

The Examiner

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE AND NEWS.

"This is true Liberty, when Freeborn Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free."—Euripides.

VOL. XVI. 1

CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, MONDAY, APRIL 23, 1866.

NO. 24

COLONIAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

(Continued from last Monday's Examiner.)

ABROGATION OF THE RECIPROcity TREATY.

The whole Address, as above given, having been read by the Chairman, the first paragraph was again read, submitted to the vote, and having been unanimously agreed to without discussion, the second, having reference to the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty, was then read and submitted.

Hon. Mr. COLES rose and spoke to the following effect: The subject spoken of in that paragraph was one of too great moment to be passed over in silence. The treaty had doubtless been mutually beneficial to the contracting parties; certainly, in his opinion, as much so to the people of the United States as to those of the British American Colonies. The Government of the United States, however, thought, or at least pretended to think otherwise; and, therefore, by their having given the signal notice for its abrogation, it had been annulled.

The Government of the United States should have determined was an event which he, indeed, very much regretted; for it was beyond all question that the trade and commercial relations established by that treaty between the great American Republic and this Island had been productive of greater prosperity, not only to our mercantile but to our agricultural interests, than had ever been consequent upon any other public policy previously recognized by our Legislature. The abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty by the United States was, indeed, not only a matter of regret, but of surprise, through the whole of those Colonies, and although the name of its needless and beneficial nullification rested upon the United States, he felt persuaded that had not Canada, manifesting a great concern for its continuance or re-establishment, its renewal, if not exactly upon the original terms of the Treaty, yet upon terms fair, equitable, and advantageous to both parties, would certainly have been effected. The Americans, although they pretended to believe that in the operation of the Treaty, the British Colonies had been much more benefited than they had been, and that they had had the worst of the bargain; yet knew full well that the fact was otherwise, and that the fishing privileges which they enjoyed under it greatly counterbalanced all the benefits derived from it by the British Colonies. But seeing the extreme anxiety manifested by the Canadians for its renewal, and when they had erroneously presumed to be entertained to the same extent by the Maritime Provinces, they concluded that all they had to do in order to force us into annexation was either steadily to reject all terms whatsoever which might be proposed by us, or a renewal of the Treaty, or, on their own part, to manifest a determination to entertain no negotiation for its renewal except on terms so manifestly unfair to us that it would be impossible for us, with any regard for our own interests, to accede to them. They have chosen the latter course, and for the present the renewal of the Treaty is hopeless. Their expectation, however, that by this policy they would be able to force us either into annexation, or into a trade mutually beneficial to both, has arisen from a very fallacious estimate both of our resources and of our loyal and independent spirit. The works of the United States, in close proximity to us as they are, doubtless afford us, under the operation of the Reciprocity Treaty, most desirable and advantageous facilities for the sale of all our surplus agricultural produce; but now that these markets are by the imposition of high protective duties, virtually closed against us, we do not despair of being able to find a market in which to prosecute the various branches of our trade and commerce as remunerative and profitable as ever. And even were it otherwise, had we less hopes of being able to extend our trade and commerce in other directions, we are too well satisfied with our own position, and too attached to the constitution under which we live, to be willing to transfer the reins of government, how seemingly great a power might be the advantages of our commerce, or such a transfer of our rights, for its annulment would very much diminish the trade of these Colonies, and especially of Prince Edward Island; but, yet, at the same time, he was very glad that the terms on which it was proposed had been offered by the Americans, and that they were able to do so, in view of the enormous amount of their surplus produce which was closed to us by the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty, as well as by the duties on sugar, molasses, and the West India, and to carry on trade with those distant countries, and to be able to do so, by large capitalists. It would be impossible for small traders to engage in it; and it would, therefore, necessarily be confined to a few. Still he hoped these new channels would open up a trade in our agricultural produce which would not be quite so fluctuating as that with the United States, particularly during the war. The advantages derived by the Americans from the fishing privileges enjoyed by them under the Reciprocity Treaty, were, he thought, all that we derived by our trade with them in the produce of our soil, under that treaty. During the existence of that treaty, the profits accruing to them from their fishing privileges increased more than 100 per cent, over what they had been previous to its having been entered into. The restrictions of the Maritime Treaty, suspended during the existence of the Reciprocity Treaty, were being revived to their fullest extent; and should Great Britain determine to enforce a duty on the value of that Treaty, on the part of the Americans, in all the Colonies of the British interpretation of it, the loss sustained by them, in consequence of its enforcement, in the curtailment of their fishing operations, would be far exceeded by any loss or damage which we might experience in the withdrawal by them of the free-trade privileges which were extended to us under the Reciprocity Treaty, that he believed, he might venture to predict that in twelve months they would come to their senses, and eagerly seek a renewal of that free commercial intercourse with us, which, most erroneously calculating upon our dependence upon them for our commerce and prosperity, they have so readily abandoned. They had indeed strangely done themselves in thinking that by this course they have pursued with respect to that treaty they would force us into annexation as the only remedy for the injury done to our trade by its abrogation. The people of the United States, and all who were in sympathy with them, were, he thought, entitled to a full and fair consideration of the merits of the case, and that they were not to be hurried into a decision by the Government, but that they were to be allowed to take their own course, and that they were to be allowed to take their own course, and that they were to be allowed to take their own course.

