

was surprised at this question being brought forward at the last hour by the so-called independent member of the Government.

Mr. McINTOSH thought the people of the Island, in proportion to their numbers, better represented than any people in the world. A measure of this nature should be approached with all caution, and acrimonious feelings should be allowed to slumber.

The question being then taken on the resolution to go into Committee on the subject of the Election Law, the House divided as follows:—

For the resolution:—Hons. Messrs. Whelan, Warburton, Lord, Wightman, Coles, Mooney, Messrs. Clark, Munro, Muirhead, Dingwell, Perry, McGill—12.

Against it:—Hons. Messrs. Palmer, Montgomery, Longworth, Messrs. Douse, Laird, McDonald, H. Haviland, Cooper, McIntosh—9.

It was therefore carried in the affirmative.

It being then moved that the Speaker leave the Chair, and that Mr. McDonald take the chair of the Committee, it was moved in amendment to substitute Mr. Perry for Mr. McDonald; and this amendment was lost on the same division as the foregoing, with the exception of Mr. Munro's name, he having voted with the minority.

For the amendment:—Hons. Messrs. Palmer, Montgomery, Longworth, Messrs. H. Haviland, Cooper, McIntosh, Douse, Laird, McDonald—9.

Against it:—Hons. Messrs. Whelan, Coles, Mooney, Wightman, Warburton, Lord, Messrs. Clark, Munro, Dingwell, McGill, Perry, Muirhead—12.

The House then went into Committee—Mr. McDonald in the chair.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN proposed the following resolution. He said it was unnecessary for him to offer any remarks in support of it. The principal which it involves had been already fully discussed:

Resolved, That it is expedient to revise and amend the Election Law, with the view of adopting a more equal subdivision of the Electoral Districts, and of increasing the number of Members by adding two to each County."

The resolution having been seconded—

Hon. Mr. PALMER objected to the Committee taking any further action than receiving the resolution. Hon. members should be allowed time to consider what course it was best for them to pursue; and would therefore move that the Committee rise and report progress.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN said he could see no just reason for postponing the further consideration of this question. The arguments both in favour of, and against it had been thoroughly considered and discussed. If the hon. member for Charlottetown wished to propose any resolution embodying his views, there would be no objection to waiting half an hour or an hour, if the hon. member should require that length of time to prepare a resolution.

Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY stated that when the hon. member, Mr. Palmer, was in power, it was not his custom to defer to the wishes of the minority. As to the remarks of the hon. member, Mr. McIntosh, he had acknowledged that he would do nothing but what he was told to do by the people. Was he here, then, that when any measure was introduced he should send to his constituents to ask how he was to act with reference to it? He was in error in saying that the increase of representatives was frittering away the privileges of the people; and the minority need not manifest such wrath as they had shown, for if the measure was as unpopular as they had represented it, it would benefit them. He was not there to vote as he might be told, but would oppose the petitions of his own constituents, if he thought they were wrong, and risk the loss of his seat. He had heard it said that he would not be returned at a future election. Perhaps his defeat, which, however, he did not believe would occur, would be a benefit to himself personally.

Hon. Col. TREASURER would support the resolution for the Special Committee. Prince County was very unequally divided. His district comprised three fourths of the whole county. He had been returned eight or nine times within ten years. He had received the opposition of the Tory party, and his opponent on one occasion, was agent for one of the largest proprietors in the Island, but he had beaten him by a large majority. If there were an election to-morrow he would not be afraid of his return as a member of the Government. In fact, a perfect stranger, if in favour of the Government, would be returned over an opponent of it.

Mr. McINTOSH would make a brief explanation as to the allusions the Hon. Colonial Secretary had made to him. He had been more than once accused of violating his pledges. If that statement were made on the Hon. Secretary's own authority, or the authority of others, it was equally untrue. He had never been pledged but to one measure. The Government would be sure of his support as long as they did right.

