COLONIAL LEGISLATURE.

House of Assembly, March 1853.

DEBATE ON THE SALARIES BILL.

[With respect to this Bill, Mr. Clark first gave notice, in the *Order Book*, that he would move for leave to introduce a Bill to establish a *fixed Salary* for the *Queen's Printer*; but, when introduced, it was, by its title, declared to be *a Bill to provide fixed salaries for thi Attorney General and the Queen's Printer*. In its progress through the Committee of the whole House, considerable alterations and additions, however, were made to it; and, when it finally passed, it was as a Bill intituled "An Act to establish the Salaries payable to the Attorney General, and Solicitor General, and Clerk of the Crown, and Prothonotary of Prince Edward Island, for thier public services."]

The Bill was read the first time on the 9th March. On moving for leave to introduce it.

Mr. Clark very briefly stated the object of it, which he explained to be the establishing of fixed salaries, in lieu of fees and charges, for the Attorney General and the Queen's Printer, on account of all business, or work, which should be done, for the Government of the Colony, by the gentlemen who held these appointments. Such a mode of paying these Officers for their services, he said, would be much more satisfactory to the country, than the present one, as they would then positively know what they had to pay for stated public services; and it wonld also, he thought, be more acceptable to those Officers themselves, because it would relieve them from all annoyance, caused by any cavilling about, or canvassing of, the items of their charges; and the fixed salaries which it would be just and reasonable to allow them, could easily be determined by taking the average of the fees and charges allowed and paid to them, by the Government, for the last three or four years.

Hon. Mr. Palmer spoke at some length in favor of the principle of the Bill. In doing so, he took an opportunity to institute a pretty close comparison between the charges of the present Queen's Printer and those of his predecessor in office, on account of work done for the public or the Government: with the intention of showing that the charges of the former greatly exceeded those of the latter. The hon. aud learned gentleman said, that a comparison of the charges made for work done for the public, by the present Queen's Printer, in 1851, with those made, for similer work, by his predecessor, would shew that the former extravagantly exceeded the latter. He would, he said, first speak of the charges made by the present Queen's Printer, at the outset of his business in that capacity, in 1851, many of which were unnecessary and uncalled for. First, then, he would instance his charges for advertising the the Proclamation, respecting the Post Office Bill,—7s. 6d. for advertising the Proclamation, continuations 4s. 6d., and printing and posting of hand-bills 10s.,—in all £1 2s. These publications were not at all essential, and certainly the continuations ware not necessary, nor was it laid down as a rule that they should be made. Such continuations were not held necessary except with respect to Proclamations concerning the Assembly. Now, unless it could be shawn, that that Proclamation was one which should havebeen published fourteen or fifteen times it was clear that that charge—£1 2s.—was unnecessary, for it had been previously advertised inthe old Gazette, on the9th July, and the whole charge, made by Mr. Haszard, for the original insertion and the continuations was only 11s. 3d. Again, by comparing the accounts of the late and the present Queen's Printer, it would be found that the latter charged 11s. 3d. for advertising the appointment of twelve magistrates, whilst the former charged only 5s. for a similar notice.

Hon. Mr. Pope. The charge of 5s. made by Mr. Haszard, was for advertising the appointment of one magistrate only.

Hon. Mr. Palmer. The difference in space between the two would, on a comparison, be found to be scarcely any thing, whilst the increase of the charge was at the rate of 125 per cent. Next he observed in the Account of the present Queen's Printer (Journal for 1852, pa. 210) two charges, amounting to 10s for advertising the appointment of H. F. Byrne, Esq. to be Justice of Peace, and of Mr. Thresher to be Deputy Secretary. These were simple announcements of the appointments; and they had been twice previously published in the old Gazette: he therefore, held the publication of them by the present Queen's Printer to be unnecessary, and the charge, consequently, improper.