The value of fish taken by American citizens out of the disputed waters has amounted to five million dollars per annum, and it is not at all likely that they will forego so great a benefit without persistent endeavors to retain it. The existence of the peace and prosperity of these Colonies depending more upon an amicable adjustment of the misapprehensions which were likely to arise out of that disputed point, than upon any other subject connected with the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty.

Hon. Mr. HAVLAND observed that the hon. the leader of the Opposition differed in opinion from the great reformer across the water. Mr. Bright, who passed such high encomiums upon the Republican Government of the United States, the Reciprocity Treaty was now one of the things of the past, it was therefore the duty of the Province to adopt the best measures they could devise to make up for its loss. Not only he said, had the Americans had the advantage derived from exports of agricultural produce, but also access to that larger and more valuable source of wealth, our Fisheries; the annual value of fish imported into the New England States was some six millions of dollars. The United States Congress have by their policy touching that treaty proved recreant to the principles of free trade. They have had an eye to the Monroe doctrine with the view of starting us into annexation, and thereby driving Monarchical institutions from the soil of America. The taxation of the general Government of the United States averaged about ten dollars a head, and that of the local State Governments fifteen dollars per head; every American citizen was, therefore, liable to a taxation of twenty-five dollars a head. In Great Britain the tax was about ten dollars, and in Canada, at most, five dollars, including municipal taxes. This would be sufficient to show that annexation to the States would not be a very desirable step for Provincial interests. The Americans need not think that four millions of British Americans, with a territory of four hundred millions of acres, will be starved into annexation. Our soil is as productive and our people are as talented, robust, and stalwart as those of the United States, and thrown on their own resources, would prove equal to the task of self-support. The protective principles of the great protectionist, Mr. Mill, seem to have swayed Congress. That gentleman's doctrine would be more applicable to trade 200 years ago, than now in the latter part of the 19th century. As a proof of the ignorance of that gentleman, and of those who are at present led by him, (Hon. Sol. General) might justly observe that the Hon. Sol. General, a State of Maine member objected to Canadian lumber as interfering with the trade of his own State in that article; a Pennsylvania member protested against Nova Scotia coal coming into competition with the coal of his own State; and a member from Vermont opposed the trade in butter and eggs from the Colonies, as interfering with the prices of the farmers of Vermont and New Hampshire. He (Hon. Sol. General) differed from the Hon. Mr. Coles in his remarks touching the cabinet of the Canadian delegates when at Washington last autumn; they were not to be accused for doing their utmost, consistent with their position, to induce their American neighbours to continue a trade mutually beneficial to both. But when the American Government had not the courage to treat with them personally, but only through the Committee of Ways and Means, they, the Provincial delegates, should, in his opinion, have at once packed up their papers and held on further communications with them. Good, doubtless, would arise out of the abrogation of the treaty. It would arouse the best energies of the Colonies, and cause them to trust in their own resources for mutual protection and support. When the Americans should find that we could not only exist without them, but also expand our trade and commerce with other countries, they would come to their senses, and be led to look to renew their commercial and friendly relations that existed between them and the Colonies, and which had proved mutually beneficial during the last ten or twelve years.

Hon. Mr. COLES. At the Detroit Convention, there were several American Delegates, and the ignorance of the fundamental principles of trade and commerce which was manifested by them, one and all, did indeed very much surprise him. Each of those delegates, representing a separate and distinct State, apparently conceived it to be his bounden duty to consider only what would be for the sectional and local interests of his own individual State, altogether ignoring or disregarding the general interests of the United States. Well indeed might the Hon. the Solicitor General say the people, generally speaking, of the United States were, as regards the knowledge of political economy, two hundred years behind the people of England and France. By the narrow-minded policy so manifestly manifested by each of their delegates at the Detroit Convention, that was, very different from the delegates from the British Colonies. They were actuated by no exclusive or selfish regard for the mere local interests of their separate Colonies, but by large and comprehensive views of what would contribute most to the general interests of the whole of these Colonies. Whilst at Detroit the universal mental impression by which the American delegates were actuated was evidently that, if they refused to renew or to recommend a renewal of Reciprocity, these Provinces would, in a body, walk over to them, and solicit admission into their Union. On that occasion, Consul Potter, declaring the action he was about to take to be fully authorized by the American Secretary of State, called a meeting of the American Delegates then at Detroit, for the purpose of initiating to them the line of policy which, with respect to the question to be discussed or determined by the Convention it was the wish of the American Authorities they should pursue. On being made aware of Consul Potter's intention, the delegates of the Colonies held a private meeting for the purpose of considering whether it would be right or prudent for them to attend the meeting called by Consul Potter, when it was unanimously agreed that the most prudent course for them to pursue, as a body, would be to wholly disregard that meeting, and to rely upon the public, through their own representatives, in their stating their own individual capacity, with respect to the advice which Consul Potter was about to give to the States Delegates, and he accordingly withdrew into the room in which the meeting was being held; and he had not been there above a minute, when Consul Potter informed his countrymen that he had it on the best authority that, provided they refused to renew the Reciprocity Treaty, the British Colonies were prepared to join the United States. Hearing this, he (Hon. Mr. Coles) took the liberty to interrupt Mr. Potter by saying, "No; as to the Maritime Provinces at all events." To this remark Mr. Potter replied that he (Hon. Mr. Coles) was right; he (Mr. P.) meant Canada, Lower Canada in particular. This declaration on the part of Consul Potter, he (Hon. Mr. Coles) however believed to have been a very bold bluff. The implied imputation of disloyalty expressed by it, woke up and increased the loyalty of the people of Canada, or rather it gave it a new impulse, and strengthened their determination to preserve it unshaken and unshaken. The idea entertained by the American delegates themselves appeared to be precisely that entertained by Mr. Potter. They thought they could starve us into annexation. They would, however, before long be fully convinced of the fallacy of that idea, and whilst bitterly regretting the abrogation of the Treaty, they would, besides, have the mortification to know that, for its nullification, they had themselves only to blame.