Mr. DINGWELL considered a great deal of time had been wasted in a question which might be decided with a few words. The real object was to increase the representation. If the measure became law, it did not necessarily follow that it would go into operation before the natural death of the present House. It had been objected that it was premature; but let it take its course, and the people could express their opinion of it.

Hon. Mr. MONTGOMERY was amused at the reasoning of the hon. member to let the measure become law, and afterwards let the people express their opinions regarding it. That was like hanging a man and trying him afterwards. The House might alter the Electoral Districts without increasing the number of members. As to what had been said about Princetown and Royalty, it was true that district had not increased as fast as Charlottetown or Georgetown, but the inhabitants paid a larger amount of taxes than any other part of the country, and the proposed scheme would virtually disfranchise them.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN asserted that the measure, so far from disfranchising the people, would have the contrary effect of increasing their privileges, and would give the hon. member who had just sat down the opportunity of representing an enlarged constituency.

Mr. COOPER'S objection was, that the increase of members would only delay the business of the House, and increase the expense. A look at the map of the Island would show that there was no difficulty in equalizing the division of the districts. He did not think an increase of representatives would increase the power of the people, for he had heard members deny that it was their duty to consult their constituents. The hon. member moved an amendment, embodying his views.

Hon. Mr. PALMER said, that the supporters of Responsible Government had admitted to-night that it had somehow got a hitch in it. In fact, it appeared that it was somewhat of the nature of Indian Rubber, which could be drawn, stretched and twisted to any shape. The House was not too small for Responsible Government, but too small for the

office-holders who wished to get in. The office-holders having seats in the Canadian Assembly formed but one-fifth of the whole; here they were one-fifth. If the population varies in the different localities, could not the divisions be re-arranged without an increase of members? The hon. member concluded by moving the following resolution in amendment:—

Resolved, That an increase in the number of Representatives in the House of Assembly of this Island, is not called for by its Inhabitants, nor proposed by its Government; and inasmuch as such a measure will greatly augment the expenses of the Legislature and impose unnecessary burthens upon the people, who are already represented in the House of Assembly by a far greater number of members, in proportion to the population of the Colony, than the neighbouring Provinces, it is, therefore, inexpedient to make any addition to the number of its Representatives."

Mr. DOUSE could not go for the resolution for a Special Committee, when he saw no less than six officers of the Government, including Major McGill, (laughter) in favour of it;—he felt that the Government were trembling in their shoes. It was not likely that it would be long before the measure, if passed into law, would be put in operation. If reform was wanted, let the Government reform the other Chamber.

Mr. McGill said, that if the hon. member had received no more of Lord Selkirk's money than he (Mr. McG.) had obtained out of the public purse, he would not have been able to purchase an Estate. (Hear.)

Mr. DINGWELL deprecated the imputation of selfish motives. Increase of population rendered increase of representation necessary, and passing a Bill for that purpose now would give the people time to express their opinions before the next General Election. In distributing the public money for roads, bridges, and other objects of a local nature, no two representatives could do justice to a constituency spread over a large tract of country.

After a few further remarks the question was taken on the Hon. Mr. Palmer's amendment, which was lost on the following division:

For the amendment:—Hons. Messrs. Palmer, Montgomery, Longworth, Messrs. H. Haviland, Cooper, McIntosh, Douse, Laird, McDonald—9.

Against it:—Hons. Messrs. Whelan, Coles, Mooney, Wightman, Warburton, Lord, Messrs. Clark, Munro, Dingwell, McGill, Perry, Muirhead—12.

Mr. Cooper then moved to strike out of the original resolution all after the word "Districts"—(being that part which recommended an increase of members), when the House divided, and the amendment was rejected—the names being taken down as in the foregoing division. The question was then taken on the original resolution and agreed to, the division being the same as the foregoing one.

A Committee of seven members was appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill in accordance with the resolution, as follows:—Hon. Mr. Whelan, Mr. Perry, Mr. McGill, Mr. Clark, Hon. Mr. Wightman, Mr. Muirhead, and Hon. W. Lord. House then adjourned.