[Hon. Mr. Coles. They were published then by Mr. Haszard when he very improperly assumed to himself the right of continuing to issue the Royal Gazette.] Three of the Acts of the Session of 1851 had also, it appeared, been published both by the late and the present Queen's Printer; for which work the former charged £2 6s. 3d. and the latter £5 5s. 0d. the excess being £2 18s. 9d. Also in comparing the chrrges made by the late and the present Queen's Printer for advertising a proclamation respecting the opening of Ports to American vessels, it would be seen that the former charged only 17s. 6d. whilst, for exactly the same matter, the former charged 22s. 6d. an excess of 5s. And, for advertising for tenders for a Steamboat for Charlottetown Ferry, the present Queen's Printer, it would be seen, by reference to his Account, had charged £2 2s. 6d. whilst for a similar advertisement, Mr. Haszard had charged only £1 10s. 0d. the excess being 12s. 6d. Again, it would be found that, for work, in the publication of the Acts of the session of 1851, for which the late Queen's Printer was allowed only £4 10s. 0d. the present Queen,s Printer had charged, and been allowed, by the Executive Council, £6 8s. 0d.—that was £1 18s. 0d. on the same amount of work, over what was allowed to his predecessor; the Executive Council havingstruck off one-eighth from Mr. Haszard's charge for printing the Acts of the session of 1851, whilst they had allowed, as would be seen by reference to the Journal of 1852, pa. 210, in the charge for publishing the Act for incorporating the Trustees of Prince Town Royalty Church, a much higher charge to his successor in office. By referring to page 214 of the same Journal, it would be found that the present Queen's Printer had charged £2 10s. 0d. for advertising a List of the Warrants paid at the Treasury, whilst, by a reference to Mr. Haszard's accounts, it would be found that, for a similar publication, with a very trifling difference, he charged only £1 10s. Again, in page 214 of the same Journal, it would be found that the present Queen's Printer had charged £1 15s for advertising a List of the Licensed Retailers of Spirituous Liquors, whilst for the same service—the advertisement being shorter by 15 lines—Mr. Haszard had charged 15s. Also, in the same page, it would be found that, for advertising a List of Warrants, the present Queen's Printer had charged £2; whilst, for a similar service, it would be seen by Mr. Haszard's account, that he charged only 15s., there being but a slight difference as to length between the advertisements, the former exceeding the latter by no more than 127 words. And with respect to the publication of the Laws, it would be found that whilst the present Queen's Printer had charged and been paid £2 17s 6d for a sheet of 8 pages, his predecessor, for a similar service, under contract, had received only £2 9s; and if any gentleman would take the trouble to compare the work of the former with that of the latter, he would find Mr. Haszard's to be several lines longer, and also broader, in a page; and, what was also very material, he would see that the paper was also very much superior to that of the other. In that of the preseut Queen's Printer, it was observable that, in the first part, the paper was very good, but that, in the remainder of the work, it was very inferior. The differences which he had already exposed were sufficient to shew how much the charges of the present Queen's Printer exceeded those of his predecessor, and what a vast difference there was between the mode in which the business of the office to which they referred was conducted by its present incumbent, and that in which it was managed by his predecessor. Had it been convenient for him to devote an additional hour's time to an inspection of the Accounts of that Office for 1852, he would, he had no doubt, have been able to shew, in them, similar excess and extravagance of charges. Of 1852, the last quarter was not laid before the House: why he knew not; but he did know that, formerly, it had always been sent in, in time to be reported on by the Committee on Public Accounts. The excess and extravagance which he had already pointed out, were, however, he thought, quite sufficient to shew that, with respect to the office in which they had occurred, some better protection for the public was required than that which was afforded by the scrutinies of the Executive Council, even under the Responsible System; and, he was of opinion, that the best remedy would be the establishing, as far as possible, of a fixed Salary, for the performance of the duties of the Office, as was proposed by the Bill, which should, therefore, have his support.