Hon. Mr. LONGWORTH expressed the great pleasure which had been afforded him by the luminous explanation of the position of these Colonies in their relation to the United States, given by the Hon. Solicitor General. He was not, however, surprised at the conclusion which had been arrived at with respect to the Treaty; for, from the sentiment expressed with respect to it by the American Delegates at the Detroit Convention, it was quite evident that it was then a foregone conclusion with them. It would be the duty of this hon. House, as representatives of the people, in connection with the other Provinces, to endeavor to extend our trade with them on the broadest principles of free trade. The Fishery question was one upon which they were not then called upon to deliberate. Our rights in relation thereto would be fully protected and upheld by the Imperial Government; nor would our local Government fail in a proper exercise of their power to protect them. He was

happy to say that it was not the intention of the Imperial Government that our interests should in any way be sacrificed to the demands of the United States, or that we should be forced to succumb to them. The Republic of the United States was undoubtedly a great country, and it would be for the benefit of our interests to cultivate friendly relations with them; but our endeavors to do so, should never extend so far as to involve the acceptance of such trade and commercial relations as would tend to injure our own independent position. He would not then go into the question whether the proposals which had been submitted at the Detroit Convention on which to base a renewal of the reciprocity treaty, had proceeded from the American or Canadian Delegates. He did not, however, think that they had proceeded directly from the Canadian Delegates, although the fact was that they had been acquiesced in by both sides. He was forced however to say that in his opinion the Canadian Delegates had gone very far in according to the terms laid down by those propositions. It would indeed have been of the greatest advantage to us and the whole of the Maritime Provinces could that Treaty have been renewed upon fair and equitable and truly reciprocal terms. It was not necessary, however, that he should then say more on that subject, as he had already expressed the satisfaction which he felt at the luminous exposition of the question which had been given by the hon. Sol. General. One additional observation, however, he might be allowed to make, and that was, that he was happy to say Prince Edward Island had not been represented at Washington last autumn, because he would be long sorry to think that we should have been put in so degrading a position as, in our endeavors to effect a renewal of the Treaty, to be handled over by the American Government to an irresponsible individual such as Mr. Morrill, the chairman of Ways and Means in Congress.

Hon. Mr. HENSLEY said it was not necessary at the present stage of the proceedings of the hon. House to enter very fully into the question of Reciprocity, as it would again come up in a different and more tangible form. He entered in the sentiments expressed by his hon. the Solicitor General touching the spirit by which the American people were actuated towards the Colonies. The sympathies of our people were, to a large extent, enlisted and expressed in favor of the 5th March Confederacy, when the adherents of that Confederacy were struggling for their independence during the unfortunate civil war which had recently terminated. In consequence of these sympathies it appeared a plea had been made in by many of the leading men of the Northern States against the Colonies, which inclined them to do what they could to obstruct and retard Colonial interests. He well recollected the time, previously to the Reciprocity Treaty, when we had no trade with the United States, and he was free to admit that our trade had expanded and advanced, and had been accompanied by great prosperity under the working of that Treaty. He was, however, pained to see that an independent spirit had arisen, and was manifested by the Colonies, and that in consequence of the abrogation of the Treaty steps had been taken for the enlargement and opening up of trade with the West India, Brazil, and other parts of the world; and he hoped that such energetic and enterprising means would be adopted as would supply the wants that might otherwise be felt, through the abrogation of the Treaty. Our Fisheries were, he said, the best part of the Treaty. The Americans would, when the large quantities of fish which the late war had withheld reflect on their obstructive policy in relation to the treaty, and consent to its renewal on terms that would prove equitable and advantageous to all parties.

Mr. HOWLAND said that such sentiments as those spoken of by the hon. member who had just sat down had done much towards placing us in the unfortunate position we now hold regarding our relations with the United States. The abrogation of the treaty, he said, was owing principally to the hostile feeling of the people of the Eastern States towards the Colonies, because of their South Sea prohibitions. But since the treaty had now become a dead letter the current of our trade must inevitably change, and, therefore, it became our duty to make the most of our internal resources and foster and protect our own interests. It appeared to him that our Fisheries demanded our first and paramount attention, and he hoped that our Government would see that such a stipulation was given to them as would cause our treaty stipulations to be duly respected. There appeared to be a misunderstanding with respect to the term of "Cape and Headlands," as mentioned in the treaty alluded to, and it would be the duty of the Government to see that, as far as possible, a definite interpretation should be given to the same, so as to do the true intent.