THE EXAMINER.

CHARLOTTETOWN, MAY 25, 1856.

ARRIVAL OF THE ENGLISH MAIL.

The Mails arrived here at a late hour on Thursday night last, including a mail from England. There is little or no news of any stirring interest from Europe. After the bustle and excitement of the war, commercial transactions are beginning to assume their wonted activity. The Peace Treaty had been discussed in Parliament, and although it gave rise to no enthusiastic applause, the conduct of the Government in concluding it had been well sustained. An article from a late English paper, which shows the spirit in which the debate was conducted, will be found amongst our extracts.

THE FERRY—A WISE SUGGESTION.—The communication in the last *Islander* signed "Transit," amusingly illustrates how much a person can write without saying anything. It purports to be a reply to the article in our last paper, but falls miserably short of it. But the most amusing part of the whole letter, is the suggestion which it contains:—that the freedom of the Ferry should be thrown open, and that the rival Ferry-men (Messrs. Welsh and Bourke) should be allowed the privilege of running their boats, "and honestly competing for the public favour." This is really good, after Mr. Bourke had lost the contract—there was nothing "odious" about the "monopoly" so long as he enjoyed it, and Mr. Tremaine before him. Every thing, of course, becomes an "odious monopoly," in which the Obstructives are not allowed to participate,—the public printing has been declared a "monopoly," because Mr. Ings cannot get it—the holding of the public offices of Government is a "monopoly," because the Tories are excluded from them. Does not Master Stupid "Transit" know that if the licensing system should be abolished with regard to one Ferry, it should be abolished with respect to all; and where, then, should we look for a guarantee that the public would not be imposed upon by irregular and extravagant charges, when they could be made without risk or loss, if there happened to be a lull in the opposition from one side or the other? How could such ferry-men be bound to observe any regularity with regard to time in ferrying, or compelled to carry persons across at unusual hours for ferrying? How, in short, could any persons be induced to incur great expense in building and furnishing boats for a particular ferry, if an unscrupulous fellow having such things at his command, might be allowed to push him off whenever he pleased? When Mr. Bourke gets his steamer afloat, we hope he will reward Master Stupid "Transit" by giving him a berth in the coal hole, for his vocation lies there rather than in the columns of a newspaper.

STEAM AGAIN.—Those who were so much disappointed and annoyed at the Government not being able to effect, some weeks ago, an arrangement with the owner of the *Lady le Marchant* to carry the Mails as heretofore, will be gratified to learn that Mr. Desbrisay has at length complied with the terms of the Government, and that his Boat will be on the line this week, making two trips each week during the season between Shediac and Charlottetown and between Charlottetown and Picton. By the able manner in which the Colonial Secretary conducted, on the part of the Government, the negotiations with Mr. Desbrisay, there has been no expense incurred beyond what was contemplated nearly a month ago.

The *Colonial Herald*—a new and well-furnished tri-weekly paper recently issued from the Halifax press—states, in its issue of the 21st instant, that there was a great number of vessels in the port of Halifax from this Island, laden with oats and potatoes; and that the market for these articles was very good. We learn, from another source, that potatoes were selling in Boston for twenty-five cents (18d.) per bushel.

Another Colonial and United States Mail arrived here on Saturday last by the *Packet H. Ingram*, but the papers received furnish little or no important news.

News by the last Mail from England.

(From the London News of the World, May 11.)

THE DEBATE ON THE PEACE.