Hon. Mr. Coles. It was not to be expected that he should be quite as well able to enter into a minute examination of the Queen's Printers Accounts, as the hon. member for Charlottetown who had just sat down; that gentleman having, he believed, been assisted, for a month, by Mr. Haszard, in comparing accounts, and in making out the statement, the particulars of which he had just detailed to the House. It did not, however, reflect much credit upon the hon. gentleman, and was certainly very far from being impartial and complete. One remarkable omission which he had made was his having been silent as to the reason why, in Mr. Haszard's office, a contract, had been taken by Mr. Haszard's son, not by himself, at the reduced rate of £2 9s 0, when his own charge, a few years ago, for similar work was £2 15s 0d. The reason was that the printing of the Laws being put up to tender, Mr. Haszard could not compete, with any chance of success, in his own name, without admitting the extravagance of his general charges for similar work, and without running the risk of being cut down, in future, to the rate of his own tender. It was, no doubt true, that, in the course of a minute comparison between the charges of the present and the late Queen's Printer, it might be found that, in one or two items, the charges of the former a very little exceeded those of similar items in the accounts of his predecessor in office; but he was satisfied, as well from his own knowledge of the accounts of both, although he had not indeed compared them very closely, as from the information which he had received concerning them from the Hon. the Colonial Secretary and other members of the Government whose duty it had been strictly to investigate them, that a general comparison would prove that the present Queen's Printer was much more moderate in his charges than his predecessor had been. It was, indeed, a fact that the amounts paid to the present Queen's Printer, since he entered upon the office, greatly exceeded what had annually been paid, in a like period, to his predecessor; but the reason was that, since the change in the Government had been effected, the business of that office had been trebled, if not quadrupled; and, if the comparison instituted by the hon. and learned member for Charlottetown, had been entered upon, and made, in a fair and manly spirit, such facts as he had named, and others of a similar kind, which he might name—such for instance as the present Queen's Printer, on his entering upon office, having had to supply sets of new blank forms for all the Government offices, making considerable items in his account—would not have been overlooked. The accounts of the present Queen's Printer had always been strictly scrutinized in the Council, and a fair comparison made between them and those of his predecessor, with a view to the detection of any overcharge or increase in the rates, if any such should have been made; and the result was always, upon the whole, favorable to the present occupant of that office. He had not, indeed, himself always been present upon such occasions, nor did he mean to say that an actual comparison had been made respecting every three and four penny charge; but he was perfectly satisfied that a full and fair investigation of the present Queen's Printer's accounts had always been made in Council; and that such investigations clearly proved that the charges therein were fairly made; and, although in some trifling items a little above, yet, upon an average, considerably below those of Mr. Haszard.

Hon. Mr. Warbuton stated that having, as he had been directed, written to the Colonial Secretaries of the neighbouring Provinces for information concerning the rates of the charges for public printing, in each of them, he had been favored with particular replies; and they were such as enabled him to state, that the charges for public printing in this Colony, were much more moderate than those which were made and allowed in the Provinces. To shew, however, that, as assertrd by the hon. the Leader of the Government, the late Queen's Printer's charges were frequently much higher than those of the present, he would merely state, as one instance of such excess, that Mr. Haszard's charge for the printing of the Laws to be sent Home had been £20, and Mr. Whelan's, for similar work, although to a greater extent, and on superior gilt-edged paper, was only £10. Another instance of excess in Mr. Haszard's charges over those of Mr Whelan's, which he might mention, was that the former had charged 5s a hundred for blank road-returns, whilst the latter had charged only 4s. On a fair comparison of the accounts of the present and the late Queen's Printer, it was evident, however, that their rates of charging were nearly the same; although, in some instances, as he had just shewn, those of Mr. Haszard greatly exceeded those of Mr. Whelan.

