

were to be redempted, and no answer has been given. I said I was sorry the subject was brought up in this way, and not after due notice. I am opposed to an issue of irredeemable paper money, and I do not see what prospect can be made to redeem it.

Hon. Mr. BUCKLE.—I do not think that the present Government have seen the error of their ways. They are willing to go to any length, and for four years had not an office-holder on the floor of this House. When we found that our policy was wrong we acknowledged it at the hustings; but the present Government have not only not acknowledged their error, but they have gone on to increase it. They have not only not acknowledged their error, but they have gone on to increase it. They have not only not acknowledged their error, but they have gone on to increase it.

#### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, April 22.

Debate on the Draft Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech (continued).

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND.—We have, Mr. Chairman, heard much in this discussion about the consistency of party. We would almost be led to believe that the members could be accused of an inconsistency. But, what Mr. Chairman, did we see in 1857? Why Sir, during that year, and until 1863, the actual Attorney-General of the Island had a seat in the House, while the gentleman who nominally held that office did not receive the salary belonging to it. This was the condition of things about the Island at the time. The party were afraid to send the gentleman who really discharged the duties of Attorney-General back to his constituents, and hence this anomaly. We are, however, taking a straight forward course; we are satisfied with three members on the floor. Much has been said, Mr. Chairman, regarding the Queen's Printer's resignation by his constituents, but the hon. member who last spoke must remember that he very nearly shared the same fate. I contend, Sir, it is not right or just to introduce that gentleman's name here since his defeat. This matter should be left in abeyance, for it is not the business of other hon. members. But, Sir, the present Government has been styled a "conservative" party, by the Opposition. Why, Sir, the character of the Conservative Government for the last eight years has been composite. During that time they have had three Leaders, while the present Leader (Mr. Coles) is the only one who has remained in office. The members who form the present Government have come from the east, the west, the north and the south, and thus far, Mr. Chairman, it is composite, but not on real principles. It was the mismanagement of the Land Question by the late Administration which gave the Opposition the right of majority in this House. It was a Colonial disgrace to call in the Troops, and I am glad to hear it admitted that the civil power was not sufficiently exercised before doing so. That the conduct of the Executive in this matter did not meet with the approval of the House, which was the only body which exercised its authority in this House. It was a Colonial disgrace to call in the Troops, and I am glad to hear it admitted that the civil power was not sufficiently exercised before doing so. That the conduct of the Executive in this matter did not meet with the approval of the House, which was the only body which exercised its authority in this House.

Mr. BRECKEN.—With all deference to the hon. member who has just spoken, I will tell him, Mr. Chairman, that he must confine himself to the matter at hand. He has introduced and made free use of the name of a gentleman not now in the House. He must remember, Sir, that that gentleman's rejection was brought up in discussion by hon. members on his own side of the House, not on ours. He has also alluded to my election, but with references to this. I can tell him that the introduction of that name in this House is a true British political error. I have run two elections, and I own my return to the respected constituency which I represent; and I believe that though not more than fifty votes ahead of my opponent, I have the confidence of my constituency. But, Sir, the hon. member has also said that in 1859 I was appointed Attorney-General nominally. This, Sir, is not true. I have never acted for an office of any description for myself or any one connected with me. I never acted for the Attorney-Generalship, and when appointed, I was astonished, for I always considered myself too young a man to be appointed to the important office, or to a seat in the Government. But, Sir, the duties of that office I discharged, and the whole of them, and in living it to me Mr. Palmer's name was never mentioned. For two years I enjoyed the whole salary of my office, and had nothing whatever to do with that gentleman in performing his duties, receiving no more assistance from him than one or two clerks from another. At the end of that time, however, seeing that he was serving the country without receiving any reward, while I, who had far less claims, was being liberally rewarded, I employed him to assist me, and paid him myself without having any communication with the Executive on the subject. I did not send him to the Attorney-General, as a body, was aware that Mr. Palmer was employed by me. I stake my word of honor, that I was appointed as freely as the present Attorney-General. Will the last speaker deny the fact that I discharged the duties of the office which I held? It was a more important office than that of the Attorney-General, and I was in a position to employ Mr. Palmer, and I will not be accused of doing so. I had no way to employ him, and received no more assistance from him than the present Attorney-General receives from any lawyer he pleases to employ.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND.—It appears to me rather strange that the Executive should be aware at the time that the hon. member employed and paid Mr. Palmer. Though I do live at Tynah, I can read the newspapers, and I know that it was the general opinion throughout the Island that the Government, when they gave him the appointment, intended him to act as Attorney-General.

