper name to call thee by, expressive
Of all thy horrors? Pregnant womb of ills!
Of temper so transcendently malign,
That toads and serpents of most deadly kind,
Compared to thee are harmless. Sicknesses
Of every size and symptom; racking pains
And bluest plagues are thine. See now the fiend
Profusely scatters the contagion round?
Whilst deep-mouthed slaughter bellowing at her heels,
Wades deep in blood new spilt; yet for to-morrow
Shapes out new work of great uncommon daring,
And inly pines till the dread blow is struck."

The speaker went on to show, that the killing of people by giving them poison, in the shape of Ardent Spirits, was as really murder, as killing them in any other way, and indeed, murder of the worst kind. That robbing people of their money, by giving them that which was infinitely worse than nothing in return, was robbery of the worst kind. The abominable traffic, can only be defended by the same arguments that would defend smuggling, stealing, robbery and piracy, upon the high seas. It ought not to be endured for a moment. What was the *Slave* trade compared with it. Scarcely worth a thought. The voice of suffering humanity must be heard. The oppressed and the indignant community then should rise in their great strength, and throw off this incubus. Heaven speed the day!

Legislative Proceedings.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY 18th.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, APPOINTED TO REPORT ON EDUCATION.

(Continued.)

Mr. HAVILAND in the Chair.

Mr. MOONEY was satisfied with the amount of 9s. 2d. on the wilderness lands. It was quite enough, as the Proprietors received no benefit from those lands; and 6s. 8d. was quite as much as the tenant could pay, although it was true his children, if he was blessed with any, would, no doubt, receive some benefit from it. But how many a poor man was there in the Island who never saw the face of his own child, and who, in all probability, never would; and still he would have to pay the tax of 6s. 8d. for the education of his neighbor's child! And, with all this staring us in the face, are we going to let a class of gentlemen get off Scot-free who, most of all, were justly liable to a tax for the education of their tenants' children. These gentlemen were driving about, through the streets of London and elsewhere, a continual drain upon the Colony. Absenteeism was the bane of all countries; and yet we must let our absentee proprietors enjoy all these privileges without interfering with their lands in any shape or form. But, Sir, those days were gone by, never to return again, he hoped. If those gentry were not willing to do that which they ought to do, it was the duty of the Representatives of the people to compel them. His amendment was founded in justice. Take Lot 34, for instance. There was not a more respectable class of tenantry in the Island, than they who were settled on that Lot. They paid their rents regularly; and was he to be told, that we were not to compel the Messrs. Montgomery to contribute towards the education of their tenants' children? He might be told, that to endeavor to make them do so would interfere with the passing of the Education Bill. But, if there were good reasons for entertaining such a fear, it was time for them to cease legislating on any matter connected with the lands, unless it should be for theplacing of an additional burthen upon the tenantry; and, for such a proposal, they could find advocates enough. But should it be proposed to meddle with the proprietors, they were to have all Downing Street about their ears. How frightened some hon. members were of Earl Grey and the Proprietors. Yes, the Proprietors had access to the ear of the noble Secretary no doubt; but let the Government act as they ought to do, and what would they have to fear? The Country had sustained them well. There never had been a Government in any of the Colonies supported in the same way in which they had been sustained. Several of the members of Government had accepted Office under the new system; and had they not, in some instances, been returned by a show of hands? And others of them had been supported by the tenantry, while the Proprietor's Agent, in one case, was the opposing candidate. Did not the people think, when they were doing so, that their condition would be bettered by those whom they were instrumental in raising? They did, Sir. He (Mr. Mooney) knew they did. But that they had been deceived and mistaken in their opinions was quite plain, when it was found that the Government were afraid of imposing a tax of one half-penny an acre on the rented lands of the proprietors. This would be an instructive lesson to the tenantry of the Island; and it would give himself a great deal of peace; for he was known by the English, Irish, and Scotch, aye, and by the French too, and, when he met with any of them their question was, "Mr. Mooney what are you doing for us?" He would now have to answer, "Nothing, unless teaching you all for nothing: giving you free education, by imposing a tax upon your land, and on your tea, molasses, and sugar." If we are to have free education, let us have funds at our disposal, that it may be of some service to the people; but the proposed tax will not half pay the masters that are now employed. In 1848, he saw, by the Census, the number of children under sixteen years of age was 29,732; and taking the one-half of that number as a criterion to go by, (which considered a just proportion,) allowing 50 scholars to each school, there would be required 297 schoolmasters; and to allow each of these £50 a year, would require an annual expenditure, for the purposes of education, of £14,850. Were they prepared to raise that amount? They were not, by the flimsy measure proposed by the Report. Let them impose a tax as his amendment proposed; let them draw from every available source, to place the system upon a sufficiently extensive and firm basis; let them give the proceeds of the Fishery Reserves for the support of general education; let them provide for the support of the system, as he proposed; and, instead of deluding, and, at the same time, increasing the burthens of the people, they would confer a real and lasting benefit upon them.