Hon. Mr. Coles. Yes; and he would also like to know why, whilst pretending to be so accurate and minute in his comparisons, the hon. and learned member had not shewn that the son had had the benefit, for his contract, of what the father printed and was paid for, as the Queen's Printer, in the publication of the Laws of the Session; so that in fact they were twice paid for work which was set up only once. He fancied that the hon. and learned member would find, before the enquiries which he had provoked were ended, that it would have been better for him to have let comparisons alone.

Mr. Longworth. The old Government had been held up to contempt and execration by the party now dominant, when out of power, for having allowed such a system of charging as that of which, now that they were in power, they had not only gladly availed themselves as a precedent, but which they had allowed to be greatly exceeded. But what else could be expected when the Printer himself had a seat in the Executive Council? The comparisons which had been made, limited as they were, were quite sufficient to shew that an unjustifiable increase had been made in the charges of the present Queen's Printer over those of his predecessor—an increase which, he was inclined to believe would not have been permitted under a system of government less favorable to corruption, than that which allowed public officers to sit at the Council Board as auditors of their own accounts. It was true that Mr. Haszard had charged nearly—perhaps quite—as much for publishing the appointment of one individual to the office of a magistrate, as he would have charged had five apointments been included in the same notice; but what could justly be found fault with in that? The work, whether it included one name or five names, would be nearly the same, and it would occupy nearly the same space in the paper. In Mr. Haszard's time such publications, however, were neither so frequent, nor so profitable as at present. Formerly appointments to the magistracy were made at long intervals; now, almost every Gazette contained a list of them, as well as other minor appointments. Indeed the frequency with which additions were made to the Commission of the Peace, and the *status* and qualifications, generally speaking, of those who were now appointed to it, were such as to bring the office into contempt.

Hon. Mr. Whelan. If hitherto I had no desire to take part in the discussion now going on, I think, indeed, I would be fully warranted in replying to the allegations which have just been directed against myself individually, with so much rancour and injustice, from the other side of the House. When I first read the notice on the Order Book, some few weeks ago, that it was the intention of the hon. member for Darnley (Mr. Clark) to introduce a Bill to commute the charges of the Queen's Printer for a stated salary, it was my determination—a determination not only in accordance with the practice of the House—but fully in accordance with my own judgment, to maintain a rigid silence in regard to a Bill of that nature. But when the hon. member—acting, no doubt, under the advice of certain gentlemen of the minority of this House, had thought proper to tack on to the Bill the office of the Attorney General, and by making a general assault upon both, secure the passage of a measure by which the interests of either the one or the other would be damaged,—I felt that I was no longer restrained from expressing my opinions upon the Bill; and I now beg to warn the hon. member for Darnly, that if I be disposed to handle himself and his bantling somewhat roughly and uncourteously, I do so, not because I feel that I am assailed in an open and manly manner, but because he thinks it safer to whip me on the Attorney General's back, and to whip the Attorney General on mine. I have no doubt the hon. member will disclaim personal motives in bringing forward this measure. It is quite fashionable to do so. Zeal for the public interests will no doubt be pleaded in justification of the step he has taken. *Perhaps* the hon. gentleman *may* be actuated by such a patriotic intention. *Perhaps* he *may* be animated by the ambition to signalize his public life by the introduction of *one* original measure into this Assembly. He has been for seven years a member of Parliament, and it may be, that he does not wish his career to be brought to an inglorious close—it may be that he burns with the desire of being able, in after years, to tell his present constituents that he has been instrumental in placing at least one debateable Bill upon the Statute Book. I may be wrong, however, in imputing such vanity to the hon. member. But if I am wrong, he certainly has taken no pains to guard one against the error. The Bill has been long enough before the House to have enabled him to put every hon. member in possession of his views on the subject. It has been long enough before the House to have enabled the hon. member to come down here with such an array of facts and figures as would have been sufficient to convince every other member around me that the time had at length arrived when it was necessary to commute the fees of the Attorney General and Queen's Printer for fixed salaries. Judging from the time which intervened—extending over some weeks—from the introduction of the Bill to the motion now made I confidently expected that the hon. member was fully prepared to shew that both the Queen's Printer and the Attorney General had practised the most arrant extortions upon the public, and that it was now time to put a stop to such practices. But what has been the result of the hon. gentleman's long deliberations? Why, simply nothing. Not a speech—not a fact—not a figure has he condescended to vouchsafe. Yet, if *he*, himself has been wanting in this respect, his new friends in the minority have most graciously come to his relief; and I am sure they will feel grateful to him for the admirable opportunity he has afforded to them of making their annual fling at the Queen's Printer. It has been a favourite pastime with the gentleman on the other side of the House to make the character, both public and private, of the Queen's Printer a target for their indecent and unjustifiable assaults; and if the hon. member for Darnley has been made a tool on this occasion to pander to their malevolence, I presume he will receive from them his reward, in his private intercourse with them, in the shape of compliments for his so-called independence, without thinking that those compliments have been earned by the sacrifice of that confidence and kindly feeling which every where subsists between the members of the same political party. It has often been the subject of slanderous imputation in a certain Newspaper printed in this Colony, that the majority of our House of Assembly are banded together for unholy motives, and that office-holders especially, should they happen to be guilty of fraud or peculation, are safe against scrutiny or challenge, so long as they can command a majority to support their general political principles in this House. The hon. member for Darnley is doubtless desirous of shewing that such a stigma cannot fairly attach to him—that he is not only determined to check wrong-doing in the conduct of his adversaries, but that he is prepared to gibbet his friends, and to act, if necessary, the part of their executioner, if even the minority, suppose or fancy any of them to be guilty of a crime. If the office-holders were really guilty of any faults, they might well exclaim "O save us from our friends," when some of those friends manifest so ardent a desire to convict them without sufficient evidence.