The Debate on the Peace has exhibited less fire than might have been anticipated. The Treaty under which it was concluded has not, it is true, escaped criticism, and, upon some points, censure; but no member of either House has ventured to call for its general condemnation. On the contrary, both branches of the Legislature have concurred in a congratulatory Address to the Crown, expressive of their satisfaction at the termination of the war, and of their joy at the re-establishment of peace, on conditions honourable to the country, and fully accomplishing the great objects for which the war was undertaken. Some cavil was raised by the leaders of the Opposition, as to the employment of the words "joy and satisfaction," in the terms of the Address, and also as to the assertion that "the objects for which the war was undertaken had been fully accomplished," but they did not carry their objections upon either of those heads to a division. It cannot be doubted, however, that the language in which the Legislature has thought fit to address the Sovereign upon this important occasion, would have more accurately reflected the general sense and feeling of the nation, if the words objected to had been omitted, and others of a more modified character substituted in their place. No one in this country lamely terms that war has ceased; but there are, we apprehend, but a comparatively few who view with "joy and satisfaction" the terms on which peace is restored; and probably but fewer still who think that "all the great objects for which the war was undertaken have been fully accomplished." Lord Derby accurately expressed the popular sentiment upon the subject, when he said, "I accept this peace, as I believe the country accepts it, without enthusiasm, but also without opposition. I believe the country regards it as a peace which might have been worse, and which might have been better—as a peace with which they are willing to put up—but not a peace which they think adequate to the sacrifices, the labours, and the expenses of the war. I do not regret—God forbid that I should—I cordially rejoice that we are delivered from the horrors and calamities inseparable from war. I hope, far more than I trust, that the peace you have concluded may be enduring. I do not regret that we have shown moderation in our success. I do not regret that the great efforts which the country has made will end in the exhibition of a mighty naval armament, the like of which no country ever saw, and of an army in a condition which nothing can surpass, and that the actions of which that army and navy might have been capable are no longer required. I do not regret that more blood is not shed. I do not regret that we have come to terms of peace. I accept this peace, even such as it is; but if you call upon me, in my place as a peer of Parliament, to say, that in my judgment, this peace is honourable to her Majesty's Crown, and completely attains all the objects for which we went to war, I cannot, with all my desire that we should come to an unanimous vote, assert that which I do not believe." These are views in which the great bulk of the community of these islands will, unquestionably, be disposed to concur.

At the same time, it is but just and fair that we should place before the public the view which her Majesty's Government take of the matter. That view will be best obtained from the speech made by Lord Clarendon, in reply to the objections raised by Lord Malmesbury to certain portions of the Treaty. After entering into a general defence of the terms of the Treaty, Lord Clarendon invited the House of Lords to adopt the following broad estimate of its value:—"I think," said he, "if your lordships will reflect upon the state of things which existed two years ago—if you remember the onerous treaties by which Turkey was bound, and which were so interpreted as to give Russia powers of interference in the Ottoman Empire—if you remember that Russia claimed a protectorate over the civil and religious immunities and privileges of many of the Sultan's subjects—that Sebastopol, protecting a powerful Russian fleet, was a standing menace to Turkey—that Russia claimed a protectorate over the Principalities, and claimed and constantly exercised a power of armed intervention—that she was able to obstruct the free navigation of the Danube—that she was meditating the establishment of another Sebastopol in the Aland Islands—that she was aiming at an occupation of Norway, which would have given her complete command of the Northern Seas—if you remember that Russia had created and justified the greatest alarm throughout Europe, and if you reflect that now all the treaties between Russia and Turkey are annulled—that the Sultan has granted reforms, privileges, and immunities to his Christian subjects—that Sebastopol and the Russian fleet are no longer a menace to Turkey—that the seas which were before closed, are now open to free and unrestricted commerce—that the Principalities will no longer suffer from Russian protection, or have cause to fear Russian intervention, but that the institutions which, in fact, they will give themselves, will be placed under the guarantee of Europe—that a treaty has been signed, which is annexed to the general treaty, and therefore part of the national law of Europe, which guarantees the possessions of Sweden and Norway from aggression on the part of Russia—that Austria is now more closely bound to the Western Powers by the treaties into which she has entered—that Sardinia has gained great influence and prestige by the position which has been assigned to her in the congress of the great Powers of Europe—that the alliance between England and France has been strengthened by the war—and that the common sacrifices and hardships which they have borne have cemented the ties of friendship, goodwill, and cordiality between the two nations—I think, my lords, you will have no reason to be dissatisfied. I think it will be admitted that the objects of the war have been accomplished, and I trust that a treaty which secures those objects may not be thought unworthy of your lordship's approval. I trust, also, that the people of this great country—knowing, as they do, that their resources are unexhausted—that their energies are unimpaired—that they were never, at any moment of their history, better prepared for war than at the present time—will be content to sheathe the sword with honour, and remember the calamities of war only the better to appreciate the blessings of peace."