Mr. DUNCAN said he did not by any means believe that the loss which would be sustained by the Colonies, through the abrogation of the Treaty, would prove so very disastrous to Colonial trade as some people imagined it would. Since the termination of the war in the United States, the price which P. E. Island oats had commanded there were by no means remunerative. In England our oats had always commanded a remunerative price; and, therefore, to Great Britain we must now look for the best and only paying market for that staple article of our Island produce. The only market which we should lose by the abrogation of the Treaty was that for our potatoes; but these, if kept at home, would convert into pork; and, for our pork we should have a way to find a desirable market in Great Britain, as it is now worth within 2s 6d of Irish, and if put up in same style, would command as high a price; so that, even on that score, the Americans would be likely to experience great inconvenience through the abrogation of the Treaty than we should. And provided the American fishermen were not actually kept from poaching within our bay and in-shore fishery preserves, as he doubted not they would be, we should immediately gain more than \$2 per barrel in the market. Of flour, the Americans produced much more than they required for home consumption; and, on doing the very large amount of their flour which found a ready and remunerative market in P. E. Island, during the existence of the Reciprocity Treaty, the advantage of it would, in all probability, be thought, on that head, he felt by them to have a very injurious effect upon their agricultural interests. The abrogation of the treaty would unquestionably be the cause of regret, if since our regrets could not redress it; he however, thought not, but that in a few years the vessels would be found to have run in our favor, and its nullification prove to have been much more detrimental to the interests of a large portion of the people of the United States than to any portion of those of the Maritime Provinces.

Hon. Mr. McCAULY said he was glad to see the disposition which prevailed among hon. members on both sides of the hon. House, relative to the necessity of fostering and protecting the rights of our Fisheries. The taunts and bragadois of American and Yankee newspapers should not be heeded. He hoped the rights of our fishermen would be well guarded, and that the attention of our people would be more than ever directed towards that boundless source of our wealth and greatness.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES observed that the non-renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty would, doubtless, be felt considerably as a commercial point. Owing to scanty crops and other causes in previous years, the United States afforded a better market for our oats than Great Britain; but now, as we were practically excluded, because of a high scale of duties, from New York and other American markets, England offered us a better and more remunerative price for that, the principal article of our exports, than any American port. He would have been glad had the Treaty been renewed, but as the Washington Government had decided otherwise, he hoped we could survive its extinction. The Colonies had managed to live previous to the adoption of the Reciprocity Treaty, and they were now possessed of many facilities, for the prosecution of trade, not at that time within their reach. He would oppose anything like offering to the Americans for a renewal of the Treaty; he hoped Colonial trade would be more than ever fostered, and thereby the mutual interests of the Maritime Provinces would be advanced.

Mr. HOWLAND said that it was necessary to deplore the loss of the Reciprocity Treaty, as an expression of regret on our part would cause its renewal. The principal agricultural production of the Colony was the oat crop, and for that staple article it appeared that England was the best market. The paragraph under consideration was then unanimously adopted.

TENANT LEAGUE.

On motion of Mr. Brecken, the House again resolved themselves into a Committee of the whole, to resume the consideration of the draft Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech.—Mr. Yeo in the Chair.

The Chairman having read and submitted the 5th paragraph of the draft Address in which a feeling of deep regret is expressed at the House's having learned that the general prosperity of the past year had been marred by the civil disturbances which had taken place in the Colony:—