[The remainder of the Hon. Mr. Whelan's speech, as well as the rest of the Debate, will be prepared for the next issue of *Haszard's Gazette*.]

R. B. Irving, Reporter.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER,

31st March, 1853.

Debate on Motion for the Second Reading of the Treasury Note Bill.

(Continued from Haszard's Gazette, No. 27.)

Hon. Mr. Birnie continued—

Sir John Harvey, in a Despatch dated 17th Sept., 1836, makes the following observations on the Despatch to him of the 8th March, 1836:

"That although the first issue of Treasury Notes in this Island appears to have been intended to be limited to the amount of the securities deposited with the Treasurer for the greater convenience of individuals having Provincial duties to pay, yet it has long since passed that point, and I consider, that the only security now looked to by the public as regards these Notes, is the good faith of the Legislature, in other words, that the Revenue of the Island is considered as pledged through the Colonial Legislature for the redemption of its paper currency. After stating the great scarcity of coin, &c., it proceeds:—But I cannot on the other hand close my eyes to the fact, that they (the Notes) must have had a direct tendency to banish specie from the Island, and thus to reduce it to the distressing state in which I now find it; in that respect, formerly, as I am assured, the purchasers of grain, and surplus produce came to the Island and paid for it in specie, or remitted it. Now, they buy up the Island paper, which in the adjoining Provinces is at a very great discount, and pay the growers, &c, with the Notes.

"To sanction any increase (as is wished by some) in the amount of paper currency, would be directly contrary to your Lordship's Despatch; any sudden or material reduction would create much embarrassment, and the gradual extinction of the Notes is already provided for by law, at the rate of £1000 per annum for the next four years,—before the expiration of which period, the increased wealth and prosperity of the Colony, and the probable consequent establishment of Banks issuing Notes *redeemable in cash*, may have superseded the necessity, or even the *possibility of continuing a species of Note which will have become almost useless as regards the retail trader (as representing nothing tangible or convertible), although affording a solid remuneration to the capitalist in a well secured interest of six per cent.*"

"Downing Street, 3d Dec., 1836.