Mr. BRECKEN.—I was sworn into office without one word being said concerning Mr. Palmer; and what I did, I did of my own accord. If I chose to employ and fee him liberally, I had a perfect right to do so. I know when I held the office that of right it belonged to him.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND.—The hon. member is only getting deeper into the mire. He says that the Government were not aware of the fact that he was employing Mr. Palmer. I think that he had employed a gentleman of the opposite party who would have remained loyal to the Government.

Mr. McNEILL.—I am, Mr. Chairman, one of the "young members" but I may, perhaps, say a few words, though I do not wish to occupy the time of this Committee. I had not the slightest idea that the matter of Mr. Palmer's employment would have been the cause of so long a debate as it did not convey any impression on the late Government for having delayed the General Election. I do not intend, Sir, to go over all the ground traversed by the speaker before me, or to argue whether the hon. member for Charlottetown or Mr. Palmer was Attorney-General in 1859. But, Sir, we have been told for the manner in which we were carrying out Responsible Government. I would not say that the Opposition, when in power, showed any very great degree of consistency. I will remember that in 1859 the hon. member for Charlottetown (Mr. Brecken) was Attorney-General, and I will support a friend of his who was running the Election in that district. He made a splendid speech on the occasion, for, as you know, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member was very eloquent and able, and the whole of the House was in the habit of listening to his speeches. This, Sir, was in the days of the Political Alliance; and the reasons given by the hon. member for having since changed his policy are not very satisfactory. He was the first to propose to dissolve the Political Alliance, and he has since been in the habit of changing his policy. He was the first to propose to dissolve the Political Alliance, and he has since been in the habit of changing his policy.

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And the question having been put, said, and answered as follows—

Yeas—Hons. Haviland, McAlay, Henderson, Messrs. Green, Brecken, Prowse, Owen, McNeill—8.

Nays—Hons. Attorney-General, Laird, Coles, Gilbeke, Howland, Messrs. Kelly, G. Sinclair, Bell, Arsenaux, Davies, McTernack, McNeill, Kitchin, Cameron, P. Sinclair—16.

Several Bills were then read a third time and passed.

The Bill to institute a Hospital in Charlottetown for sick and disabled seamen, and others was committed to a Committee of the whole House.

A considerable debate ensued, relative to the necessity of establishing such an institution, during which discussion Dr. Jenkins, Mr. Brecken, Hon. Mr. Haviland, Hon. Mr. Henderson, Mr. McNeill, Mr. Brecken and Hon. Attorney-General supported the object of the Bill, setting forth the expediency of providing Hospital accommodation for sick and disabled seamen. For maintaining and supporting such Hospital, funds should be raised by levying a small duty on all vessels arriving and departing from Charlottetown. The hardships and privations endured by the sailors and others when thrown upon the charity of strangers in a strange land, was commented on by the supporters of the Bill. Dr. Jenkins instanced several cases of death which came under his own personal knowledge in the course of his professional practice, as the result of ill-ventilated rooms, filth and want of cleanliness, and the extreme sufferings endured by poor sailors and others, who were reduced to a state of destitution of home and friends. The prevention of the spread of fevers and other diseases would also follow the immediate removal of sick sailors to an institution such as the bill contemplated.

Hon. Mr. Howland, Hon. Mr. Green, Mr. Owen, Hon. Mr. McAlay, Mr. Green, Mr. Bell, Mr. Prowse and Mr. McTernack spoke against entertaining the question of a hospital, such as the bill contemplated, for the present. As shipwrecked were, under Statute, compelled to provide for their sick and destitute sailors, the exigencies of the question were not such as to require the intervention of the Legislature in the manner pointed out by the bill under consideration. The present session being about to close, it was considered advisable to postpone the further consideration of the question until next session.