Hon. Mr. COLES rose and said: He was certain there was not a member of the House who did not most sincerely regret that the tenantry had been placed in such a position as laid them open to the influence of evil counselors, through which a portion of them had been seduced into an open defiance of the Law to the detriment of the prosperity of the last year, and he might add to the disgrace of the Colony that His Excellency deeply regretted the disturbances which had taken place and the consequences which had ensued, he would not doubt for one moment; but, from the very deep interest which he himself (Hon. Mr. Coles) as a public man, had for many years taken in whatever affected or concerned the condition or well-being of the tenantry, and from his immediate and prominent connection with every legislative measure which, since the establishment of Responsible Government in the Colony, had been devised for the redress of their grievances, and the amelioration of their condition, it was but natural that he should as he certainly did, believe that no man in the Colony could more sincerely and deeply regret those disturbances and their consequences, or the continuance of that state of tenant bondage, which, after so many promises and attempts made for its extinction, still continued to be the great cause of discontent and dissatisfaction to the Government throughout the Colony. Under the form of Government which we enjoyed—through the privileges emanating from which redress might be obtained, in a constitutional way, for every public grievance—it was indeed a far deeper to be deplored, that any portion of its subjects should have been so misled as in utter disregard and contempt of those privileges to have assumed to themselves the right and power to effect by an open and systematic defiance of the law, the attainment of an object, however right and proper in itself; and it was the duty of every well-wisher of the country to disapprove, condemn, and as far as laid in his power to endeavor to counteract and break up any association formed for so unlawful and wild a purpose. It could not, however, be denied that much as the proceedings of the Tenant League were to be condemned, there were many palliating circumstances to be admitted and taken into consideration before a just judgment could be pronounced concerning it. It was not to be forgotten that, so far back as the year 1859, when the present Government, or Party, came into power, the tenantry were promised a certain and speedy emancipation—upon the earliest terms—of their leaseholds into freeholds; but all the promises to that end which have been made to them by the party at present in power, they (the tenantry) have been forced to regard as nothing better than a deception, a mockery, and a snare. The hopes which the benevolent bestowed upon them, and fair promises made to them by the Conservative Party, just before, as well as after they came into power, have resulted in nothing but the most bitter and aggrieving disappointment to them. That consideration, therefore, ought to palliate the offence committed by them in having gone a little beyond the bounds of discretion and limits of the law. That among the leaders of the unfortunate and illegal association, called the Tenant League, there were to be found ignorant and dis-spirited men, no one could doubt or deny; but, at the same time, he was convinced that there were, among the members of that association, men of sound sense and inelligence; and those men, irritated by the most aggravating disappointments, may have thought, however erroneously, that in the means which they had adapted to compel proprietors to sell them the freeholds of their farms, they were pursuing the only course which was open to them for the procuring redress of their grievances. At the time when the Liberator's went out of power the tenantry were pretty well satisfied with the working of the Land Purchase Bill, by means of which they were convinced they might all have, or be eventually freed from the proprietary yoke; and had not the Liberals been defeated—by means to which it was not then necessary he should particularly advert—in their endeavors to procure a loan, under the guarantee of the British Government, sufficient to enable them more effectually to carry the Land Purchase Bill into operation, little doubt could be fairly entertained that, under their management and working, those two Bills—the Land Purchase Bill and the Loan Bill—were sure and certain foundations would have been laid for a speed and final settlement of the Land Question. That the Loan Bill was not passed by the British Parliament, all he thought, must not honestly regret; for as was declared by the Commissioners, in their Award, the only equitable mode of converting leaseholds into freeholds was that of fully carrying into effect the provisions of the Land Purchase Bill by means of such a loan as that which had been proposed by the Loan Bill of the Liberals. That the Award of the Land Commissioners could not be carried into effect as they had conceived it would be, was certainly very much to be regretted. Still, however, he thought the Conservative Government had erred in their endeavor to enforce the late Duke of Newcastle into the procuring of the Royal allowance of the Bill which they had carried through our Legislature for the confirmation of the Award. At that time he had thought that it would be better to pray that the Commissioners should be sent back to P. E. Island, to report their Court, for the purpose of remedying the legal defects in their Award, than to pass a Bill in opposition to the decided opinion of the Duke. But the Government said, and, perhaps, thought, that they could oppose both the Duke and the proprietors into a compliance with their wishes; and they succeeded in having a large majority returned to both branches of the Legislature, by means of which they carried their Bill; but the Duke was firm and rejected it. The Duke's proposal, however, ought to have satisfied the Government. If a scheme was proposed that a tenant should pay his rent, under his lease, for 16 years, he should be entitled to the freehold of his farm at 16 years purchase, if for 10 years, for 10 years purchase; and if for 8 years, for 8 years purchase; that was according to the actual contract which the proprietor had in the leasehold, as evidenced by the amount of rent which he had received on each year of it. At the time it was submitted he thought the scheme was a fair one, and he thought so still; but our Government thought otherwise, rejected it, and brought forward and carried their Fifteen Years Purchase Bill. But this Bill was so far from meeting with general approbation that about four thousand of our tenants and freeholders petitioned against it. It was not exactly the desired issue which they had been led to expect would be the result of the Land Commission, and they came to the conclusion that, as so little good had been effected for them by the Government and their legislative majority, notwithstanding all their large promises to the contrary, that their best plan would be to take the management of their own business into their own hands, and hence arose the formation of the Tenant League; and it was worthy of remark that the disturbances which had taken place were merely a fulfilment of that sort of prophetic declaration on which had been made by our delegates, Messrs. Pope and Palmer at the Colonial Office, when they declared to the Duke of Newcastle that unless an equitable settlement of the Land Question should be speedily effected, it would be impossible to maintain the peace of the country; and it could not, he thought, be accounted unfair to conjecture that their knowledge of the declaration of our delegates had in some degree incited or operated as a hint to the Tenant League to proceed to actual and open resistance of the law. Again, what had been done, with respect to certain redress, by a land agent, a supporter of the Government, in the Murray Harbour District, which was represented by two hon. members of the House, both also supporters of the Government, had, in his opinion, had no small influence in suggesting discontent among the tenantry, and in bringing about the immediate existence of the formation of the Tenant League. In order, as it was conjectured, to precipitate the tenantry, away their discontent and disaffection to the Government, and secure, through their votes, the retention of these two hon. members, the land agent went down among them, counselled

the old leases, and gave them new ones, thus enabling them under the Fifteen Years Purchase Bill to purchase the freehold of their farms at 50 per cent less than they could have done under the original lease. Now when this act of seeming liberality, traceable, however, as it was, to nothing but a political ruse, came to be known by the tenants on the neighboring estates, they took fire at once, and said, if resistance to the exaction of rents and opposition to the Government would have procured such benefits in one case, why should not we be as fortunate, provided we follow the example which has been set us, and take the same means to force the concession of similar benefits; and thus the ball was set rolling.