Lord Palmerston addressed the House of Commons in a similar strain; and strenuously maintained that all the objects of the war had been fully accomplished by the treaty. And, whatever the opinion out of doors may be, it must, in candour, be confessed that the noble lord, in a speech of great ability, completely succeeded in carrying the House with him. He did not affect an ignorance of the sense of disappointment which largely prevailed in the popular mind as to the circumstances and the time at which the war was suddenly brought to a close. He admitted the existence of such a feeling, and observed that it was not unnatural; but there was consummate dexterity in his mode of grappling with it. "It cannot be wondered at," said he, "that there should be some feeling of disappointment that our splendid army and magnificent fleet should not have an opportunity of displaying their powers. If no conditions had been offered which we thought would accomplish the objects of the war, the House may depend upon it no peace would have been made, and we should have been prepared to meet the arbitrary demands of another campaign. But when we found within our reach terms of peace, which we honestly thought were such as would accomplish the purpose for which we had drawn the sword, I think we should have ill performed our duty to the country, and that we should have ill justified that confidence which the country and Parliament had reposed in us, if we had rejected those terms, for the purpose of continuing the war. The war was, in our opinion, a just and a necessary war. That was the opinion of Parliament. It was also the opinion of the country; for it was as just and necessary war that the country determined to give every support, and to furnish every means that might be required, to carry it on. A just and necessary war I hold to be a duty. A war that ceases to be so, I hold to be a crime. And although, undoubtedly, judging from the course of events, up to the point at which the war was carried, we were favoured by that Power with whom justice and right are always looked upon with favour and protection; yet I think we should not be presumptuous in supposing, if we had continued the war beyond the point of justice and right, that, in spite of our fleet, and in spite of our magnificent army, that favour which had hitherto attended our arms might cease to accompany them; and that though we had every reason to hope, morally and humanly speaking, that our means were sufficient for the purposes of glory, we might have found

that those who fight merely for glory and conquest, do not fight with that support which alone ensures success; that we had risked the failure of the country in an enterprise which would no longer have been justified upon the grounds on which it was originally undertaken, and that we had brought the country to be the victim of our vain glory, our lust of conquest, and our pride."

This view of the question, so ingeniously addressed to the sense of moral and religious rectitude, which ever holds its seat in the hearts of the English people, produced its impression upon the House, and will, doubtless, have its weight with the nation. It may not induce the country to hail the peace with "satisfaction and joy;" but it may lead them to thank God that the war is over, and that the peace is no worse.

THE TREATY OF PEACE.

THE MISSING ARTICLES.

We have received an official copy of the Treaty of Peace, which agrees with that published in our last week's paper. It remains, therefore, only to supply the following clauses, which were then omitted:—

Art. 5. Their Majesties the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Emperor of the French, the Emperor of all the Russias, the King of Sardinia, and the Sultan, grant a full and entire amnesty to those of their subjects who may have been compromised by any participation whatsoever in the events of the war in favour of the cause of the enemy. It is expressly understood that such amnesty shall extend to the subjects of each of the belligerent parties who may have continued during the war to be employed in the service of one of the other belligerents.

Art. 6. Prisoners of war shall be immediately given up on either side.

Art. 7. Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, his Majesty the Emperor of Austria, his Majesty the Emperor of the French, his Majesty the King of Prussia, his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, and his Majesty the King of Sardinia, declare the Sublime Porte admitted to participate in the advantages of the public law and system (concert) of Europe. Their Majesties engage, each on his part, to respect the independence and the territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire; guarantee in common the strict observance of that engagement; and will, in consequence, consider any act tending to its violation as a question of general interest.