"Sir;

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch No. 4, of 17th Sept., respecting the state of the Currency of Prince Edward Island.

"Having referred that communication to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, I have received from that Board a Letter, of which I transmit you a copy, and in which their Lordships continue to urge the expediency of some measure being adopted by the Legislature for rendering the Government Promissory Notes payable in specie on demand, or redeemable in some specific manner.

(Signed) "Glenelg.

"Sir John Harvey, &c."

"Treasury Chambers, 30th Nov., 1836.

"Sir;

"With further reference to your communication of the 19th inst., enclosing a copy of a Despatch from Sir John Harvey, on the state of the Currency in Prince Edward Island, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to request you will state to Lord Glenelg, that my Lords only deem it necessary to remark, that the circumstances adverted to in the Despatch of the Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island tend further to evince the expediency of some measures being adopted by the local Legislature for rendering the Government Promissory Notes payable in specie on demand, or redeemable in some specific manner; and my Lords trust, that the Legislature may be enabled, upon receiving the intended communication of the Lieut. Governor, to make some arrangement in that respect. My Lords also trust, that the instructions, to which the Lieutenant Governor refers, in regard to the further issue of Notes, will be duly observed.

"I have, &c.,

"J. Spearman.

"James Stephen, Esq."

In the Act of 1837, for levying an assessment on Land, a clause was inserted, which provided that, on the completion of the Colonial Building, £3000 out of that fund should be applied to the reduction of that amount of Notes,—this Act to be in force for ten years. In 1845, the time approaching when this engagement would have to be fulfilled, an Address to Her Majesty was agreed to by both Houses to obtain permission not only to suspend the reduction in the amount of Notes in issue, but seeking permission to increase that amount by a fresh issue of £10,000, to be redeemed in 15 years. We need not be surprised that these applications were not acceded to, as will appear by a Despatch from Lord Stanley, dated Downing Street, 1st August, 1845, addressed to Sir Henry Vere Huntley:

"Sir;

"I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch No. 61, of 12th May, in which you transmit a joint Address to the Queen from the two Houses of the Legislature of Prince Edward Island, praying Her Majesty's assent to the passing a law to authorise the issue of £10,000 in Treasury Notes, redeemable within fifteen years.

"I have also received your Despatch No. 65, of 27th May, inclosing a memorial from several inhabitants of Prince Edward Island, objecting to any such issue of paper money.

"Having laid the Address of the Legislature before the Queen, I have to inform you that Her Majesty was pleased to receive the same very graciously.

"I regret, however, that I have been unable to advise Her Majesty to accede to the prayer which it contained, for the following reasons,—which you will communicate to the two Houses at their next meeting:—

"Having on several former occasions directed your attention to the unsatisfactory state of the finances of Prince Edward Island, I have looked for some explanation upon that subject, on receiving an application for an increase in its liabilities, by the proposed issue of paper money. But I neither find in the Address, nor in your own Despatch accompanying it, any explanation with respect to the finances of the Colony, nor any allusion to the fact, of which I am informed by this memorial inclosed in your second Despatch that, independently of the sum of £11,800 already existing in the shape of Treasury Notes, there are Treasury Warrants remaining unsatisfied to the extent of £26,223.

"In addition to the objections which I entertain to the issues of paper currency, not payable in specie on demand, I find that it is represented by the parties signing the memorial,—whose opinion you consider to be entitled to great attention,—that the Currency of the Island is depreciated 20 per cent. below that of the adjoining Colonies.

"On such a statement, I cannot but apprehend that the issues of paper money have already been excessive, and that the depreciation above mentioned, and the absence of metallic circulating medium, are principally attributable to that excess.