House in Committee again resumed the consideration of the Bill to amend the Act relating to the Militia and Volunteer Forces of the Island. A very lengthy debate on the whole Militia question then ensued.

Mr. Cameron in the chair.

The object of the Bill is to render more effective the Militia Law of last session, relative to matters of detail, without effecting any material change in the principles of the Act. It contains certain powers relative to matters of discipline on Officers commanding Regiments, and points out the several duties to be performed on the part of both officers and men. The bill exempts from Militia duty, Fire Wardens regularly appointed by the Fire Department at Charlottetown, and also Firemen belonging to the Fire Companies of Summerside, Summerside and Georgetown, subject to the following limit, namely, for Charlottetown Fire Companies, 80 Firemen shall be exempt from said Militia duty, and 20 Firemen for each of the Towns of Summerside and Georgetown. Said Firemen to produce the necessary certificates from the Captains of their respective Companies, in proof of their good standing as members of said Fire Engine Companies.

Hon. Mr. Davies objected to the principles of the bill, on the ground that the limited nature of its provisions is not of that effective and general character requisite to meet the approval and requirements of the Militia and Volunteer Forces of the Island. It contemplates that subjects of this Colony were not, under the provisions of that bill, called upon to lend their aid in the common defence of British North America, in case of a foreign invasion, irrespective of the portion of that territory that might be assailed, was, he said, proof of the inefficiency of the bill, so far as it related to the Militia and Volunteer Forces of the Island. He would like to see the maintenance of its independence, contribute its quota of men, as well as ratio of means, towards the common defence as well as support of any and every portion of British North America, in case of foreign invasion. And he would like to see no provision for such common defence, he did not feel called upon to support it.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition contended that a bill of that nature, affecting the military interests of the Colony, should have been presented to the House as a Government measure, and not subjected to the indifference with which it was treated by the hon. members in that House. In the whole course of his reading on Constitutional History, he could find no such unparalleled procedure as that now adopted relative to the bill in question.

Similar views were expressed by other hon. members of the Opposition, expressive of their indignation at the conduct of the hon. members among the advisers of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief obstructing and opposing the bill.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition contended that the bill was but simply an amendment to some of the details of the bill of last session, and that it was not a Government measure. He contended that the hon. members of the majority are willing to support it in carrying out the wishes of the people and only so long as the trust definition was once conveyed with a gentleman in one of the hon. members, and in the course of our conversation he asked me who was then Attorney-General of the Island. I told him; and he asked me how it could be the case, since that gentleman held the office of Attorney-General, and that we were not carrying out Responsible Government. This only shows how different opinions are upon this subject. We may, Mr. Chairman, debate here for two days without coming to a decision. All that can be said is that a Government, so long as supported by a majority, is responsible; if not, the people have the power to turn them out. Exception may be made in this case, if we arrive at an satisfactory conclusion, it is better to say that the hon. members have changed their views. All this discussion has nothing to do with the clause before the Committee. That clause merely says that we are to change in the business of the country even at this late period. I trust that the debate will now terminate.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—I hope, Mr. Chairman, that it will, by the Hon. Attorney-General, be made known to the hon. members of the House that no one under-stands Responsible Government except those on his side of the House. In 1859 we were carrying out Responsible Government, and we were carrying out Responsible Government, and we were carrying out Responsible Government. I would not say that the Opposition, when in power, showed any very great degree of consistency. I will remember that in 1859 the hon. member for Charlottetown (Mr. Brecken) was Attorney-General, and I will support a friend of his who was running the Election in that district. He made a splendid speech on the occasion, for, as you know, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member was very eloquent and able, and the whole of the House was in the habit of listening to his speeches. This, Sir, was in the days of the Political Alliance; and the reasons given by the hon. member for having since changed his policy are not very satisfactory. He was the first to propose to dissolve the Political Alliance, and he has since been in the habit of changing his policy.

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