

measures to be beneficial had long passed: whatever had originally been the motives of the Government he could not say, but it was now evident from the tenor of the Despatch before them, that this very favorite measure could, if carried into effect, never add to the comforts or advantages of the laboring classes, as it was evident His Majesty's Government did not now intend free grants, whilst its direct tendency must be, to burden us with the payment of our Civil List, (which His Majesty was heretofore graciously pleased to defray for us), and thereby place on the tenants and holders of land, taxes which it on all hands was admitted under present circumstances they were not able to pay; could a mode be devised, by which the absent proprietors could be taxed; it should have his full support.

Mr. Willock expressed his surprise that he should find the Hon. Member for George Town, the constant friend of proprietors, and was at a loss to reconcile this with other parts of his conduct: for himself, he would support the Resolutions to their full extent.

Mr. Owen also supported the resolutions, and said that it was most important that the address to be founded on them to His Majesty, should state in the strongest manner the disadvantages this Colony has so long labored under, from the absence (among other things,) of Courts, similar to those existing in the other Colonies. He also moved an addition to the Eighth Resolution, declaratory of the bad state of the tenantry, from the circumstance of most of them having taken their leases in sterling money, which being very scarce in the Country, placed them at the complete mercy of proprietors, who at any time could thus dispossess them by insisting on the fulfilment of the conditions of their agreements. He said it came to his knowledge, that an agent availing himself of this enforced 20 per cent premium on this currency, to indemnify the proprietor for the expense of remitting his receipts to his principal.

Mr. Dalrymple supported this Resolution, and adduced the case of Able, who demanding sterling money and having seized, and attempted to bring away a beast from the tenant, though he tendered him the full amount in the current coin of the Country, paid the forfeit of his life for the attempt.

Mr. Breuan opposed the motion, and said that he yielded to no man in his wish for the benefit of the country. On this account he wished this question settled, and should vote for the resolutions; but he could not allow any to pass whose direct tendency must be to make them appear ridiculous or worse; whatever had been the contracts between the Landlords and Tenants, they had no right to interfere, no more than in any other description of private property, as such contracts were

made with the full consent of both parties. He wished the measure to rest on its own merits, and not to be burdened with extraneous and irrelevant matter which could only gratify the ignorant or be made the base of popularity, (such as it was.) He also expressed his dissent from the assertion in Lord Goderich's despatch relative to settlers leaving the lands of proprietors, except as stated in the resolution.—He knew a proprietor, who indeed brought out emigrants, but burdened his leases with so many conditions that no person could fulfil. Could it then be asked, be expected that persons would stay on his lands when so much better terms could be obtained? Many proprietors had passengers come out in their vessels; but did they not pay for their accommodations, and how then could they be said to have brought them out? He contended that the emigrants themselves had in these instances come on their own resources, and were under no compliment to proprietors.

There were one or two instances, however, which fell under his knowledge, and he therefore moved that this should be inserted in the resolution. This was carried.—Mr. Owen also withdrew his motion.

Mr. Brecken, Mr. Pope, and some others spoke in favor of the Resolutions, but nearly to the same purpose. We understand that the Committee had leave to sit again.

An Act was also passed, authorising the further issue of Treasury Notes, to the amount of 5000*l.* to be yearly redeemed and cancelled by the proceeds of the Land Tax, in order that the public buildings may be provided with directly.

Resolved, That in the year 1767 His Majesty King George the Third was graciously pleased to confer on this Island a separate and independent Government from that of Nova Scotia, to which it had been previously annexed, and therein was pleased to grant it a Colonial Legislature, upon the express condition and stipulation that the Grantees of Lands in this Colony from the Crown should pay the Civil List for a limited period, which appears by a Memorial presented to Government, and which forms an appendix to the Royal Instructions to Governor Patterson and also by the 19th to the 22d section of the Instructions both inclusive, copies of which memorial and instructions are as follows:

Copy of the form of a Memorial of the Proprietors of the Island of Saint John, in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, North America, presented to the Right Honorable and Honorable the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations.

Your Memorialists therefore humbly pray that your Lordships will be pleased to recommend to His Majesty to issue his royal orders, that the Island of Saint John, in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, North America, may be formed into a separate Government, on such terms and conditions as may be approved of by your Lordships, & that for defraying the ex-

penses thereof, His Majesty will be pleased to give his royal orders, that the one half of the Quit-Rent of the lands in the Island of St. John, be payable in five years after Michaelmas next, from the date of their grants, according to the grants directed by his royal order of the Twenty-sixth day of August, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty-nine, may be secured and become payable from the first of May Sixty-nine, and that further such time may be given to the proprietors for payment of the other half of the Quit-Rent, as to his Majesty in his great goodness and wisdom shall appear reasonable.

(ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS.)
19th. The having a Revenue competent to all the necessary services of Government, both fixed and incidental, established upon a solid and permanent foundation, is essential to every Civil Institution of this nature, and ought to be one of the first objects of Legislation; the Establishment already formed, will point out what the extent of that Revenue should be, and the nature of the duties and taxes to be granted to us for this purpose must depend upon circumstances that can neither be known or judged of here, and upon a full consideration of what has been found most beneficial in other inland colonies, in the like case; it will, however, be your duty, as soon as a General Assembly is formed, to recommend this matter to the consideration of the House of Representatives, and require them, in our name, to grant to us such Revenue as may amount to all the expences of Government, upon some certain estimate.

20th. In the mean time, and until such Revenue can be established, we have taken into our Royal consideration, a proposal made by the principal proprietors of Lots or Townships within our said Island of St. John, by which they respectively engage to take out fresh Grants for their Lots, under the Seal of our said Island of St. John, in exchange for those they have already taken out under the Seal of our Province of Nova Scotia, upon the following terms and conditions—That is to say, That one moiety of the Quit Rent, originally reserved in such Lots, and to commence at the expiration of five years, from the date thereof, shall, by the terms of those new Grants, commence and become payable to us, our Heirs and Successors, from and after the first day of May last past. That the other moiety, the payment of which was to take place at the expiration of ten years, shall, by the terms of the said new Grant, not commence and become payable, until the expiration of twenty years from the date thereof.

21st. As the proposal has in view to enable us to make provision for the support of Government within our said Island, until the Inhabitants thereof shall be in a condition to provide for that purpose, by a proper Revenue, arising out of duties and taxes granted to us by Act of Legislature. We have thought fit graciously to accept the same, and therefore our will and pleasures, that you do forthwith, upon your arrival in your Government, cause the said proposals, the original whereof, in writing, and subscribed by the Proprietors, will be herewith delivered to you, to be registered and entered upon record in the Council Books, and you do forthwith proceed to pass fresh Patents under the Seal of our said Island, for the respective Lots, upon the terms and conditions above mentioned, for which patents no fee or reward whatever shall be taken, either by yourself or by any other person acting under your authority.

22l. The annual amount of the Quit Rents which will thus become due and payable to us, are as follow—That is to say,

l. s. d.

Twenty-six Lots at Six Shillings per one	750 0 0
hundred acres, a moiety of which is	375 0 0
Twenty-nine Lots at Four Shillings per one	580 0 0
hundred acres	1155 0 0