"If these impressions be correct, it appears to me that they furnish substantial reasons against the issue of any further paper money; but I shall be happy to receive from you more explicit information on the subject, especially with respect to the amount of debt now outstanding; the actual exchangeable value of the Government paper, or of the Warrants bearing interest, as compared with coin; and the arrangements that either have been made, or are proposed to be made, for rendering the Revenue equal to meet the current expenditure of the Island, and for providing for the redemption both of the existing debt, and of the suggested addition to it.

"I have, &c.,

(Signed) "Stanley.

"Lieutenant Governor

"Sir H. V. Huntley, &c. &c. &c."

Your Honors, no doubt, naturally suppose that due attention would have been given to the oft-repeated remonstrances emanating from such high authority as the Home Government, in the Despatches I have just read, against any further issue of Treasury Notes unredeemable in specie, and directing each succeeding Lieutenant Governor from time to time not to sanction any Bill having that object in view: but to bring to the attention of the Legislature the urgent necessity of making immediate provision for paying off the outstanding Treasury Notes in specie on demand; but those admonitions were unheeded; and we find that in 1846, an Act to authorize a further issue of £15,000, and in 1849 another for an issue of £10,000,—both these measures were not agreed to by this House. And now a third Bill is presented to us, authorising an issue of £13,200, to make up the sum of £25,000 of Treasury Notes afloat unredeemable in specie on demand,—upon which I hope your Honors will put a negative. I beg to remind your Honors, that in the year 1825, the Currency of this Island was the same as the old Halifax Currency, viz., one-ninth added to British Sterling; therefore the Treasury Notes, when first issued, were of the following sterling values:

				PRESENT STG. VALUE.		
The £5 Note =	£4	10	0	£3	6	8
The £2 Note =	£1	16	0	1	6	8
The £1 Note =	£0	18	0	0	13	4
The 10s. Note =	£0	9	0	0	6	8
The 5s. Note =	£0	4	6	0	3	4