Mr. DAVIES would support the proposed amendment of the hon. member for the second District of Queen's County (Mr. Mooney), because it was based on the equitable principle which recognises the liability of all persons, possessed of rateable property, to be taxed for the support of a public measure which would extend advantages of the highest character to all. If the Bill for the Encouragement of Education were to be introduced, in pursuance of the recommendation contained in the Report, so far as respected the extent of the land tax, it would be a direct violation of that equitable principle; because, whilst it would impose a tax upon the wilderness and unproductive lands of the Proprietors, and also upon all leasehold and other occupants of land, it would allow a class of men, who drew large incomes from their estates in this Island, to escape Scot-free. It would, indeed, be a positive injustice to the people to allow absentee proprietors, who drew from the Island, annually, rents to an amount which exceeded our annual exportations, to be exempt from bearing a due share of the general burthen intended to be imposed for the support of the contemplated free educational system.

Hon. Mr. POPE. The proposed amendment, if carried into effect, would amount to a confiscation of the estates of the Proprietors. He was far from being influenced by any undue feeling in favor of the Proprietors; but he would ask any reasonable person to say, whether a tax of 9s. 2d. the hundred acres, upon their wilderness lands, was not a heavy imposition. Besides Lot 34, Sir James Montgomery had a very extensive estate of wilderness land, on which, under the operation of the contemplated Act, in connexion with the existing Land Assessment Act, he would be subjected to the payment of a tax of 9s. 2d. per 100 acres. The existing penal tax upon the wilderness lands of the great Proprietors pressed very heavily upon them in some instances. Take the Worrell Estates for instance, from which, notwithstanding the number of tenants upon them, the managers, he had been informed by themselves, could not, at present, raise as much as would enable them to pay the land assessment; and they had, consequently, been obliged to draw upon the proprietor at home for the deficiency. If any one question, more than another, required to be deliberated upon, by the Legislature, with minds entirely divested of all party feelings, it was the all-important one of education; and nothing ought to be mixed up with it which could be at all likely to militate against its usefulness, or to prevent its receiving the Royal Assent. He was, therefore, decidedly opposed to the proposed amendment; for he was convinced that its adoption would call forth so much hostility, to the general measure, on the part of the Proprietors, as might, for a time, completely defeat the object of the Assembly, with respect to it. But, although he argued against the proposition of the hon. member (Mr. Mooney,) as if it were practicable to carry such a measure into effect, he felt persuaded, however, that it would require the exercise of much more ingenuity, than he believed him to be possessed of, to prepare such a Bill, as would render the measure effective, in direct contravention, as it would be, of the covenants and conditions of the Leases granted by the Proprietors. Had its object been to compel the registration of the original Grants, he (Mr. P.) would have cheerfully supported it; but this Act had been disallowed as being repugnant to the general principles of Law, which did not require a person to disclose a defect in his title. He had made himself pretty generally acquainted, by reading, with the different modes of taxation which had been had recourse to in other countries, and the working of them; and one result was a conviction that the most hateful of all taxes was an Income Tax. In England, or wherever else it had been tried, a Property Tax fairly levied would not be so objectionable; an Income Tax had always been regarded as a most inquisitorial measure. If they should impose a Rent-Roll Tax upon the Proprietors, and it should receive the royal allowance, it was very questionable how far it would benefit the people; but one thing certain was, that it would cause the landlords to be much more stringent and severe in the exaction of their rents. And, as respected the Proprietors themselves, to lay such heavy impositions upon their property, would almost amount to a confiscation of it; and, in fact, they might as well bring in a Bill for that purpose at once. He had always withstood such extreme measures, because he held it to be impolitic and unjust; and, on that account, he would continue to oppose it. That the proprietors should be made to bear a reasonable and due share of the public burthens, and particularly those applied for the education of the tenantry, was, however, what he had always considered a just proposition; yet, still he was persuaded, that to support the Resolution of the hon. member, (Mr. Mooney,) would be to sin against the interests of the people, by defeating a measure that they had so much at heart. He, therefore, must vote against it.