Mr. DUNCAN rose to order. He denied that the Tenant League had originated in the Murray Harbour District. It had been got up, he said, by the friends of the opposition; and measures were concerted for the organization of the League, not at Murray Harbour, but in the school-house at Sturgeon. A very few of those who attended the meeting had, therefore, by the members of the League, were from Peterborough Road. Some, continued the hon. gentleman, said the Government had been too slow; others, on the contrary, said they had been too precipitate in sending for the troops to put down the League, but when it was known that the organization numbered 14,000, no man of common sense would argue that they could have been suppressed by the mere exertions of a few special constables. Nothing could have so effectually intimidated the League but the presence of the Troops. It appeared that some members of the hon. House had attended meetings held by the League; and he did not hesitate to say that such gentlemen had disgraced themselves by doing so. If the League, instead of 14,000, had numbered only 5000 or 4000, was he would like to know, could 200 special constables have done in opposition to them? Twenty red coats would have done a great deal more. He was afraid that in making those remarks, he was treading upon the skirts of some hon. members. But however that might be, he felt he was justified in speaking out. And not only had members of the hon. House disgraced themselves by attending meetings of the League; but members of the Legislature, in every respect of the highest respectability, had been found among the encouragers and abettors of the League, and by their most liberal subscriptions in aid of its funds, had given but too much reason to call in question their loyalty and their reverence for the supremacy of the laws. This countenance and encouragement, the hon. gentleman believed, had been the cause of our confusion and its principles were not understood. He would argue that the public exchequer should suffer to the amount of £20,000 than that only five or six of our fellow subjects should lose their lives, which, if the inhabitants had been set against each other, would undoubtedly have been the case.