Art. 8. If there should arise between the Sublime Porte and one or more of the other signing Powers, any misunderstanding which might endanger the maintenance of their relations, the Sublime Porte and each of such Powers, before having recourse to the use of force, shall afford the other contracting parties the opportunity of preventing such an extremity by means of their mediation.

The following additional article has been rendered imperative by the necessity of transport, but was evidently an afterthought, consequent on a suddenly suggested difficulty:—

ADDITIONAL AND TRANSITORY ARTICLE.

The stipulation of the Convention respecting the Straits, signed this day, shall not be applicable to the vessels of war employed by the belligerent Powers for the evacuation of the territories occupied by their armies, but the said stipulations shall resume their entire effect as soon as the evacuation shall be terminated.

Done at Paris, the 30th day of the month of March, in the year 1856.

[Here follow the signatures of the Plenipotentiaries.]

CONVENTIONS ANNEXED TO THE TREATY.

THE NAVIGATION OF THE DARDANELLES.

1.—Convention between her Majesty, the Emperor of Austria, the Emperor of the French, the King of Prussia, the Emperor of Russia, and the King of Sardinia, on the one part, and the Sultan, on the other part, respecting the Straits of the Dardanelles and of the Bosphorus. Signed at Paris, March 30, 1856.

[Ratifications exchanged at Paris, April 27, 1856.] Art. 1.—His Majesty the Sultan, on the one part, declares that he is firmly resolved to maintain for the future the principle invariably established as the ancient rule of his Empire, and in virtue of which it has, at all times, been prohibited for the ships of war of foreign Powers to enter the Straits of the Dardanelles and of the Bosphorus; and that, so long as the Porte is at peace, his Majesty will admit no foreign ship of war into the said Straits.

And their Majesties the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Emperor of Austria, the Emperor of the French, the King of Prussia, the Emperor of all the Russias, and the King of Sardinia, on the other part, engage to respect this determination of the Sultan, and to conform themselves to the principle above declared.

Art. 2.—The Sultan reserves to himself, as in past time, to deliver firmans of passage for light vessels under flag of war, which shall be employed, as is usual, in the service of the missions of foreign powers.

Art. 3. The same exception applies to the light vessels under flag of war, which each of the contracting powers is authorized to station at the mouths of the Danube in order to secure the execution of the regulations relative to the liberty of that river, and the number of which is not to exceed two for each power.

THE BLACK SEA.

2.—Convention between the Emperor of Russia and the Sultan, limiting their Naval Force in the Black Sea. Signed at Paris, March 30, 1856. [Ratifications exchanged at Paris, April 27, 1856.]

Art. 1. The high contracting parties mutually engage not to have in the Black Sea any other vessels of war than those of which the number, the force, and the dimensions are hereinafter stipulated.

Art. 2. The high contracting parties reserve to themselves each to maintain in that sea six steam-vessels, fifty metres in length at the line of floatation, of a tonnage of eight hundred tons at the maximum, and four light steam or sailing vessels of a tonnage which shall not exceed two hundred tons.

THE ALAND ISLANDS.

3.—Convention between Her Majesty, the Emperor of the French, and the Emperor of Russia, respecting the Aland Islands. Signed at Paris, March 30, 1856. [Ratifications exchanged at Paris, April 27, 1856.]

Art. 1. His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias in order to respond to the desire which has been expressed to him by their Majesties the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Emperor of the French, declares that the Aland Islands shall not be fortified, and that no military or naval establishment shall be maintained or created there.

NEW MARITIME LAW.

Declaration respecting Maritime Law, signed by the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, Russia, Sardinia, and Turkey, assembled in Congress at Paris, April 16, 1856.

The Plenipotentiaries who signed the Treaty of Paris of the 30th of March, 1856, assembled in Conference, have adopted the following solemn declaration:—

1. Privateering is, and remains abolished.