Mr. MOONEY. The hon. the Treasurer said he (Mr. M.) was not sincere; and that his amendment was only a side-wind. He would tell the hon. the Treasurer, that there was no side legislation about him. He was more frank and straight-forward than ever the hon. the Treasurer had been during his legislative career. He (the hon. the Treasurer) had told him he ought to bring in a Bill independent of the School Act. But he wanted his measure carried, and, therefore, he would make it contingent upon the School Bill. The hon. Treasurer had, however, intimated his opinion, that he (Mr. M.) was not able to prepare such a measure. He begged leave, in reply, to tell the hon. the Treasurer, that he was quite as competent to fill any situation to which he had ever aspired as he (hon. Mr. P.) was. What had he to do respecting any Bill which he might wish to introduce, but to put his views in writing, and the Law Clerk was bound to put the same into legal form; for the country paid him to do so; and, in justice to that gentleman, he would confess he was very attentive. He (Mr. Mooney) was asked to withdraw his motion; but if every man in Prince Edward Island were to ask him to do so, his answer would be "No!" Let his legislative life depend upon that Resolution. Let the hon. the Treasurer advise the Governor to dissolve the House to-morrow: let him vote against his (Mr. M's.) Resolution, and there was not a constituency in the Island, before which he would not face him and defeat him. The Resolution was founded in justice, and he would be willing to stand or fall by it.

Mr. CLARK opposed the amendment proposed by Mr. MOONEY, who, he observed, did not appear to have calculated the expenses of such a tax as he proposed with respect to the small freeholders and tenants, who, he believed, could not, by any law that the Legislature could pass, be relieved from the payment thereof. From a calculation which he had made, he found that according to the scheme proposed in the Report, the proprietors would have to pay nearly £2000 yearly, whilst the small freeholders and tenants would only have to contribute a little over £3000: the £2000 on the part of the proprietors was as much as they could in justice, be called upon to contribute. The adoption of his (Mr. Mooney's) resolution, if by it the tax could be fixed upon the proprietors, would damn the measure altogether. It would cause the proprietors to exert all their influence against it, with the Home Government; and the Bill would eventually be lost. He (Mr. Clark) himself had presented a petition against the additional tax of one-half-penny an acre, as proposed by the Report; but, when he had fully considered the proposal of the petitioners, which was that such an appropriation should be made from the general revenue, for the encouragement of education, as would double the amount of the Government allowances now made to teachers, on condition that their employers should, in every instance, raise an equal amount, by assessment of themselves, so as to raise the salaries of the teachers to sixty and ninety pounds *per annum*, he found that such assessment would double the amount of the tax proposed by the Report; and he, therefore, clearly saw that such a proposition, as a general one, would be quite impracticable; for if the people could not pay the moderate tax of 6s. 8d. per 100 acres, as it was asserted by some, they certainly would not be able to pay one of double the amount. According to the scheme laid before the Committee by the hon. leader of the Government, there would be taken annually from the people, in the shape of taxes, for the purposes of education, to the amount of £6000, and £3000 from the general revenue. But were that of the petition adopted, the people would have to raise upwards of 1000*l* a year, and double that amount would have to be appropriated from the general revenue. Education throughout the Colony was very far from being in a prosperous state at present, as might be seen by a reference to the School Visiters' Reports. In 1844, there were as many teachers employed in the country as are now engaged; and yet the population had increased one-third. Unless something effectual should be done to foster the interests of education, it was very clear to him, that they must retrograde. On mature deliberation, he was convinced that the scheme contemplated by the Report was, at present, the only feasible one; and he would therefore, support it. He did, indeed, very much regret, that in doing so, he would have, in some degree, to act in opposition to the views of his constituents, with reference to the question; but, so convinced was he of the propriety of his determination, that he would be willing to risk his rejection by his present constituents at another election, on the vote in favor of the scheme. But, before that time arrived, if the measure should be carried into Law, he hoped the working of the system would have been so successful as to have convinced all that it was the very best and most economical that, under existing circumstances, could have been devised; and infinitely preferable to the old system, by which a poor tenant farmer had to pay 2*l* or 3*l* a year out of his grain, for the schooling of one of his children.

Mr. M'NEILL. If they could devise any practicable scheme for the furtherance of the interests of general education, without, at the same time, throwing any additional burthen upon the already overburthened tenantry for the support of it, he would rejoice at it, and the scheme should have his hearty support. But with respect to the taxation scheme, contemplated by the Resolution, and which the hon. member for Princetown (Mr. Clark) was persuaded would be a cure for the evils or imperfections of the present defective educational system of the Colony he (Mr. M'Neill) was of opinion, that the cure would be worse than the disease. He cheerfully gave the hon. member at the head of the Government (Mr. Coles) great credit for the attention and ability which he had devoted to the important question of education; but he (Mr. M'Neill) was of opinion, that that hon. member, in his great zeal and anxiety to give the country a better, and more efficient educational system than the present one, had insensibly allowed himself to overrate the resources of the country. If the majority of our people were freeholders, as in the neighbouring Provinces, the imposition of an additional land tax for the purposes of education, might justly be had recourse to, and would, no doubt, be cheerfully submitted to. But, unfortunately, the case was widely different; for the great majority of the people were subject to a tax of 5*l* sterling a year, paid, in the shape of rent, to the proprietors. Nor was this all, it appeared besides, that there was due, from a portion of them, about 4000*l* or 5000*l* for seed-grain &c., with which they had been supplied on credit by the Government, in the years '47, '48 and '49, which it was admitted, on all hands, that they were unable to pay in money. Now, if the people were in such circumstances, as not to be able to pay that amount, after a credit of—— years, he could not imagine how hon. members expected that they would be able to pay an additional land-tax of 4s. 2d. per hundred acres.