The Honorable and learned gentleman (the Attorney General) who has last addressed your Honors, has quoted an Act of the Assembly, to prove that due provision is made by law to fund Treasury Notes,—to obtain interest thereon,—and also to pay off the whole of those which may not have been paid into the Treasury, at the expiration of three years from the passing of the Act. Tho Statute quoted by his Honor, is the 5th Geo. 4, cap. 18,—the first Act to authorize the issue of Treasury Notes; and, with all due deference to his Honor's legal acquirements, the Act does not, in my humble opinion, aid his argument,—as that Statute, first, as to the *facility* for funding and obtaining payment of interest, Sec. 7, enacts: that if at any quarterly period after the 31st December next,—that is to say, at the 31st day of March, the 30th day of June, the 30th day of September, and the 31st day of December in any succeeding year,—any person shall tender for payment at the Treasury any number of the Notes issued or re-issued in virtue of this Act, (in case the Treasurer shall not be able to pay the same in gold or silver) it shall and may be lawful for the Lieutenant Governor or Commander-in-Chief for the time being, by and with the advice of His Majesty's Council, by warrant under his hand and seal, to direct the Commissioners aforesaid to fund such sum or sums of Treasury Notes as shall be tendered for payment from time to time as aforesaid, and to grant Certificates to the amount thereof, on interest; and the said Commissioners shall deliver the said Notes so presented to the Treasurer of the Island, and take his receipt for the same; and the Treasurer shall be charged with and be accountable for the same; and the said Notes shall not be again issued from the Treasury, or put into circulation for any use whatsoever. Now, I ask your Honors whether you think a more circuitous or inconvenient mode could have been adopted to discourage the public from funding Notes, were they inclined to do so?—and then only to be done upon *four days* in the whole year!—so much for the *facility*. Then, as to the interest: there is *no rate of per centage mentioned, no period stated for the payment of it*, neither is there any *specific fund* set apart for the purpose of doing so, or for payment thereof. The Act authorised the issue of Notes to the amount of £5000, and decided that all those outstanding at the *end of three years*, be paid off in gold or silver—*if there should be any in the Treasury unappropriated for other services*. This £5000 was not paid off until about the year 1836; that being done, the purposes of the Act were fulfilled,—and therefore that portion of it is, in my opinion, not now in force or operation. His Honor the Attorney General nods assent, and says that he did not know that any amount of Notes had ever been paid off. His Honor has also broadly stated, that "in 1848 the Colony was heavily in debt, and now it was free from it." I can by no means admit this to be so. His Honor said likewise that "the Colony was not paying interest on any part of the public debt, although the Debentures and Warrants unpaid amounted to £22,000, and liable to interest,—yet there were bonds to that amount bearing interest; therefore one is set off against the other;"—I think that was his statement. I must say that it appears to me to be a fallacy. The interest upon the Debentures and Warrants is, at five per cent., £1100 per annum; while the Bonds, amounting to £20,700, bear only three months' interest previous to being put in suit, at six per cent., or £310 10s.—leaving a difference against the former of £789 10s. I am sorry to have taken up so much of the time of your Honors, but I feel the vast importance of this question to the Colony; and if I am wrong in the view I take of the subject, I have the satisfaction of knowing that I err in company with the greatest financiers and statesmen who ever adorned the country they belong to; and now that the schoolmaster is abroad, and this community alive to the importance of Education to all classes, and a sum (though small) voted by the Legislature to augment our Library, those who take an opposite view of this matter will have an opportunity of studying it with more attention; and I do sincerely trust that this is the last time your Honors will be called upon to express an opinion on a Bill of this nature. I heartily support the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Swabey.—I was going to say, that the Bill has been so fully discussed, that I shall now confine my remarks within a very limited sphere. I prophesied that there would be a long discussion on financial operations; but there have been some arguments adduced, which I consider mistaken. We have had long quotations from Hamilton, Lee, and M'Gregor. Now it is evident, I think, that these observations were made, by the respective authors, with a view to counteract a particular evil that had then set in. It was against an excessive issue of paper,—then the mania of the day,—that induced them to come before the public and expose its danger. Your Honors will remember, that I drew his Honor's attention, when he was quoting from Hamilton, that such an issue might be expedient in times of tranquillity. [His Honor Mr. Hensley here observed, that what might serve in fair weather, would frequently be found to be totally useless when the storm arose; and he again read a part of his former quotation from Hamilton.] Hon. Mr. S. resumed: There would be no issues in any country, if all those exceptions his Honor has read were to be observed. It has also been said, that the former issue of paper here was the cause of the Directors of the British North American Bank not establishing a Branch in this Colony; but I have good reason to believe that it was because the interest on Notes was not payable annually [Hon. Mr. Attorney General: the interest on Warrants]; and I can easily fancy that such a thing would operate against the establishment of a Bank. I do not lay much stress upon the Despatches not having been received,—the press of business in official quarters will easily account for this; and with respect to the state of matters, as described in the Memorandum, and the necessity therein said to exist for the issue, I may state that the same reasons not only exist, but that they have greatly increased; and I really do think myself that if we are to carry out this principle of finance—

[Hon. Mr. Hensley: Such a thing as a Bank ought never to be instituted by a Government.]

I think at one time there was a talk of a Bank, but it was thought that the issue of the paper would operate prejudicially.

Hon. Mr. Hensley.—It was the fear of the continuation of those issues shook the confidence of all those who ever thought of establishing a Bank here; and as to such issues, no nation that ever entered upon such a career has ever stopped; but a growing favor for such unsound issues ever went on increasing, until the ruin was complete.—Universal experience has established the fact.

Hon. Mr. Birnie read a paper by the late Attorney General Johnston, in May, 1816, upon the subject of the Bank Tokens.

Hon. Mr. Rice.—I do not profess to know much about the Currency question. I have listened, however, with attention to the remarks of hon. gentlemen; and from what has been said, I really think that it would be better to postpone the further consideration of the Bill, until we hear from the Imperial Government upon the subject.