Hon. Mr. COLES replied that what he had said was, that it was in the Murray Harbour District that the Tenant League spirit was first manifested; and that, having originated there, in consequence of the reduction of rents to those tenants who had there evidenced a determination not only to refuse compliance with the demands of their landlord's agent for the payment of arrears of rent, but also to resist or repel the officers of the law in their attempts to levy for those arrears, the spirit of resistance spread to the tenantry on the adjoining estates, who very naturally concluded that, if resistance to proprietary demands had, in one instance, proved, to the resisting tenantry, an amelioration of their grievances or a lessening of their burthens; a similar resistance on the part of other rent-oppressed bodies of the tenantry would be productive of the same desirable and happy result. The spirit of resistance quickly spread to Queen's County; and at a meeting of the Tenantry held near Bellisle, in either the third or fourth Electoral District, (he was not certain which the Resolutions to withhold payment of rents, unless their landlords should consent to sell their farms on such terms as they (the tenantry) should themselves think fair and reasonable, were framed and passed; and these resolutions were, afterwards, he believed, made the basis of the obligation or document which was subsequently drawn up, and styled the Constitution of the Tenant League. Now, although these Resolutions framed and passed at those meetings, and the Constitution of the League, based upon those Resolutions, were not only matters of public notoriety, but were fully published in the organs of the public press, and commented upon in all the other Island newspapers; and could not, therefore, have failed to come to the knowledge of the Government; yet they (the Government) took no notice whatever of the illegal proceedings, but allowed their agents to incur the expense of the law, in reality, been their duty to the country, and to the satisfaction of their tenants, their desire that it should experience no other or more violent means, until, having broken out into actual rebellion, the most extreme measures for its suppression, if had recourse to by the Government, could not fail to be held allowable and justifiable, by every friend to the peace and good order of society. Yes; but although the Government were thus remiss in the discharge of their duty to the country, it was not necessary to carry out the leading men of which party had taken every fitting opportunity to denounce the illegal organization, and to caution the tenantry against associating themselves with it; as, in the true spirit of patriotism, had been especially done by his hon. friend on his right, (Hon. Mr. Whelan) in the columns of his paper, the Liberator. Upon all occasions of private intercourse with any of his hon. friends, he had endeavored to carry out the Tenant League had become the subject of conversation, he had invariably endeavored to convince them of the folly and madness of the organization, and to point out the disastrous consequences which all who allowed themselves, through their connection with it, to be led into an open defiance of the law, would assuredly experience. And that he had also done, in the most judicious and most unobtrusive language he could command, at a public meeting of his constituents, which soon after his return to the Island from the Convention held at Quebec for the purpose of deliberating on the proposed Union of these Provinces, had been held by himself, at Port Augustus, for the purpose of his duty to the country, and to the satisfaction of his tenants, he had endeavored to carry out the leading men of which party had taken every fitting opportunity to denounce the illegal organization, and to caution the tenantry against associating themselves with it; as, in the true spirit of patriotism, had been especially done by his hon. friend on his right, (Hon. Mr. Whelan) in the columns of his paper, the Liberator. Upon all occasions of private intercourse with any of his hon. friends, he had endeavored to carry out the Tenant League had become the subject of conversation, he had invariably endeavored to convince them of the folly and madness of the organization, and to point out the disastrous consequences which all who allowed themselves, through their connection with it, to be led into an open defiance of the law, would assuredly experience. And that he had also done, in the most judicious and most unobtrusive language he could command, at a public meeting of his constituents, which soon after his return to the Island from the Convention held at Quebec for the purpose of deliberating on the proposed Union of these Provinces, had been held by himself, at Port Augustus, for the purpose of his duty to the country, and to the satisfaction of his tenants, he had endeavored to carry out the leading men of which party had taken every fitting opportunity to denounce the illegal organization, and to caution the tenantry against associating themselves with it; as, in the true spirit of patriotism, had been especially done by his hon. friend on his right, (Hon. Mr. Whelan) in the columns of his paper, the Liberator. Upon all occasions of private intercourse with any of his hon. friends, he had endeavored to carry out the Tenant League had become the subject of conversation, he had invariably endeavored to convince them of the folly and madness of the organization, and to point out the disastrous consequences which all who allowed themselves, through their connection with it, to be led into an open defiance of the law, would assuredly experience. And that he had also done, in the most judicious and most unobtrusive language he could command, at a public meeting of his constituents, which soon after his return to the Island from the Convention held at Quebec for the purpose of deliberating on the proposed Union of these Provinces, had been held by himself, at Port Augustus, for the purpose of his duty to the country, and to the satisfaction of his tenants, he had endeavored to carry out the leading men of which party had taken every fitting opportunity to denounce the illegal organization, and to caution the tenantry against associating themselves with it; as, in the true spirit of patriotism, had been especially done by his hon. friend on his right, (Hon. Mr. Whelan) in the columns of his paper, the Liberator. Upon all occasions of private intercourse with any of his hon. friends, he had endeavored to carry out the Tenant League had become the subject of conversation, he had invariably endeavored to convince them of the folly and madness of the organization, and to point out the disastrous consequences which all who allowed themselves, through their connection with it, to be led into an open defiance of the law, would assuredly experience. And that he had also done, in the most judicious and most unobtrusive language he could command, at a public meeting of his constituents, which soon after his return to the Island from the Convention held at Quebec for the purpose of deliberating on the proposed Union of these Provinces, had been held by himself, at Port Augustus, for the purpose of his duty to the country, and to the satisfaction of his tenants, he had endeavored to carry out the leading men of which party had taken every fitting opportunity to denounce the illegal organization, and to caution the tenantry against associating themselves with it; as, in the true spirit of patriotism, had been especially done by his hon. friend on his right, (Hon. Mr. Whelan) in the columns of his paper, the Liberator. Upon all occasions of private intercourse with any of his hon. friends, he had endeavored to carry out the Tenant League had become the subject of conversation, he had invariably endeavored to convince them of the folly and madness of the organization, and to point out the disastrous consequences which all who allowed themselves, through their connection with it, to be led into an open defiance of the law, would assuredly experience. And that he had also done, in the most judicious and most unobtrusive language he could command, at a public meeting of his constituents, which soon after his return to the Island from the Convention held at Quebec for the purpose of deliberating on the proposed Union of these Provinces, had been held by himself, at Port Augustus, for the purpose of his duty to the country, and to the satisfaction of his tenants, he had endeavored to carry out the leading men of which party had taken every fitting opportunity to denounce the illegal organization, and to caution the tenantry against associating themselves with it; as, in the true spirit of patriotism, had been especially done by his hon. friend on his right, (Hon. Mr. Whelan) in the columns of his paper, the Liberator. Upon all occasions of private intercourse with any of his hon. friends, he had endeavored to carry out the Tenant League had become the subject of conversation, he had invariably endeavored to convince them of the folly and madness of the organization, and to point out the disastrous consequences which all who allowed themselves, through their connection with it, to be led into an open