Hon. Mr. COLES. It was a most erroneous idea to suppose, that the imposition of a tax of 4s. 2d. per hundred acres, for the purposes of education, according to the scheme set forth in the Report, would be an increase of the burthens of the tenantry; and he was indeed surprised at the pertinacity with which some hon. members adhered to it, in spite of the repeated and very clear explanations which had been afforded them concerning the manner in which the scheme would operate for the benefit of the tenantry in general, but especially for that of the poorer class of them. What could be clearer, than that it would be a great, positive, and direct benefit to a poor man, the father of a family of four or five children, who had been paying, at the very lowest, at the rate of 20s. a year, for the schooling of one of his children, to have the whole four or five educated for 4s. 2d. or 2s. 1d. a year? With respect to the Resolution of the hon. member for the Second District of Queen's County, (Mr. Mooney,) the object of which was to impose a tax of ½d. an acre on the leased lands of proprietors, to be paid by them, and not by their tenants, he (Mr. C.) had always wished for the imposition of such a tax upon the proprietors; and in the first or second year in which he had had the honor of a seat in the Assembly, he had proposed a Rent Roll Tax; for he held it to be very unjust, that proprietors should have it in their power, by the covenants and conditions of their leases, to devolve upon the tenantry the payment of all taxes or public burthens, imposed or hereafter to be imposed, on the lands held by them on leases. And, for a measure which would impose upon the proprietors the direct payment, by themselves, out of their rents, of an equitable tax on their leased lands, or on the amount of yearly income actually derived, by them, from those lands, he was as strong an advocate as ever he had been. He was of opinion, however, that it would be positively unjust to require them to pay a tax upon their incomes, as estimated from their rent rolls; for to do so would be to tax them for incomes which might be, to a great extent, merely imaginary: and, were the Legislature to impose upon them the payment of an equitable and moderate tax on the annual amounts of rents actually received by them, he was inclined to think, that they themselves, convinced of its equity and propriety, would raise no opposition to it. But were a tax to be imposed upon their rent rolls, one certain consequence of the imposition would be, that it would render the proprietors much more severe and exact in the enforcing of their legal demands upon their tenants. Without the encumbrance of a clause or clauses to tax proprietors for their leased lands, as proposed by the amendment of the hon. member for the 2d District of Queen's County, (Mr. Mooney,) it was not at all improbable, that obstacles might be thrown in the way of the Free Education Bill, should it be found simply in accordance with the principles set forth in the Report. But, were that amendment to be incorporated with the Bill, the success of the measure would be rendered very doubtful indeed; and, surely, the advocates of the amendment were not prepared to say, that they would wish the loss of a measure of so much importance to the best interests of the community at large, for the sake of 400*l* a year, which was all they could expect to raise by the proposed tax. The Government was well disposed to carry out every just and reasonable measure for the public good; and they had already given ample earnest to the people of that disposition. They all knew to what extremes the present majority of the Assembly went, in the stoppage of the supplies, to procure the concession of Responsible Government; but, although he believed they who now composed the Government, and the majority, would again, if necessary, act with equal firmness and determination for the accomplishment of any measure of the same vital importance, they would not, he thought, allow themselves to be driven into the adoption of so extreme a course, for the attainment of an object of comparatively very minor importance, such as subjecting the proprietors to an additional land-tax, to raise the sum of 400*l* a year; and there was good reason to believe, that if the amendment was incorporated with the Bill, the measure would be defeated, or the Assembly would have to support it, by that extreme course. And for the attainment of such an object, he would say, that so far as he was individually concerned, either as a member of the Government, or of the majority in the House, he would neither recommend nor vote for such a course. When the Assembly made that determined stand for the attainment of Responsible Government, they made it for the practical recognition of a principle of Government, independently of which, no Government could be based on just foundations. But, with respect to the imposition of such a tax, as that contemplated by the proposed amendment, just as the tax might be, there was no principle involved, worth immediate contention for, at the risk of losing the important measure for general education. If the hon. member (Mr. Mooney) however, would consent to withdraw his amendment, and would engage to bring in a separate Bill for the imposition of such a tax, as that