defiance of the law, would assuredly experience. And that he had also done, in the most judicious and most unobtrusive language he could command, at a public meeting of his constituents, which soon after his return to the Island from the Convention held at Quebec for the purpose of deliberating on the proposed Union of these Provinces, had been held by himself, at Port Augustus, for the purpose of his duty to the country, and to the satisfaction of his tenants, he had endeavored to carry out the leading men of which party had taken every fitting opportunity to denounce the illegal organization, and to caution the tenantry against associating themselves with it; as, in the true spirit of patriotism, had been especially done by his hon. friend on his right, (Hon. Mr. Whelan) in the columns of his paper, the Liberator. Upon all occasions of private intercourse with any of his hon. friends, he had endeavored to carry out the Tenant League had become the subject of conversation, he had invariably endeavored to convince them of the folly and madness of the organization, and to point out the disastrous consequences which all who allowed themselves, through their connection with it, to be led into an open defiance of the law, would assuredly experience. And that he had also done, in the most judicious and most unobtrusive language he could command, at a public meeting of his constituents, which soon after his return to the Island from the Convention held at Quebec for the purpose of deliberating on the proposed Union of these Provinces, had been held by himself, at Port Augustus, for the purpose of his duty to the country, and to the satisfaction of his tenants, he had endeavored to carry out the leading men of which party had taken every fitting opportunity to denounce the illegal organization, and to caution the tenantry against associating themselves with it; as, in the true spirit of patriotism, had been especially done by his hon. friend on his right, (Hon. Mr. Whelan) in the columns of his paper, the Liberator. Upon all occasions of private intercourse with any of his hon. friends, he had endeavored to carry out the Tenant League had become the subject of conversation, he had invariably endeavored to convince them of the folly and madness of the organization, and to point out the disastrous consequences which all who allowed themselves, through their connection with it, to be led into an open defiance of the law, would assuredly experience. And that he had also done, in the most judicious and most unobtrusive language he could command, at a public meeting of his constituents, which soon after his return to the Island from the Convention held at Quebec for the purpose of deliberating on the proposed Union of these Provinces, had been held by himself, at Port Augustus, for the purpose of his duty to the country, and to the satisfaction of his tenants, he had endeavored to carry out the leading men of which party had taken every fitting opportunity to denounce the illegal organization, and to caution the tenantry against associating themselves with it; as, in the true spirit of patriotism, had been especially done by his hon. friend on his right, (Hon. Mr. Whelan) in the columns of his paper, the Liberator. Upon all occasions of private intercourse with any of his hon. friends, he had endeavored to carry out the Tenant League had become the subject of conversation, he had invariably endeavored to convince them of the folly and madness of the organization, and to point out the disastrous consequences which all who allowed themselves, through their connection with it, to be led into an open defiance of the law, would assuredly experience. And that he had also done, in the most judicious and most unobtrusive language he could command, at a public meeting of his constituents, which soon after his return to the Island from the Convention held at Quebec for the purpose of deliberating on the proposed Union of these Provinces, had been held by himself, at Port Augustus, for the purpose of his duty to the country, and to the satisfaction of his tenants, he had endeavored to carry out the leading men of which party had taken every fitting opportunity to denounce the illegal organization, and to caution the tenantry against associating themselves with it; as, in the true spirit of patriotism, had been especially done by his hon. friend on his right, (Hon. Mr. Whelan) in the columns of his paper, the Liberator. Upon all occasions of private intercourse with any of his hon. friends, he had endeavored to carry out the Tenant League had become the subject of conversation, he had invariably endeavored to convince them of the folly and madness of the organization, and to point out the disastrous consequences which all who allowed themselves, through their connection with it, to be led into an open defiance of the law, would assuredly experience. And that he had also done, in the most judicious and most unobtrusive language he could command, at a public meeting of his constituents, which soon after his return to the Island from the Convention held at Quebec for the purpose of deliberating on the proposed Union of these Provinces, had been held by himself, at Port Augustus, for the purpose of his duty to the country, and to the satisfaction of his tenants, he had endeavored to carry out the leading men of which party had taken every fitting opportunity to denounce the illegal organization, and to caution the tenantry against associating themselves with it; as, in the true spirit of patriotism, had been especially done by his hon. friend on his right, (Hon. Mr. Whelan) in the columns of his paper, the Liberator. Upon all occasions of private intercourse with any of his hon. friends, he had endeavored to carry out the Tenant League had become the subject of conversation, he had invariably endeavored to convince them of the folly and madness of the organization, and to point out the disastrous consequences which all who allowed themselves, through their connection with it, to be led into an open defiance of the law, would assuredly experience. And that he had also done, in the most judicious and most unobtrusive language he could command, at a public meeting of his constituents, which soon after his return to the Island from the Convention held at Quebec for the purpose of deliberating on the proposed Union of these Provinces, had been held by himself, at Port Augustus, for the purpose of his duty to the country, and to the satisfaction of his tenants, he had endeavored to carry out the leading men of which party had taken every fitting opportunity to denounce the illegal organization, and to caution the tenantry against associating themselves with it; as, in the true spirit of patriotism, had been especially done by his hon. friend on his right, (Hon. Mr. Whelan) in the columns of his paper, the Liberator. Upon all occasions of private intercourse with any of his hon. friends, he had endeavored to carry out the Tenant League had become the subject of conversation, he had invariably endeavored to convince them of the folly and madness of the organization, and to point out the disastrous consequences which all who allowed themselves, through their connection with it, to be led into an open defiance of the law, would assuredly experience. And that he had also done, in the most judicious and most unobtrusive language he could command, at a public meeting of his constituents, which soon after his return to the Island from the Convention held at Quebec for the purpose of deliberating on the proposed Union of these Provinces, had been held by himself, at Port Augustus, for the purpose of his duty to the country, and to the satisfaction of his tenants, he had endeavored to carry out the leading men of which party had taken every fitting opportunity to denounce the illegal organization, and to caution the tenantry against associating themselves with it; as, in the true spirit of patriotism, had been especially done by his hon. friend on his right, (Hon. Mr. Whelan) in the columns of his paper, the Liberator. Upon all occasions of private intercourse with any of his hon. friends, he had endeavored to carry out the Tenant League had become the subject of conversation, he had invariably endeavored to convince them of the folly and madness of the organization, and to point out the disastrous consequences which all who allowed themselves, through their connection with it, to be led into an open defiance of the law, would assuredly experience. And that he had also done, in the most judicious and most unobtrusive language he could command, at a public meeting of his constituents, which soon after his return to the Island from the Convention held at Quebec for the purpose of deliberating on the proposed Union of these Provinces, had been held by himself, at Port Augustus, for the purpose of his duty to the country, and to the satisfaction of his tenants, he had endeavored to carry out the leading men of which party had taken every fitting opportunity to denounce the illegal organization, and to caution the tenantry against associating themselves with it; as, in the true spirit of patriotism, had been especially done by his hon. friend on his right, (Hon. Mr. Whelan) in the columns of